

## COUNCIL ON FORESTRY MEETING

**Date:** July 23, 2019

**Location:** Dreyfus Center, Room 378, UWSP Campus, 1015 Reserve St., Stevens Point

Council Members:		Guests:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Hittle, <i>Chair</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rep. Jeff Mursau	Faye Bokelman, <i>DNR</i>	Ron Eckstein, <i>Wildlife Society</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Souba, <i>Chief State Forester</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kenneth Price	Rebecca Diebel, <i>DNR</i>	Gretchen Marshall, <i>LEAF Program</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Scheinebeck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Sjostrom	Carmen Hardin, <i>DNR</i>	Earl Gustafson, <i>WI Paper Council</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Severt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jordan Skiff (in @ 11:30 AM)	Andy Stoltman, <i>DNR</i>	Steve Karianinen, <i>Prime Time Forestry LLC</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sen. Janet Bewley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Strong (in @ 1:00 PM)	Dustin Bronson, <i>DNR</i>	Nancy Bozek, <i>WI Woodland Owners Assoc.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Troy Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> <del>Senator Tiffany</del> (Sub: Mitch Ohly)		Richard Wagner, <i>WI Woodland Owners</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Dallman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Wedepohl		Haley Frater, <i>College of Nat. Res., UWSP</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Hoppe	<input type="checkbox"/> Ken Zabel		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Kerkman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Next Meeting:</b> Sept. 11-12, Forest Lodge Edu. Campus, Cable WI	

At the start of the meeting, Fred Souba presented Jane Severt with a plaque and a Governor's Certificate of Appreciation recognizing her 12 years of service on the Council.

<b>Outgoing and Incoming Chair Messages</b> Presenter(s): <i>H. Schienebeck, T. Hittle</i>	<b>Decisions:</b> N/A	<b>Assignments/Follow Up:</b> N/A
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Outgoing Chair, Henry Scheinebeck, welcomed incoming Chair, Tom Hittle, by presenting him with the Council gavel. Tom then described his vision for elevating the visibility of the Council to better advocate for the needs of Wisconsin's forests and their partner industries.

<b>Division Research Projects</b> Presenter: <i>Dustin Bronson, DNR</i>	<b>Decisions:</b> N/A	<b>Assignments/Follow Up:</b> N/A
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Dustin Bronson, DNR Forest Management and Ecology Analyst, gave the Council an overview of the FY20 Forestry Division research projects. [See FY20 Forestry Research Overview document on the Council's webpage for details.](#)

<p><b>Wisconsin Forest Practices Study Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DNR Update – <i>Carmen Hardin, DNR</i></li> <li>• GLTPA/WCFA Update – <i>J. Severt, H. Scheinebeck</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Decisions:</b> The Council approved sending a letter of support to the Legislature regarding the Safe Routes Act.</p>	<p><b>Assignments/Follow Up:</b>  <b>Fred S./Rebecca D.</b> – draft a support letter from the Council regarding the Safe Routes Act and send it to <b>Tom H.</b> for approval.</p>
<p>Carmen Hardin, DNR Applied Forestry Bureau Director, updated the Council on the progress made by Wisconsin Forest Practices Study (WSPS) teams on the Silviculture, Timber Sale, and Public Lands handbooks. She also discussed state budget impacts on WSPS, 2020 Northern Hardwoods Conference planning, and Argonne Experimental Forest Marteloscope testing. <i>See 7-23-19 WSPS accomplishment report document on the Council's webpage for details.</i></p>		
<p><b>Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities</b></p> <p><u>Presenter:</u> <i>Steve Kariainen, Great Lakes Director</i></p>	<p><b>Decisions:</b> N/A</p>	<p><b>Assignments/Follow Up:</b> N/A</p>
<p>Steve Kariainen, Great Lakes Director at Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities (HFHC) spoke to the Council about how HFHC supports active sustainable forest management to improve and sustain forest health; restore jobs and economic opportunities in rural communities; and provide timber-based revenues to support essential public services. <i>See HFHC document on the Council's webpage for details.</i></p>		
<p><b>WI Council on Forestry Biennial Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background, current report update, content revisions - <i>Rebecca Diebel, DNR</i></li> <li>• Discussion – <i>T. Hittle</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Decisions:</b> Discussion of the report and process revisions will continue after a list of possible options is created and presented to the Council at a later meeting.</p>	<p><b>Assignments/Follow Up:</b>  <b>Fred S./Rebecca D./Tom H.</b> – compile a list of possible revisions for the biennial report and bring it to a later Council meeting for review.</p>
<p>Rebecca Diebel, DNR Policy Advisor, explained to the Council the purpose of the biennial report, the information included within it, and what items could be revised to make the report more meaningful.</p> <p>Tom Hittle, Council Chair, led a discussion on the amount of data versus recommendations in the report, how the report is used by different audiences, and the role of the Council in creating the report itself.</p>		
<p><b>State Forester's Report</b></p> <p><u>Presenter:</u> <i>F. Souba</i></p>	<p><b>Decisions:</b> N/A</p>	<p><b>Assignments/Follow Up:</b> N/A</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>State Budget:</b> Forestry received supplemental funding for Forest Fire Protection and County Forest Administrator/Sustainable Forestry grants; as well as bonded funding for repairs needed at several ranger stations throughout the state.</li> </ul>		

- **Bat HCP:** Chapter 4 (*Take Estimate*) is being updated with post-WNS bat populations and states will review the numbers shortly. The Fish & Wildlife Service submitted comments on Chapter 5 (*Conservation Plan*) and the Steering Committee is working to find mutually agreed upon solutions. When complete, both Chapters 4 and 5 will be released for public comment. Chapter 6 (*Implementation*) should be ready for DNR review later this summer.
- **Forest Health Publications:** The HRD Preventative Treatment Guidelines are available on the DNR page and the EAB Silviculture Guidelines should be done by late summer.
- **Biochar Webinar:** The webinar is scheduled for 8/21/19 - additional updates will be delivered via the Council's GovDelivery.
- **NR 46:** NRB approved the final draft on 6/26/19. After approval by the Governor, it will be reviewed by the Legislature. The rule should be published in January 2020.
- **Forest Action Plan:** Forestry is in the process of drafting the first section of the plan, the assessment, and will be sharing it for a 21-day public review in late summer. In October, Forestry will start to hold workshops for partner groups to develop the strategy portion of the plan and hopefully will have a first draft ready by winter.
- **GNA – Farm Bill 2018 changes:** The Forest Service and Office of the General Council provided their interpretation of the bill – *see the USDA GNA Farm Bill Changes document on the Council's webpage for details*. The information in the document is preliminary and subject to change until the final policy is in place. The USDA Forest Service Handbook describing GNA implementation is being drafted with a targeted completion of fall 2019.
- **7/20/19 Storm Damage:** Langlade, Oconto, and Waupaca counties were the hardest hit, but the storm caused a variety of damage over large parts of the state. There are numerous requests for chainsaw crews to assist with cleanup and Forestry is prioritizing the requests and dispatching crews to assist with the most urgent issues first. Staff are working on assessing the situation and documenting the extent of the storm damage.

<b>Legislator's Report</b>	<b>Decisions:</b> N/A	<b>Assignments/Follow Up:</b> N/A
<u>Presenter:</u> Sen. Bewley, Rep. Mursau		

The state budget is approved, and the Legislature will be back in session in September.

<b>September Meeting Plans Discussion</b>	<b>Decisions:</b> N/A	<b>Assignments/Follow Up:</b>
<u>Presenter:</u> T. Hittle		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tom H./Fred S./Rebecca D.</b> – set up a tour for the September meeting in the Cable, WI area.</li> </ul>

The next Council meeting will be held on September 11-12 at the Forest Lodge Educational Campus on Northland College in Cable, WI. There will be a tour in the area on one of the meeting days - Tom H. will work with Fred S. and Rebecca D. to set up the tour.