**COUNCIL ON FORESTRY MEETING**

**Date:** September 11, 2019

**Location:** Forest Lodge Educational Center – 22230 Garmisch Road, Cable, WI

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| **Council Members:** | | **Guests:** | |
| Tom Hittle, *Chair* | James Kerkman | Faye Bokelman, *DNR* | Robert Slesak, *MN Forest Resources Council* |
| Matt Dallman, *Vice Chair* | Kenneth Price | Rebecca Diebel, *DNR* | Brian Brashaw, *US Forest Service R&D* |
| Fred Souba, *Chief State Forester* | Henry Scheinebeck | Scott Lyon, *DNR* | Jaden Hoeft, *Potlach Deltic Land & Lumber* |
| Senator Janet Bewley | Jason Sjostrom | Logan Wells, *DNR* | Ron Eckstein, *Wildlife Society* |
| Sen. Tom Tiffany | Jordan Skiff |  |  |
| Representative Beth Meyers | Paul Strong |  |  |
| Representative Jeff Mursau | Richard Wedepohl |  |  |
| Troy Brown |  |  |  |
| James Hoppe |  | **Next Meeting:** November 20, 2019 – Madison, WI | |
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| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| Welcome/Intro, Summary of previous business & updates  **Presenter:** Hittle |  |  |
| Matt Dallman, appointed as CoF Vice Chair, is working with Tom as co-chair:   * Current projects:   + Crafting a letter of support for the Safe Routes Act   + Reviewing the Biennial report   + Finding someone to speak to the Council about the Master Planning Process –   + Discussing how the Council can review the Silvicultural Guidance Team work plan   + Finalize logistics to bring Josh Strauss from Bluesource to discuss the forest carbon market with the Council (see handout regarding the California compliance carbon market) * CoF members interested in continuing to serve on the Council must submit an application to the Governor’s office by 9/23/19. | | |
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| Minnesota Forest Resource Council & Lake States Research Cooperative  **Presenter:** Robert Slesak, Director of Applied Research and Monitoring, *MFRC* |  |  |
| Robert Slesak, Director of Applied Research and Monitoring at the Minnesota Forest Resource Council (MFRC) spoke to the Council about MFRC and its development of a Regional Research Cooperative with the Lake States Research Cooperative. MFRC was created as part of the Sustainable Forest Resources Act of 1995 to develop policies and practices that result in sustainable use, management, and protection of forest resources in Minnesota. MFRC has four primary programs: Policy, Site-level Management, Landscape Planning, and Applied Forest Research. The Lake States Regional Research Collaborative would be a partnership of state, federal, stakeholders, and academic/research institutions. The intended outcomes include greater research efficiency, coordination on regional issues, stakeholder-driven research topics, and the incorporation of research into practice and policy. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| Overview of Value-Added Wood Manufacturing Industry in WI – survey results  **Presenter:** Scott Lyon, *DNR* |  |  |
| Scott Lyon, Forest Products Specialist with the DNR spoke to the Council about Wisconsin’s value-added wood manufacturing industry, the challenges facing the industry, and the survey sent to related businesses across the state. The survey results showed that many businesses in the industry suffer from labor shortages, are not forest certified, and purchase/sell wood products domestically. The survey also indicated that industry businesses could benefit from enhancing market opportunities for bark/wood residues that are currently being disposed of and there is a continued need for educational training, particularly in the areas of manufacturing and processing. | | |
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| Biochar  **Presenter:** Brian Brashaw, *US Forest Service Research & Development* |  |  |
| Brian Brashaw, Research & Development Program Manager for the United States Forest Service (USFS) spoke to the Council about biochar and the current biochar industry: product types, consumers, market trends, capitol costs, production capacity, and industry concerns. He also explained the US Biochar Initiative, how it established the USFS Wood Innovations program, and identified other partners who are working to improve and promote the biochar industry. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| Update on Council Priority Initiatives:   * Weight Restrictions (S*cheinebeck, Mursau, Hopp*e) * Wood Marketing (*Brown, Skiff*) * Water (*Skiff, Dallman, Hoppe, Wedepohl*) |  | **Hittle** – speak with Todd Novak to see if CoF could present to the Speakers Taskforce on Water at one of their meetings  **Souba** - facilitate a face-to-face meeting between CoF and DNR’s runoff management section |
| * Weight Restrictions (S*cheinebeck, Mursau, Hopp*e)   + The team will meet in October and have an update for the November CoF meeting. * Wood Marketing (*Brown, Skiff*)   + Spoke with design schools about adding use of wood products in construction and design to their curricula.   + Several CoF members have given presentations about urban wood usage.   + Drafting a survey of potential users to see who is interested in traditional and urban wood usage and how best to get information to them. * Water (*Skiff, Dallman, Hoppe, Wedepohl*)   + The team had a conference call to discuss possible partners/research topics   + The team needs to do more research to drill down and find an actionable item/topic.     - Tom will speak with Todd Novak to see if CoF could present to the Speakers Taskforce on Water at one of their meetings. The water group will work on what to focus on in the presentation.     - Fred will facilitate a face-to-face meeting between CoF and DNR’s runoff management section. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| Legislators’ Report  **Presenter:** |  |  |
| Senator Bewley:   * The Legislature had not met since the last CoF meeting. * Senator Tiffany will be running for 7th Congressional district in April. | | |
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| State Forester’s Report  **Presenter:** Souba |  |  |
| * **Storm Damage** – Forestry created ‘After the Storm’ newsletter to share information and communicate a common message across the state to partners, stakeholders, and timber industry representatives regarding the state of affairs for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in response to the July 19, 2019, windstorm and resulting damages. The maps were created with data gathered via aerial reconnaissance.   + Paul Strong, Forest Supervisor at the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) spoke to the Council about the effect of the July 2019 windstorm’s effects on the CNNF and the work being done of the property.     - High Priority Outcomes:       * Road and trail recovery         + More damage to roads than capacity to quickly open, so making strategic investments of staff, equipment, etc.       * Salvage Timber       * Fuels and fire risk reduction       * Regeneration of forested stands for future productivity       * Restoration of recreation sites     - Work Underway:       * Road and trail clearing with forest crews and private contractors with appropriate equipment       * Opening recreation sites       * Evaluation of damage areas with satellite imagery to refine damage estimates and begin planning treatments       * Modification of existing FS timber sale contracts to allow timber harvests to continue       * Adjustments to NEPA to allow for salvage sales from areas with NEPA already done.       * Developing approach for sales using deck scaling and virtual boundaries.       * Fuels and fire prevention assessment with the DNR * **SGT Work Plan** – SGT met on 9/10/19 to review their annual work plan. Major elements of the work plan include surveying current and past SGT and Ad Hoc members on the SLT process to evaluate its effectiveness and finalizing the Northern Hardwood and Tree Marking Guidelines chapters of the Silviculture Handbook. Transitioning from the Silviculture Handbook to the ‘Foresters’ Guide to Silviculture in Wisconsin’ has been delayed due to Act 369 and the questions regarding implementation of the new guidance process for state agencies. * **Tax Law Section Updates** - The tax law section has released its Strategic Plan to achieve SD2017-2020 and will be releasing a detailed Implementation Plan this Fall. Fred will share it at the November CoF meeting. The Governor approved proposed rule changes to NR46, and the Clearinghouse Rule has been submitted to the chief of clerk of each house on August 30, 2019 for Legislative review. * **Bat HCP Update** - Data for Chapter 4: Take Analysis is being refreshed with current bat populations, and future timber and prescribed burning estimates for WI DNR state lands. The group is working through USFWS comments on Chapter 5: Conservation Strategy - future level of protection for known maternity roosts is an unresolved issue. The group anticipates releasing Chapters 4 and 5 for stakeholder review late fall of 2019. States are currently reviewing first drafts of Chapter 6: Implementation Assurances and Chapter 7: Funding Assurances. * **Forest Action Plan Update** - The team has incorporated feedback from the Operational Partner Groups on the 2020 Forest Action Plan and are now holding a 3-week review period for further input on the draft. The call for review was sent out through GovDelivery on 9/9/19 and can also be found on the DNR webpage. The next phase will be strategy development. * **Information on PFAS in firefighting foam**:   + For wildland firefighting, the DNR uses class A foam - Class B foam is what typically uses PFAS/PFOS. Forestry has researched our source of class A foams back to the 1980s, including those purchased from the US Forest Service, and we have found none of the foams used include PFAS or PFOS.   + The DNR LeMay Center operates a stockroom to supply tools and equipment, including Class A foam, to DNR programs and partners (including fire departments and non-profit organizations). Sales are only made to partners that have a current MOU with the DNR to support wildland fire suppression and prescribed burning. Foam sales are limited to 50 gallons per year per partner organization. * **GNA Public Forum**:   + The date is set for 10/15/19 in Rhinelander and announcements will be sent mid-September, via the Council’s Gov Delivery list serve. RSVPs are due by 9/30/19.   + *Meeting goals include*:     - Explain what program revenue is and how it can be used (current projects will be shared)     - Provide a way for stakeholders to share interests on where/how program revenue is spent     - Hear ideas that stakeholders have for projects that meet criteria     - Discuss how partners may want to get involved * **Communications** – Forestry is working with the US Forest Service to produce an episode of the public television program: American Forests with Chuck Leavell. | | |