

Wisconsin Council on Forestry: Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Lincoln County Service Center, Lincoln County Board Room, 801 N. Sales Street, Merrill, WI 54452

and via Zoom – [Register for the Zoom meeting here](#)

Council Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Hittle, <i>Chair</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Henry Schienebeck	<input type="checkbox"/> William Van Lopik
<input type="checkbox"/> Matt Dallman, <i>Vice Chair</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> James Hoppe	<input type="checkbox"/> Brad Dorff
<input type="checkbox"/> Heather Berklund, <i>Chief State Forester</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> James Kerkman	<input type="checkbox"/> Adena Rissman
<input type="checkbox"/> Senator Romaine Quinn	<input type="checkbox"/> Juris Repsa	<input type="checkbox"/> Buddy Huffaker
<input type="checkbox"/> Senator Jamie Wall	<input type="checkbox"/> Sitka Pence, <i>Interim Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebekah Luedtke
<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Jeff Mursau	<input type="checkbox"/> Jordan Skiff	<input type="checkbox"/> OPEN-Builders
<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Lori Palmeri	<input type="checkbox"/> Erik Rantala	<input type="checkbox"/>
Next Meeting: October 1-2, 2025 at Kemp Natural Resources Station		

Agenda

Tuesday, May 20	Notes: Decisions, Action Items, Assignments
9:00 AM Welcome & Member Introductions (Chair Hittle) 20 min	
9:20 AM Chair Update 5 min	
9:25 AM Open Forum for Council Members 20 min	
9:45 AM Legislative Updates 20 min	
10:05 AM State Forester Update National Forest Update	

20 min	
10:25 AM Break, 15 min	
10:40 AM Red Pine and Oak Reforestation Update (Rebekah Luedtke, WCFA Executive Director) 15 min	
10:55 AM Biennial Budget Update (Chair Hittle) 10 min	
11:05 AM WEDC Update (Kietra Olson, Rural Initiatives Manager; Office of Rural Prosperity) 10 min	
11:15 AM Lincoln County Forester Update (Dean Bowe, Lincoln County Forest Administrator) 20 min	
11:35 AM Impact of Cultural Heritage on Forest Management in WI/MN (Ryan Hellenbrand, PhD candidate; UW-Madison) 15 min	
11:50 AM Lunch, 45 min	
12:35 PM NRCS Funding Update (Allan Braun, USDA NRCS Wisconsin State Forester) 30 min	
1:05 PM State Forest Action Plan 5-Year Required Reporting Discussion (Lenny Betker, DNR Division Planner and Abby Widell, DNR Associate Division Planner) 30 min	

1:35 PM White Oak Initiative (Jamie Hedges, White Oak Initiative Network Manager) 30 min	
2:05 PM Break, 15 min	
2:20 PM Biennial Report Final Edits, Approval, and Distribution Plans (Chair Hittle, Vice Chair Dallman) <i>Action Item: Approve Report</i> 20 min	
2:40 PM Forest Health Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Hillstrom, DNR Plant Pest and Disease Specialist • Scott O'Donnell, DNR Forest Genetics and Ecology Specialist 60 min	
3:40 PM ADJOURN	