

**Wisconsin Council on Forestry  
Econo Lodge Inn & Suites  
Stevens Point  
March 19, 2013**

**Members Present:**

Bruce Allison, Randy Champeau, Representative Fred Clark, Matt Dallman, Paul DeLong, Tom Hittle, Jim Hoppe, Jim Kerkman, Representative Jeff Mursau, Kim Quast, Henry Schienebeck, Jane Severt, Senator Tom Tiffany, Virgil Waugh, Dick Wedepohl,

**Members Absent:**

Paul Strong, Troy Brown, Mark Rickenbach

**Guests Present:**

Kyoko Scanlon, Carmen Hardin, Allison Hellman, Earl Gustafson, Bob Mather, Gerry Mich, Nancy Bozek, Mike Carlson, Gunnar Bergersen, Tyler Wenzlaff, Tia Nelson

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Henry Schienebeck**

New Council member Senator Tom Tiffany

**Review of Council biennial report**

**Paul DeLong**

Supporting Document: Draft report for review

- Paul DeLong facilitated discussion on the review of the draft 2011-12 report.

**DECISION ITEM:**

- **The deadline for comments is extended to the end of business on April 15, 2013.**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Earl Gustafson will provide some helpful language in regard to EPA regulations and impacts to utilities (p.20).**
- **Comments will be reviewed and Paul will send a revised draft to the Council for final approval.**

**Discuss possible statute change re report**

**Paul DeLong**

Supporting Document: Issue Brief: Proposed Revision of Council's Biennial Report Requirement

- Allison Hellman facilitated discussion on the issue brief.
- The Council supports a biennial report that covers the state of forestry in Wisconsin and a brief summary of how the Council on Forestry is addressing important issues.
  - Audience is primarily decision makers
  - Market the report to bring awareness to the issues and work that is being done
  - Explore partnerships to assist with funding

**DECISION ITEM:**

- **Jane motioned to support option #2 which would give the Council decision making authority as to what is included in the report. Motion seconded by Randy Champeau.**

**Motion Passed**

## **Annosum Guideline Implementation**

**Kyoko Scanlon**

- Supporting Document: Update on implementation of Annosum Root Rot Treatment Guide for State Lands (DRAFT)
- PowerPoint presentation will be distributed to the Council and posted on the Council's website

There has been a lot of progress made on updating the guidance for implementation of the Annosum policy. Guidance pertains to state land harvests and Kyoko is in communication with Federal and County Agencies who have their own guidelines.

- Timber bidding process template and timber sale prospectus have been developed
- An on-line bidding process has been developed and leads a bidder through a series of questions to provide a recommendation. This site will be available to the public also.
- State Forest input is being compiled (pilot program may be done)
- Evaluations will be done to assess outcomes.

A potential barrier to success is the cost of application being included in a timber bid. Kyoko reviewed several options to address this issue.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Comments on options can be sent to Kyoko by April 15<sup>th</sup>**
  - Council on Forestry will receive a summary of the comments received.
- When the guidance is approved, Paul will send an announcement and information will be available on a website.

## **Silvicultural Guidance Team Implementation**

**Carmen Hardin**

PowerPoint presentation

Carmen is now leading the Sciences Section in the Forest Management Bureau. She provided an overview of the implementation of the new Silviculture Guidance Team Model for reviewing and updating the Silviculture Handbook.

In April organizations will be invited to express their interest in participating on the new Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT) and/or the ad hoc teams. This team will meet in June and be identifying priorities to be addressed by Ad Hoc Teams of 6-8 members. Beginning in July, the ad hoc teams will be assigned specific chapters or issues. Their work will go back to the SGT to facilitate internal and external review of proposed revisions and updates to the handbook.

### **ACTION ITEM:**

- **The intent of the proposal was to include a large block landowner representative on the SGT. That will be clarified in the document and a member will be solicited.**

## **Update on the Managed Forest Law Revisions**

**Tom Hittle**

Supporting documents including PowerPoint Presentation

In preparation for the April 22 Council meeting, Tom reviewed potential revisions to the Managed Forest Law program. There has been a lot of progress made and the committee met yesterday to assess which of 27 issues to move forward for additional revisions.

Next steps:

- Through April 5<sup>th</sup> further evaluations and refinements will be made
- Packages of various issue content will be developed
- April 10<sup>th</sup> – PDF report emailed to the Council of Forestry members
- April 22 – Council on Forestry MFL meeting

## **Education Task Force**

**Randy Champeau & Rebecca Diebel**

### **Task Force update - Randy**

Handout

A committee was set up a year and a half ago to assess what forestry education is being done in the state. A gap identified was the lack of coordination related to forestry education for professional foresters, industry, and citizens. The idea of a forestry center was explored as a possible long-term investment into an entity to organize and market education on the benefits of sustainable forestry enabling various institutions to better work together. The committee was directed to develop an outline for a center and their proposal was distributed today.

The Task Force recommended the Council support the proposal and support efforts to seek appropriate funding and the establishment of the Wisconsin Forestry Center/Cooperative (WFCC).

Feedback:

- Forestry education pertains to a broad audience. Institutions all have their own interests and that is why we need a cooperative.
- Marketing and communication plan – Develop the vehicle to deliver the message
- Is this the best investment – cost/benefit
- What is the message we want carried? Who decides? Must include economic, ecological, and recreational aspects.
- Have niches been identified?
- Training – technical and leadership (made available to individuals and small groups)
- Base funding is needed as well as other existing resources. Is there buy in?

### DECISION ITEM:

- **Jim Kerkman motions to support the Committee moving forward in confirming funding options and gathering more information to inform future discussion on whether or not to move ahead with a Wisconsin Forestry Center/Cooperative. Seconded by Fred Clark.**  
**Motion Passed**

### **DNR Education & Outreach Strategic Plan update - Rebecca**

Handouts: Brief and Assessment Report

The Division held strategic planning for their education and outreach efforts until the Division Strategic Direction was complete in recognition of the fact that some additional assessment work was needed before decisions could be made the best use of resources. That process is now underway.

Assessment phase is complete:

*Division of Forestry Education and Outreach Assessment: Partner Evaluations (March 2013)*

- The report will be sent to partners early April along with other assessment summaries.

Planning phase: Now through August

Using the assessment, information strategies will be developed to reach goals. Partners will be offered the chance for review and comment so we can determine how to best invest our resources.

The Division's evaluation of education and outreach will help identify our niche and assist in the efficient and effective use of available resources. This work would be done whether the WFCC exists or not, as the center would serve to bring many entities together to gain efficiencies and improve effectiveness.

## **State Forester's Report**

**Paul DeLong**

### **Forest certification review update**

Follow-up is occurring based on Council feedback in January. Once challenge has been to develop a cost-effective industry survey process to obtain feedback on the benefits and costs of certification. The proposed process would involve UW and would delay implementation from the timeline outlined in January. A preliminary report would come to the council in December of this year. The cost is estimated to be over \$40,000.

### **DECISION ITEM:**

- **Bruce Allison motions to support the industry survey as proposed by Scot Bowe and Mark Rickenbach, UW and UW Extension. Seconded by Jim Hoppe.**

#### **Motion Passed**

- **Senator Tiffany abstained from voting as he had not had time to review materials**

## **Governor's Forest Economic Summit – Fall 2013**

Handout – Rebecca

- The department is proposing that the Council sponsor an event to foster focused dialogue to address economic issues facing the forest industry.

### **ACTION ITEM:**

- **The Council identified several volunteers to work as a planning committee. Names from multiple entities will be forwarded to Rebecca by April 3<sup>rd</sup> to form a planning committee of 4 to 5 individuals to identify topics, clarify scope, determining participation, etc. The committee leader will be chosen at the first meeting.**
  - Jane Severt – WCFA
  - Henry Schienebeck– GLTA
  - Gunnar Bergersen – Lakes State Lumber
  - Nancy Bozek – WWOA
  - Earl Gustafson – Paper Council
  - Representative from Consulting Foresters
  - DNR will staff this group

## **FY'13-15 budget update**

## Handout

- The projected balance of the Forestry Account is important and is in flux. Paul will send information as it becomes available and questions can be directed to him.

### **Biennial Timber Harvest & Inventory Report**

#### Supporting Documents:

- Act 166 Key Issues Memo,
  - Act 166 Timber Harvest Inventory Report,
  - Spreadsheet: Act 166 Report final
- The report shows that the department has made a lot of progress to address the backlog of management activities on forested DNR lands. In response to a question, Paul clarified that lands coded as in the timber base in the WisFIRS system form the totals used in the report (i.e., it does not cover non-productive lands nor reserved lands).

A request on behalf of Wisconsin landowners was made to make a statutory change so the Department of Revenue's definition of productive forest lands is in sync with the Department of Natural Resources.

### **Deer Meetings**

**Jane Severt**

Meetings are being held to determine how Dr. Kroll's recommendations are to be implemented in the State of WI. Jane and Jim Kerkman have been attending and will attend future meetings. Encouragement is given to others to attend to bring awareness to forestry issues. The April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting is the last opportunity for people to be part of the decision making process.

### **Legislative report**

**Rep. Mursau/Clark and Sen. Tiffany**

Sen. Tiffany :

- SB1 passed (mining law)
- Concerns exist among many in the legislature about bonding for stewardship
- Would like to see Tourism included in Economic Summit

Rep. Clark

- Council members share a similar goal with respect to forestry. Glad to see the collaborative work.
- Looking forward to getting an MFL bill passed.

Rep. Mursau:

- Concerned that not included in the Governor's budget was a proposal to switch National Forest Income (NFI) payments from roads to schools. The Towns Association is on board with his proposal and he will be pursuing further.

### **Future meeting agendas**

**Henry Schienebeck**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting will have an MFL focus

May – If there are not many issues we could assess if they could be addressed at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Adjourned at 3:12 PM