

Wisconsin Council on Forestry: March 21, 2023
State of WI DNR Building (GEF2), Room G09, 101 S. Webster St, Madison, WI

Council Members		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Hittle, <i>Chair</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Henry Schienebeck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Van Lopik
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Dallman, <i>Vice Chair</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Hoppe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Dorff
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Berklund, <i>Chief State Forester</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Kerkman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adena Rissman
<input type="checkbox"/> Sen. Jeff Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juris Repsa	<input type="checkbox"/> Buddy Huffaker
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Romaine Quinn	<input type="checkbox"/> Jenn Youngblood	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebekah Luedtke
<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Katrina Shankland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jordan Skiff	<input type="checkbox"/> OPEN-Builders / Secondary Wood Users
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative Jeff Mursau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erik Rantala	
Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 16, Location TBD		

Minutes

Tuesday, March 21st	Supporting Documents	Discussion	Decisions, Action Items, Assignments
9:00 AM Welcome & Member Introductions (Chair Hittle)			
9:20 AM Chair Update	2022 DRP report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on biennial report for 21-22 biennium. Will be coming to May's council meeting for approval. • Forest Tax law dispute resolution process (DRP): 2022 Report • Tom and Matt met virtually with Lt. Gov Rodriguez. • Thank you to Sen. Mursau for invitation to present to Forestry, Parks legislative committee. 	Tom and Matt will send out a request to council members.
9:30 AM Open Forum for Council Members	https://pelicanriver.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mursau: Have heard from constituents that trucks hauling logs are loaded in Chicago to be shipped elsewhere. Would be more efficient to have loading facility closer to forest products. • Pelican River Forest: the Natural Resources Board supported project in fall 2022, now at Joint Finance Committee (JFC). Still an opportunity to weigh in on the project. There is also a non-profit org advocating for the forest. 	
10:00 AM Profile Committee Update		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed fact sheet update, new member bios • Reviewed website analytics; looking for more opportunities to interact with website visitors. 	Jim Kerkman will send out the profile committee's communications plan

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Forest Appreciation week (April): DNR is coordinating a press release around the council and its history. 	<p>Will look at options for changing council home page to direct visitors to sign up for GovDelivery.</p> <p>Will look at options for doing a press release for finalized biennial report.</p>
<p>10:15 AM Sustainable Forest Committee – Farm Bill Discussion, 15 min Adena Rissman</p>	<p>Farm Bill Summary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big portions of farm bill: GNA and Federal Stewardship tracking. 	
<p>10:30 AM BREAK</p>			
<p>10:45 AM Statewide Forest Action Plan (SFAP) and integration with Council on Forestry Priorities, 30 min</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to compile what committees already doing (or planning on doing) that connect to the SFAP, to then report out on those at the 5-year mark (2025). • Have committees meet to pick out one or two actions from the SFAP to focus on 	<p>Tom and Matt will send out the assignment for committees to convene to identify actions from the SFAP.</p>
<p>11:15 AM Biennial Budget: Next steps in process, 30 min Jeff Stagg (WI DNR)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget letter was sent to governor on Jan 5 • JFC public listening sessions scheduled for April throughout the state. • May want to consider coordinating with the WI Paper Council on budget requests. • Council members agreed to have one representative at each of the 4 JFC listening sessions in April. 	<p>Tom and Matt will revise letter, send out to the council by 3/24, with council member review by 3/31.</p>
<p>11:45 AM Lunch, 45 min</p>			
<p>12:30 PM Strategic Plan and Roadmap, 30 min Tom Hittle, Matt Dallman</p>			
<p>1:00 PM Ecological Landscape Planning, 45 min Phil Rynish (WI DNR), Brad Hutnik (WI DNR), Brian Zweifel (WI DNR)</p>	<p>Property Planning Presentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage public input from all aspects of the forest community and all landscape users. • Currently, three plans in progress. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can sign up for region-specific plan areas to keep up to date on ecological landscape plans in those areas. For more information, visit the DNR's Property Planning website 	
<p>1:45 Mature & Old Growth Forests, 45 min Terry Baker (CEO, Society of American Foresters)</p>	<p>Briefer on mature/old growth forests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No single definition, could change from place to place (e.g. western trees vs midwestern trees). • Age, size, composition, and ecological function all play into whether a stand could be considered old growth. • The US Forest Service follows forest plans closely, and these would need to be reviewed with public input prior to changes on the ground. 	
<p>2:30 AM Legislative Updates</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rep Mursau continuing with third round of legislative hearings with forestry and parks committee 	
<p>2:45 AM State Forester Updates</p>		<p>State Forester Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Tax Law Handbook and Public and Private Lands Handbook updates are in progress • Bat HCP process completed. New Bat HCP coordinator, Heather Kaarakka. • NRCS-USFS/CNNF-DNR awarded funding from Joint Chiefs project to mitigate wildfire threat, forest health issues, water quality, improving wildlife habitat in blowdown area from 2019 storm • Spongy Moth: 80,000 acres defoliation last year in Bayfield County. Anticipating population rise in several counties. DATCP manages spray programs • Urban forestry is receiving a large chunk of funding from the Inflation Reduction Act. • Second year in partnership with Southern University internship program focused urban forestry • Reforestation program expected to receive Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding; will be using to remodel existing buildings for seed extraction and for new buildings for tree improvement. • WI Silviculture Guide now available; Silviculture Handbook now retired. Silviculture Guidance Team will have some vacancies to fill, request to fill those will come in June. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborated with FS on story map on FIA • Fire season coming up, already kicked off a few prescribed burns. New WisBurn website <p>CNNF Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint chiefs project, some funds administered through NRCS. • Working through BIL funding, some larger infrastructure projects on CNNF (bridges, roads) • Also received funding for regeneration projects, moving forested lands towards age class goals • Some new discoveries of EAB on national forest (though not new for those counties) 	
3:15 PM: ADJOURN			