

Governor's Council on Forestry: Tuesday, January 24th, 2023

Meeting Location: Rhinelander Forestry Headquarters, Conference Room 3
107 Sutliff Ave, Rhinelander, WI 54501

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fmr. Senator Janet Bewley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juris Repsa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buddy Huffaker
<input type="checkbox"/> Senator Mary Felzkowski	<input type="checkbox"/> Jenn Youngblood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebekah Luedtke
<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Katrina Shankland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jordan Skiff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Sjostrom
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative Jeff Mursau	<input type="checkbox"/> Erik Rantala	
Next Meeting: March 21, 2023; Location TBD		

Minutes

Tuesday, January 24 th	Supporting Documents	Discussion	Decisions, Action Items, Assignments
9:00 AM Welcome/Introductions (Chair Hittle) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome New Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Juris Repka – consulting forester representative ○ Brad Dorff – labor union rep • Jason Sjostrom will be leaving the council • James Yach, DNR Northern Region Secretary's Director provided an introduction and welcome to the area. 			
9:15 AM Chair Update		Will be launching the Biennial Report process for 2021-2022. Looking for any council members who would like to take a leadership role and work with the DNR to create the report.	Biennial report due to the governor by 6/1/23. CoF Members: contact Tom or Matt if you are interested in working on the biennial report

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<p>9:30 AM</p> <p>Open Forum for Council Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile Committee: Council History/Publication (Jim Kerkman, Bill Van Lopik) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are others doing around marketing? <p>Other topics, TBD</p>	<p>Profile Committee Website Analytics</p> <p>WIPFAC 20K Landowner Goal: 20K Progress Report for FY22</p>	<p>Profile Committee: website views and viewers comparable to last year’s numbers, Committee met and discussed accomplishments and goals for this year. There was a recent article from WI Rapids paper on VERSO mill with interviews with Schienebeck and Luedtke.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile Committee will bring list of 2023 goals to the March CoF meeting <p>WIPFAC Goal- in 2018, charged to engage 20,000 unconnected private landowners. 4-yr progress report: 17,964 landowners asking for a forester visit; very close to the 20K goal. Focus now is on reaching goal, getting engaged landowners to take action, and further education.</p>	<p>Will be updating the website with bios from new members.</p>
<p>10:00 BREAK, 15 min</p>			
<p>10:15 AM</p> <p>Sound Forestry and Policy Committee</p> <p>Adena Rissman</p>		<p>Sound Forestry and Policy topics:</p> <p>Committee met and brainstormed topics to cover in the coming year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse markets for diverse forests/diverse forests for diverse markets • Silviculture guidance for climate adaptation, mitigation, and old growth characteristics • Assisted migration ethics • Priorities for the next Farm Bill • Farm Bill – a letter from the Council to the state legislature to help them understand the importance of the Farm Bill to forestry • Reforestation and Regeneration (oak, planting) • Deer • Agroforestry • Partnerships for landscape-level forest management • Invasive insect and pathogen response • Forest certification 	<p>Sound Forestry Committee will be prioritizing and grouping topics.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficiency in supply chains and operations to cut costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions • Research updates from DNR from last year's priorities 	
10:40 Council and Committee Priority Topics for 2023 Matt Dallman		Council can reinforce the need for other parties that are working on similar issues, linking back with the State Forest Action Plan	New CoF Members will be reaching out to committee chairs for membership on committees of interest
11:00 Budget Update Jim Hoppe, Tom Hittle	23-25 budget letter Federal Funding Overview Presentation	<p>Funding committee developed letter and sent to Sec. Cole, updated letter to be sent to the Gov. Plan to follow this process in future biennial budget cycles.</p> <p>Waiting to see what has been considered once the budget comes out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council would consider drafting a letter to Joint Finance Committee (JFC) and also attend JFC hearings around the state. <p>Federal Funding Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been keeping track of the federal funding that is coming through the various federal monies: America the Beautiful Challenge Grant, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Grant. • BIL/IIJA funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ trying to use existing spending authorities as much as possible. ○ Coordinated with GLTPA to apply for temporary bridge funding • IRA funding for urban and community forestry: unprecedented amount of money to apply for, no award cap. 	Discuss the budget and a letter to JFC at March CoF meeting.

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11:30 Strategic Plan Roadmap Tom Hittle, Matt Dallman		Tom & Matt met with Gov's staff to talk about the Strategic Plan Roadmap. Connected this to more background support and need.	Ask CoF members for letters of support for this initiative or to bring it up when meeting with Legislators. Matt & Tom are creating a letter template for members to use.
11:45 Lunch, 45 min			
12:30 Forest Products Services Updates Collin Buntrock (Forest Products Team Leader, WI DNR)	Forest Regeneration Monitoring Update FPS Program Update Presentation WI Economic Report 2022	Forest Regeneration Monitoring: important work focusing on natural regeneration. Develop county-level reports for county deer advisory committees. Reviewed current status of WI economy: forest industry is #2 industry in WI economy; ~61,000 jobs; 11 counties where forestry is the number 1 employer. Current Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with black locust mill in southern WI • How Biochar can be applied in a nursery setting, which has potential to replace peat for water retention in growing operations. • Sawmill analysis tool • Will be tracking local use lumber course impact on forest products output. 	
1:15 State Forest Action Plan: Monitoring and Accomplishments Amanda Koch (Division Planner, WI DNR)	SFAP Monitoring & Accomplishments Presentation	Monitoring & Accomplishments: SFAP (5 Year) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the Council's Role in telling the story? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1. Work with you (& SFAP GovDelivery) to identify what to share ▪ 2. Tie your strategic goals in with 2020 SFAP goals and strategies A lot of opportunities to connect Council on Forestry strategic goals with SFAP goals.	Hittle: will send out an assignment to committee chairs to connect the Council on Forestry goals to the State Forest Action Plan goals. Berklund: work with Amanda where could be other opportunities to

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			connect the SFAP into the biennial report.
2:00 Break, 15 min			
2:15 Legislative Updates		No legislators on call at this time	
2:30 State Forester & Federal Forest Updates		<p>State Forester Report – Heather Berklund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalized Division of Forestry DEI & Engagement Action Plan • Research agenda – every 2 years the DNR creates a research agenda, make sure it links with the Statewide Forest Action Plan. • Hiring: In process: Private Forestry Outreach Specialist, 3 Tax Law Specialists, and Policy Advisor. New geneticist/ecologist starting soon. Plan to hire more foresters this summer. • Certified Plan Writer training kicked off recently, planning a Fall training • Tax Law will launch a Quarterly Newsletter via GovDelivery • Fire Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revamped WisBurn webpage ○ Wildfire Risk Reduction Award - \$379,000 for community planning and vegetation management ○ Forest Fire Protection Grant -\$971,000 for fire suppression equipment, prevention, & preparedness ○ 2022: number of wildfires were up, but acres burned is down (compared to 10 yr avg) ○ 2022 was a great year for prescribed burning ○ Working on wildfire prevention media package for this spring fire season • Waiting for final complaint report from ASI on BMPs for water quality 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Easement on Pelican River: still unsure if Joint Finance Committee will take it up. <p>Federal Forest Update – Adam Felts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Named permanent Deputy Forest Supervisor – Sitka Pence • Working through high vacancy rate (~30%) – capacity reduced • FS implementing Equity Action Plan, incorporating climate resiliency. 	
3:00 Meeting Wrap-up, Preview of Next Meeting			
3:10 PM Adjourn			