

Council on Forestry – Forestry Funding Committee

June 21, 2022

- *Virtual meeting to discuss Council on Forestry priorities.*
- *Develop a list of high-level topic areas which the Council on Forestry will discuss at the July 19, 2022, Council meeting.*

I. Budget Item

1. Maintain forestry funding from GPR funding equal to former mil tax
2. Council on Forestry funded position for support/operations/functions
3. Support expenditure and position authority to administer the Good Neighbor Authority.
4. Continuation of the stewardship program
5. Cost sharing for timber stand improvement
 - a. support for WFLGP
6. Expand/Replicate grant funded programs beyond current funding
7. Urban Forestry
 - a. cooling centers
 - b. value of shading
8. Forestry related economic development fund (Maine model)
9. Transportation assistance
 - a. forest roads
 - b. rail – both inbound fiber and outbound products
10. Invasives
 - a. WFLGP
 - b. federal grant opportunities
 - c. enhance invasive control/mgt.
11. Nursery Stock
 - a. meet WI's 75 million tree goal
 - b. increased need due to increased cost sharing (NRCS EQIP)
 - c. labor/expertise to plant additional trees
12. County Forest
 - a. wildlife habitat grants
 - b. sustainability grants
13. Support for LEAF program & UWSP Forestry Center

II. Issue

14. State of the southern WI forests
 - a. degradation concerns
 - b. increase conservation practices
15. Status of the oak forests in WI
16. Utilization of the closed Verso WI Rapids mill
17. Central WI conversion to solar farms
 - a. consider more suitable locations
18. Wildfire concern
 - a. fire management
 - b. prescribed burning
19. Climate change – develop actionable items
 - a. how trees help mitigate
 - b. best future tree species
 - c. contribute to trillion tree goal
20. Forest industry workforce
21. Research/Development opportunities
 - a. medicinal value from the forest
 - b. value of wildlife (monetary)
 - c. alternate uses of maple stock