

Wisconsin Council on Forestry: Tuesday, March 19, 2024

*Eau Claire DNR Service Center, Room 158 & 185: 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701
and via Zoom – [Registration for the Zoom meeting here](#)*

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 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 (Tierny sp?)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Romaine Quinn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juris Repsa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buddy Huffaker
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Jeff Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenn Youngblood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebekah Luedtke
<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Katrina Shankland	<input type="checkbox"/> Jordan Skiff	<input type="checkbox"/> OPEN-Builders
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative Jeff Mursau	<input type="checkbox"/> Erik Rantala	
Next Meeting: May 29, 2024		

Minutes

Tuesday, March 19, 2024	Notes: Decisions, Action Items, Assignments
9:00 AM Welcome & Member Introductions (Chair Hittle)	
9:20 AM Chair Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax Law Dispute Resolution Process: 2023 report provided in Feb.; 1 DRP initiated in 2023, process continued into 2024; 2023 report posted on the council's webpage Legislative items: engaged on deer (AB 1030 / SB 965) and MFL access legislation (SB 999 / AB 1093) Fall 2-day meeting: open to input on location and topics; thinking NW Engaging with MN Forest Resource Council regularly, they use resolution and recognition statements, looking into what this might look like for council's use Open invitation to representatives, if there are events where there would be an opportunity to talk about the council, Tom is willing to attend and share; pass information along to Tom as appropriate
9:30 AM Open Forum for Council Members, 30 min <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website will be updated to a new template on Wednesday evening (3/20); Tom will share via email on Thursday morning

<p>10:00 AM State Forest Action Plan Goals & Strategies Vice Chair Dallman, 45 min</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee chairs were asked to refine SFAP goals and strategies into tactics the Council could be successful at moving forward. Matt reviewed topics that came back from that exercise. • Council members will be asked to complete a poll after the meeting to refine this list further. Ask will be sent out via email. The goal is to have a list of the top 3-5 items related to goals and strategies in the SFAP that the Council can invest effort in pursuing.
<p>10:45 AM Break, 15 min</p>	
<p>11:00 AM Council's State Budget Priorities 15 min</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on budget cycle process • In prep for budget cycle, Council traditionally puts together priority ideas to share with DNR Secretary as they are putting together the agency's proposals. This occurs in the summer. If there is a better way to communicate this with the Secretary's office it would be good to let the Council know. • May be helpful to be more detailed with the asks this time around. • May help to have a member on joint finance in the majority that is able to champion the Council's ideas. Sending information and requests to all joint finance members, but also identify funding mechanism. May also be helpful to have top 3-5 priority asks to move through the budget process and a parallel bill process to give more awareness and understanding. • Approach from an economic development lens. • Step 1: Jim will convene budget committee, if you want to join that conversation contact Jim. Council members should work with their representative groups to identify any priorities.
<p>11:15 AM Legislative Updates 15 min</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on MFL and revenue to local units of government. DNR will share information specific to revenues/MFL enrollments; this might be a good future meeting topic – refresher on where the monies do go and the real impact to local municipalities. • Potential future study committee on deer
<p>11:30 AM State Forester Updates National Forest Updates 15 min</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USFS: Federal register notified that comment period on old growth closed on March 2. Included timeline and notification that 90-day comment period on the EIS will be available in June/July. Washington office is going to start working with National Association of Counties and state foresters. CNNF does have old growth quantified, they have been directed to continue to do operate as they are currently operating until notified differently. • Division of Forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At about 6-7% vacancy rate, which is good, but always a continuous cycle ○ Monitoring spring conditions. Concern over spongy moth uptick this year. Received additional funding to do some additional preventative treatments in critical areas this year. More resources will be posted on the spongy moth website.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oak wilt guidance – tool on website that shows growing degree days that can be used to inform mgmt. in addition to the guidelines. ○ FRM data will be coming this spring or summer and will be shared with council. Collaboration on data collection across land ownership types. ○ Nurseries – already starting to lift. Seedling sales at over 5 million, some species still available. ○ IRA – urban grant application period is now, applications due June 3rd ○ Aeronautics – looking to get some drones to help with prescribed burn program. ○ Forest appreciation week is between earth day and arbor day. Trillion Tree will be coming out around this time as well. ○ Working with Discover Media Works on a couple new <i>Into The Outdoors</i> episodes, focused on forest products. ○ Fire Season – fire occurrence is up around 200% compared to normal this time of year. Tools on website can help educate yourself and others on how to stay safe. ○ Extending contracts with loggers due to winter ground conditions this year to give relief to contractors based on this. ○ Tax Law – updated reports: master list now available online; sign up for tax law newsletter via GovDelivery. ○ Major update on private lands and MFL database so that consulting foresters and internal staff can access and collaborate.
11:45 AM Lunch, 45 min	
12:30 PM Council Industry Initiative Update Chair Hittle, 30 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review of Vermont’s strategic roadmap ● Proposed next steps for WI: condense strategic roadmap to a limited scope study focused on regulatory and permitting and fiber availability. ● Needs: letter, building support, examining options, establishing a catchphrase. ● Possible timing: Draft letter recommending proceeding approved at May meeting, legislation to secure funding drafted summer, study completed by late summer 2025 with final recommendation going to legislators in late fall 2025. ● Assignment: Tom will send draft letter out to council members for council review and input, will come back for approval at May meeting. Will be asking partners for letters of support as well.
1:00 PM Regulations for Attracting Business to WI Laurel Sukup (Sustainability & Business Support, WI DNR), Emilio Machado (Agronomist, WI DNR), 1 hr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Small Business Support: hotline (855)899-3021; DNRsmallbusiness@wi.gov ● Dnr.wi.gov, search “small business” ● Permit primer resources: Permit Primer Wisconsin DNR
2:00 PM Break, 15 min	

<p>2:15 PM Fiber Supply & Timber Products Output Data Ryan Heiderman (Forest Inventory Analyst, WI DNR), Scott Lyon (Forest Products Team Leader, WI DNR), 55 min</p>	
<p>3:10 PM Mass Timber Feasibility Study Ram Dahal (Forest Economist, WI DNR), 20 min</p>	
<p>3:30 PM ADJOURN</p>	