

Governor's Council on Forestry: March 22 & 23, 2022

Virtual, via Zoom

Council Members		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Hittle, <i>Chair</i>	<input checked="" 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"/> Michael Bolton
<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"/> Senator Janet Bewley	<input type="checkbox"/> Kenneth Price	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buddy Huffaker
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Mary Felzkowski	<input type="checkbox"/> Paul Strong	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebekah Luedtke
<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Katrina Shankland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jordan Skiff	<input type="checkbox"/> Jason Sjostrom
<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Jeff Mursau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erik Rantala	
Next Meeting: May 17th and 18th, 2022		

Minutes

Tuesday, March 22 nd	Supporting Documents	Discussion	Decisions, Action Items, Assignments
2 PM Welcome/Intro (Chair Hittle)			
<p>2:05 Forestry Programs & Wood Product Innovation at Technical Colleges Anthony Rynish (Forestry Instructor, Fox Valley Technical College)</p> <p>Logan Wells (Wood Science Instructor, Northcentral Technical College)</p>	<p>NTC Wood Science Program Presentation</p>	<p>Fox Valley Technical College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Resources Associate's Degree, can go into any natural resource field. Have a wide variety of course offerings and experiences for students. • Have strong wildland fire course base • Have an agreement with UWSP for those interested in continuing education <p>Northcentral Technical College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood Technology Center of Excellence in Antigo has ability to manufacture practically any wood product • Only wood science associates degree in the state, and one of few in the country. • Offer courses in wood drying science, wood science, global markets, hardwood grading and merchandising, secondary manufacturing, sustainable biofuels and energy, fundamentals of furniture making, industry orientation & safety 	

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2:55 BREAK, 10 min			
3:05 LEAF/School Forest Program Gretchen Marshall (WI School Forest Education Specialist, UWSP)	LEAF Program Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainly focus on work with educators, in partnership with DNR Division of Forestry and UWSP. • Have a lot of resources available to educators. • School forest program: land registered through state Community Forest Program • Project Learning Tree coordinated through LEAF program 	
3:30 Trees for Tomorrow Cheryl Todea (Executive Director, Trees for Tomorrow)	Wheels to Woods Program: https://www.wisaf.org/w2w/ Trees for Tomorrow Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees for tomorrow is an environmental education center located in Eagle River, with mission to promote sustainable management of natural resources • Focus on K-12 education, offering both multi-day workshops on site as well as outreach at schools • Have been challenged by the pandemic over the past few years, as well as travel costs and teacher turnover. • Wheels to Woods program has been a great way to help cover travel costs. As a non-profit, rely on donors to help cover costs for schools. 	
4:00 PM End of Meeting			

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Wednesday, March 23 rd	Supporting Documents	Discussion	Decisions, Action Items, Assignments
8:00 AM Welcome & Member Introductions (Chair Hittle)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Rep. Katrina Shankland, who is replacing Rep. Beth Meyers' position on the council. 	
8:20 AM Chair Update	Final REDS Listening Session Report 2021 DRP Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to Rep. Beth Meyers for all her work on the council the past few years • Final REDS Listening Session Report was announced via GovDelivery and posted on the Council's website • Tax Law Dispute Resolution Process (DRP) 2021 report also posted on the Council's website. 	
8:30 AM Open Forum for Council Members	Urban Forestry Council's webpage MI SAF: Carbon webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skiff: also serve on Urban Forestry Council. Newest biennial report is published on the Urban Forestry Council's portion of the DNR webpage. • Hoppe: have been seeing unprecedented transportation stress trend on wood procurement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Hittle: reminder that we have a transportation committee (led by Henry Schienebeck) to offer comments on concerns and support policy. • Carbon Credits: counties are offering carbon credits—see it as another forest product. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom: this subject could potentially fit into one of the council's existing committees. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rep. Shankland: Recent WI Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) Report has been posted; could be a good topic at a future meeting. 	
<p>9:00 AM Profile Committee Update</p>	<p>Feb COF Website Analytics</p> <p>Factsheet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want to generate more visits to the website, and more new users, as well as increase engagement. • Jim Kerkman and Bill Van Lopik will plan to keep track of web statistics and gauge changes. 	<p>Kerkman will email the council asking members for short bio (similar to morning introductions) to post on the website.</p> <p>Kerkman/Van Lopik will work with DNR to add links and documents to the council's website.</p>
9:25 AM BREAK			
<p>9:40 AM Update on Silviculture Guidance Team and Silviculture Guidance Andy Stoltman (Forest Economics & Ecology Section Chief, WDNR), Silviculture Guidance Team</p>	<p>Silviculture Guidance Team Presentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silviculture Guidance Team was created in 2013 to have more input on the handbook. In 2019, handbook was rescinded and was instead put out as guidance. • Ad hoc teams develop chapters for handbook, and the SGT reviews prior to public input. • SGT also reviews other silviculture-related guidance and helps to set 2-year work plans for silviculturists/ecologists and ad hoc teams. • Silviculture handbook chapters and ad-hoc membership are subject-specific. • Surveyed foresters on handbook—received both positive and negative comments • GovDelivery message coming in April 2022: announce rescinded handbook and reformatted guidance in its place. Still need comment on several chapters—ready to launch this soon (northern hardwood, oak rotation, natural regeneration, tree marking & retention guidelines) 	
<p>Forest Industry Efforts 10:10 AM Recap Chair Hittle</p> <p>10:20 Build Back Better Grant Update</p>	<p>REDS info on the Council website</p> <p>Discussion Outline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed status of the Build Back Better Grant process • Council's role will be integral to the success of the Roadmap for the Build Back Better grant. WI DNR is "all in" in helping these efforts go forward. 	

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<p>Stacey Johnson (VP for Transportation, Forestry, and Workforce Relations, Wisconsin Paper Council) & Paul Fowler (Executive Director, WI Institute for Sustainable Technology, UWSP)</p> <p>10:40 AM Breakout Sessions on Marketing and Roadmap Process</p> <p>11:10 AM Discuss/Wrap up Breakout Discussions</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If council members want to a part of next steps and conversations, reach out to Tom and Matt if have that interest in developing foundation for these two initiatives. 	
<p>11:30 AM Legislative Updates</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rep Mursau introduced a resolution to express support for build back better regional challenge grant; also circulated support letter for support for the build back better grant. • Leg session is over—any legislation that hasn't passed and signed by gov would need to be reintroduced next session. • MFL bill passed; passed truck weight modification; passed harvest amounts on public lands. 	<p>Rep. Shankland to send forestry account status to Chair Hittle.</p>
<p>11:45 AM State Forester Updates</p>	<p>Fire Management Dashboard</p> <p>Burning Restrictions</p> <p>Forest Service Report</p>	<p>State Forester Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispute Resolution Process (DRP): used for disagreements on lands enrolled in MFL. Renewable Resource Solutions currently has that contact for the DRP • New Spongy Moth (changed name for invasive moth). • Entering fire season; have already had some wildfires in the southern portion of the state. Still in drought conditions going into spring. DNR website has a dashboard with daily fire counts, prescribed burns, and fire danger. • Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is completed, Fish & Wildlife Service is taking final look at document, with one last public comment period (some time within next month or two) • Have been able to actively recruit for a variety of vacant positions. Looking to hire class of technicians and then field foresters. • Trillion Tree annual report for governor's office to come out in April. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming dates: Arbor Day (last Fri of April); Forest Appreciation Week (last week of April); Fire Prevention Week April 17-23 <p>CNNF Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Forest Service Report (linked document) 	
		<p>May Meeting: will explore an in-person meeting for May meeting. Any concerns, reach out to Tom.</p>	
12:00 PM: ADJOURN			