

## Wisconsin Council on Forestry: Wednesday, May 29, 2024

*Rhineland DNR Service Center, Conference Room 3, 107 Sutliff Ave, Rhineland, WI*

*And via Zoom – [Register for the Zoom meeting here](#)*

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"/> 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"/> Senator Romaine Quinn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juris Repsa	<input type="checkbox"/> Buddy Huffaker (sub: Mia Hickey)
<input type="checkbox"/> Senator Jeff Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenn Youngblood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebekah Luedtke
<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Katrina Shankland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jordan Skiff	<input type="checkbox"/> OPEN-Builders
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative Jeff Mursau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erik Rantala	
<b>Next Meeting: September 17 &amp; 18, 2024</b>		

### Minutes

Wednesday, May 29	Supporting Documents	Discussion	Decisions, Action Items, Assignments
<b>9:00 AM</b> Welcome & Member Introductions (Chair Hittle)			
<b>9:15 AM</b> Meet and Greet with the Secretary of State Sarah Godlewski			
<b>9:30 AM</b> Chair Update			
<b>9:45 AM</b> Open Forum for Council Members, 15 min <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website Update</li> <li>Fall Tour</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WI Green Fire (Fred Clark): Future of Forests. Working to develop a unified message from all parties who use/recreate in WI forests. Will plan to reach out to forestry stakeholders.</li> <li>Reviewed website stats to date</li> <li>Urban Forestry Council is looking to have a joint meeting on biochar, tentatively looking at June 2025.</li> </ul>	

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<b>10:00 AM BREAK</b>			
<b>10:15 AM</b> State Forest Action Plan Vice-Chair Dallman, Amanda Koch (WI DNR), 45 min		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed actions that align on different parts of the State Forest Action Plan</li> <li>• Would like to clarify what “support MFL” means</li> <li>• Will plan to have the profile committee further strategize the communications aspects.</li> <li>• Will summarize prioritized actions and send back out to the council.</li> </ul>	
<b>11:00 AM</b> Council’s Priorities for State Biennial Budget Jim Hoppe, 45 min Action Item		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize budget issues to bring to meeting with the DNR Secretary’s Office in June 2024.</li> <li>• Reviewed how the council can improve efforts from last biennial budget recommendations</li> <li>• Could be additional options to fund priorities if request/receive spending authority out of the forestry account</li> <li>• Would like to consider inflation adjustments, adjusting previous budget cycle’s requests to the DNR Sec. Office.</li> <li>• Will reorganize the budget ideas based on highest priority to communicate to the Secretary’s office.</li> </ul>	
<b>11:45 AM Lunch, 45 min</b>			
<b>12:30 PM</b> Industry Initiative Chair Hittle, 1 hr		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed and provided feedback on draft industry study.</li> <li>• Alabama, Georgia, and Maine all have a business model/information package that they provide to businesses who are interested in locating to the state.</li> </ul>	Ask that council members provide additional feedback on the industry study draft. Tom will plan to share final draft by July 4. Sec of State Glodoski will begin to engage forest products lab
<b>1:30 PM</b> Overview of MFL in Buffalo County Lee Engfer (Buffalo Co.), R.J. Wickham (WI DNR), 45 min		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewed current rates for enrollment in MFL</li> <li>• Recommendation from Buffalo County is to modify MFL rates on the county level</li> <li>• Additional ideas: increase forest ag land rates; begin outfitter license fees</li> </ul>	
<b>2:15 PM</b> Legislative Updates		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be effort from legislature to audit wildlife account. Encourage the council to advocate for increases in wildlife</li> </ul>	

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		licensing to make sure that wildlife account is funded in the future.	
<b>2:30 PM</b> State Forester Updates National Forest Updates		<b>State Forester Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deputy Division Administrator, Mike Warnke, is leaving his position in June.</li><li>• Bringing on new class of foresters; 2 Southern University interns working over the summer.</li><li>• Great Lakes Basin Forest Health Collaborative: will support great lakes region: focus on forest health issues, species prioritization within great lakes</li><li>• Record nursery seedling distribution 4.5 million seedlings</li><li>• Urban Forestry IRA grant applications closing June 3.</li></ul> <b>CNNF Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regional Forester Tony Dixon for eastern region.</li></ul>	
<b>3:00 ADJOURN</b>			