

Governor's Council on Forestry: May 18, 2022

Madison, WI, and Virtual Meeting 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 (filling in: Stacey Johnson)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Janet Bewley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kenneth Price	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buddy Huffaker
<input type="checkbox"/> Senator Mary Felzkowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Strong	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebekah Luedtke
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative Katrina Shankland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jordan Skiff	<input type="checkbox"/> Jason Sjostrom
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative Jeff Mursau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erik Rantala (filling in: Troy Brown)	
Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 19th, 2022		

Minutes

Wednesday, May 18	Supporting Documents	Discussion	Decisions, Action Items, Assignments
2 PM Welcome/Intro (Chair Hittle)			
9:30 AM Welcome & Member Introductions (Chair Hittle), 10 min			
9:40 AM WI DNR Secretary's Office Update (Sarah Barry, Deputy Secretary of WI DNR), 10 min		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in hearing more on the results of the last Forest Practices Study conducted (The single tree selection project is posted on the Council's website). 	
9:50-10:20 AM Open Forum for Council Members, 30 min <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile Committee Update • MFL Partner Discussion Update • Sound Forestry & Policy Committee Update 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognized Troy Brown for his participation on the Council on Forestry • Profile Committee Update: had higher numbers of visitors to the website. Would like to highlight council members via a short biography and optional photo, to be posted on the website. • MFL: Discussed follow-up with DNR on accomplishing mandatory practices on MFL properties. Do not feel there are any legislative changes needed to get mandatory practices accomplished. 	Potential future field day or Council agenda item: old growth. Could be interesting to meet with specialty wood producers that can process specialty old growth products.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound forestry committee: Committee discussing current status, management and trend of old growth forests in state. 	
Break: 10:20			
10:30 Division of Forestry Strategic Direction: Response to Comments Amanda Koch (WI DNR), Division of Forestry Leadership, 45 min	Strategic Direction Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the process for strategic direction thus far, and highlighted some specific areas revisited in response to comments received during the February 2022 comment period. • Next step is creating performance measures to track these programs and shifts in the new strategic direction. Final document will be shared in published in July 2022. Organizational changes will officially start July 1, 2022, with hiring continuing as normal. 	
11:15 Forest Industry Roadmap Update Tom Hittle, Matt Dallman, 30 min	Wisconsin Forest Industry Roadmap Wisconsin Council on Forestry March Breakout Discussion Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open competition has closed for the grant process, so now can start working more openly with partners. • If successful with the Build Back Better grant, aiming to be ready to proceed with the roadmap and marketing plans. 	
11:45 Industry Marketing and Messaging: Wood Industry Collaborative Crystal Rohde, Business Development Specialist, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, 30 min	Wood Collaborative Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started soliciting funding commitments in 2019. Awarded funds from WEDC for project in March 2020. • Had to pivot from original plan due to pandemic • Despite pandemic challenges, moved forward with development of 4 different short media segments 	
12:15 Lunch			
1:00 Forestry-related Funding Updates & Discussion: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) & Farm Bill 90 min Presentations by:	NRCS Presentation State (DNR) Application of Federal Funds Presentation	Regional Forester, Gina Owens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds coming to Forest Service from IIJA will look/feel different than funds for western US. • Over next 5 years, R&D will get \$10 million; State and private forestry: \$1.5 billion; National forest units: \$2.8 billion • Big picture: by 2031, goal is to have fuel risk reduction treatments on 20 million acres on cross-boundary areas 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gina Owens, Regional Forester, Eastern Region, USFS Eric Allness, Acting State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service Mike Warnke, Deputy Division of Forestry Administrator, WI DNR <p>Open Floor Discussion: council members and guests share any additional updates/information</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have received additional money to build workforce (timber, rec, lands, engineering) <u>NRCS, Eric Allness</u> IJA will be providing \$918 million to NRCS Watershed programs 1 billion for partnerships for climate smart commodities (reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon). <u>DNR, Mike Warnke</u> Using state forest action plan as a blueprint for how to utilize IJA funding \$500,000 over next 5 hrs. Looking to use funds to add capacity 	
2:30 Break			
2:45 Legislative Updates		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislature is not in session. Not going to be back in session until Jan when newly sworn in legislators are sworn in. Entire assembly and half of senate is up for reelection. Primary is August 9. Sen Bewley is not running. Next budget cycle is when gov introduces budget in Jan of odd year. Looking at goals/budget requests. Rep. Mursau is chairing tribal relations committee this summer. Have interest in biochar facility to consume 2 million tons a week. DNR budget: will need to submit any DNR budget requests to NRB in time for their Sept meeting 	<p>Would like convene the COF funding committee to provide updates at the July COF meeting, to then submit any points of support on the budget mid-July.</p>
3:00 State Forester updates	<u>May Forest Service Report</u>	<p><u>DNR-State Forester</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looked into how to help alleviate contract expirations and recent hardships: will be offering up some flexibility on contracts. MFL bill signed into law April 8th. Deep into fire season-more of a normal year with south greening up before north. Great prescribed burn year (219 burns). Has become important tool for silviculture and wildlife habitat. Launched "Heroes of the Forest" Into the Outdoor series, hopefully getting kids interested in forestry jobs. Partnered with Girl Scouts of Wisconsin: Tree Promise 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internship program with southern university: 2 interns to work with Urban Forestry staff out of Milwaukee. Sponsored 3 students for tree felling program. • Hiring: new NE tax law team leader. Will be doing forester tech hire, then foresters later summer. Forest products LTE starting in June, and hired new LTE to assist with the Urban Forestry Council. • BMP Advisory Committee looking to revisit the guidelines/manual. Currently, want to revisit membership first. Will be opportunity for that to come to the council. <p><u>CNNE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 6 is new entry to hybrid work environment for FS. Field staff will remain the same. A lot of staff going to 100% telework arrangements. • On track for timber sales. Will end up with 120-130 MMBF. • First detection of EAB on national forest lands in Sawyer county. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to do 1-day meeting preferably July 19. Mid-state tech has offered to host. • Sept 13 and 14 field tour. Looking to get a tour of ascent building in Milwaukee. 	
3:30 PM End of Meeting			