

Council on Forestry Meeting – Post Summit
Concourse Hotel & Governor’s Club
Madison, WI
December 13, 2013

Council Members Present: Henry Schienebeck (Council Chair), Jane Severt (Council Vice-Chair), Troy Brown, Matt Dallman, Paul DeLong, Tom Hittle, Jim Hoppe, Kim Quast, Richard Wedepohl, Virgil Waugh, Bruce Allison, Rep. Fred Clark, Rep. Jeff Mursau, and Mark Rickenbach

Council Members Absent: Sen. Tom Tiffany, and Jim Kerkman,

Meeting Minutes

Summit Review

- Format was well received and discussions beneficial

Action Item(s)

- *The planning team will develop a list of pro’s and con’s from events throughout the Summit*
- *Don will prepare a report which the Council will review at the next meeting. The report will address items of highest importance. Some of these may be addressed in the Forest Practices Study (i.e. education)*
- *Don and Heather will have a cleaned up set of action items to the Moderators no later than Tuesday (December 17th). The moderators will then return them to Don no later than December 30th. At that time, Don will forward to Terrisa who will forward to the Council for rating prior to the January meeting.*
- *Terrisa will schedule a time after January 3rd for Mark/Troy/Paul D. to review the Council’s ranking.*
- *All presenters should send copies of their presentations to Terrisa Mulder (Terrisa.mulder@wisconsin.gov) so she can put them on the Council webpage.*

MFL Legislation

Item 1 (Change in rate for open/closed acreage)

The Special Committee comprised of Doug Duren (Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association), Jerry Knuth (Wisconsin Wildlife Federation), George Meyer (Wisconsin Wildlife Federation), Shawn Hagen (The Forestland Group), and Andy Tuttle (Wisconsin Consulting Foresters Association) met December 9th and unanimously agreed to recommend to the Council the following provisions on MFL tax rates (per acre) for land entered after 2004 (2005 and later).

- Open land (MFL tax rate*) \$0.85
- Closed land (MFL tax rate**) \$6.41

*Open land MFL tax rate = 2% of average statewide tax on productive forest land (\$42.70/acre)

**Closed land MFL tax rate = 15% of average statewide tax on productive forest land (\$42.70/acre)

Of the MFL payments received, regardless of those lands being open or closed to public access, the following distribution of MFL payments would apply:

20% State***
55% Townships
25% County

***All MFL payments received by the State shall be used for new land acquisition above and beyond what is currently in motion.

The new proposal would result in an overall annual revenue loss of \$3,452,286.00. The annual fiscal impact on revenue distribution is as follows:

State	-\$6,234,992.00
Town	+\$1,480,800.00
County	+\$1,301,906.00

MOTION(S)

After Council discussion, Kim Quast made a motion to remove the statement “All MFL payments received by the State shall be used for new land acquisition above and beyond what is currently in motion” from the proposal and introduce this as a single item separate from the package of recommendations. Richard Wedepohl seconded the motion.

Jane Severt then made a motion to table the matter until detailed fiscal estimates can be prepared and overall effect on the Forestry account can be assessed. Tom Hittle seconded the motion. After a Council vote, the item was tabled with nine approved and three opposed.

Action Item(s)

- *DNR will work with Tim Gary (Rep. Jeff Mursau’s Office) to gather necessary fiscal items.*
- *Kim Quast will work as the conduit for vetting the concept through Towns/Counties, and access hunting groups.*

Item 17 (Allow small landowners to close land regardless of acreage)

The committee unanimously concluded that the law should remain as is with a limit of 160 acres closed to public access per ownership per municipality. The committee felt that allowing unlimited closed acreage would result in more land being closed to public access. Considering the committee is already recommending a lower closed acreage rate in Proposed Revision 1, and the suggested program revisions already include a repeal of the leasing law, the special committee recommended that this proposed revision should be dropped.

MOTION

Troy Brown made a motion to accept the committee’s proposal, Kim Quast seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Item 13 (Large Landowner Allowable Harvest)

The Special Committee comprised of Buzz Vahradian (Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association), Shawn Hagan (The Forestland Group), Joel Wagenaar (Wisconsin Consulting Foresters Association), Jim Hoppe (CoF member – Pulp & Paper Industry), Jack Hietpas (Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians), and Dan Dessecker (Ruffed Grouse Society) met on December 10th and could not reach consensus on the actual figures and language (bold italics) after creating the following MFL revision and therefore decided not to advance a recommendation at this time.

“Direct the DNR to promulgate rules for auditing all large account landowners for compliance with the parameters, requirements and purpose of the MFL including the harvesting of timber at levels between ___ ***percent and ___ percent of net growth over a sliding 10 year period (with net growth determined by the landowner and approved by the Department)***, subject to revisions as necessitated by ownership or other property modifications.”

Action Item(s)

- *The Department will work with Tom Hittle to collect additional information to bring back to Council for additional review.*

Forest Practices Support Letter



Forest Practices
Council Support Letter

The enclosed letter was circulated for Council signature and forwarded to the addressed Legislators.

Upcoming Meeting(s)

February 6, 2014 – Stevens Point

March 25, 2014 - Madison

May 22, 2014

July 24, 2014

September 17-18, 2014 (summer tour)

November 13, 2014

Respectfully submitted by Terrisa Mulder, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources