

Wisconsin Council on Forestry: September 17 & 18, 2024

*Rhineland DNR Service Center, Conference Room 3, 107 Sutliff Ave, Rhineland, WI,
with tour locations around Oneida County*

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 type="checkbox"/> James Hoppe	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Senator Romaine Quinn	<input type="checkbox"/> Juris Repsa	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jordan Skiff	<input type="checkbox"/> OPEN-Builders
<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Jeff Mursau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erik Rantala	
Next Meeting: November 19, 2024		

Minutes

Tuesday, Sept 17: Meeting	Notes: Decisions, Action Items, Assignments
9:00 AM Welcome & Member Introductions (Chair Hittle)	
9:20 AM Chair Update, 10 min	
9:30 AM Open Forum for Council Members, 15 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim: SAF meeting coming up. FHAW Menominee tribal history Oct 11/12. WI Forestry hall of fame: encourage nominations. Rebekah: SFI and FSC recertification audit just occurred. Clean audit, very proud. Vilas, Oneida, Price, and Rusk counties audited. Matt: new position with TNC in NW MN, Northern WI and the UP. Henry: discover WI episode on recreation, highlights local uses of wood and wood products. https://youtu.be/avZrXmVyR78?si=4ghhmO4l6LTbYB9L October forest products week: into the outdoors launch DNR's collab w/FS on everyday uses of wood, forest products lab.
9:45 AM Forest Tax Law Updates & Dispute Resolution Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend meeting with committees, to then come back for an action item in November with a vote.

R.J. Wickham (DNR Tax Law Section Chief), 30 min	
10:15 AM Break, 15 min	
10:30 AM Council Initiatives Supporting the State Forest Action Plan Vice Chair Dallman, Amanda Koch (DNR Policy Advisor), 30 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Profile and policy committees are creating a position statement on forest health, to bring back to Nov COF meeting for approval, and send to the governor by the end of the year.
11:00 AM State Biennial Budget Updates Chair Hittle, Jeff Stagg (Budget and Grants Section Chief, DNR), 30 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will ask Jim Hoppe and budget committee to reconvene between now and November, provide something to the council to approve in Nov. would like to get budget letter to gov office before the end of the year.
11:30 AM Lunch, 45 min	
12:15 PM Overview of Working Forest Easements & Funding Ron Gropp (Conservation Easement and Private Forestry Specialist, DNR), 1 hr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed how working forest conservation easements work and how they are funded
1:15 PM Research on Working Forest Easements Bob Smail (Forest Socio-Economic Researcher, DNR), 45 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature review on working forest conservation easements, mostly from the Midwest, some from the northeast
2:00 PM Break, 15 min	
2:15 Pelican River Conservation Easement Perspectives Bob Mott (Chairman, Town of Schoepke) Eric Rempala (Oneida County Clean Waters Action) Henry Schienebeck (Great Lakes Timber Professionals Assoc.) 1 hr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heard various perspectives on the Pelican River Conservation Easement process
3:15 PM Industry Initiative Chair Hittle, 30 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would like to put together a white paper for legislators based on the data Tom presented
3:45 PM Legislative Updates, 15 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

4:00 PM

State Forester Updates
National Forest Updates
30 min

State Forester Updates

- New forestry technicians on board; several positions up for recruitment
- New into the outdoors episodes coming
- Seedling orders opening Oct 7
- Fully staffed in aeronautics
- Very successful 80th smokey's birthday
- Working on Act 166 Report, coming to council in winter 2025t
- Working on Forest Certification Assessment, looking at different types of certification and what best meets our business need
- Going through an internal process/review of fire program

National Forest Updates

- 110mmbf harvested; 14 of 17 GNA sales sold
- Not hiring now, due to budget
- Sitka Pence on detail for Washington; acting deputy forest sup is Mike Brown

4:30 PM ADJOURN

At 5:30 PM, the Council on Forestry will have a social hour and dinner meeting at the Northwood Golf Course Whipsaw Restaurant, 3131 Golf Course Road, Rhinelander, WI 54501. No action will be taken.