

Governor's Council on Forestry

Tuesday, November 15th 2016
Lussier Family Heritage Center
3101 Lake Farm Road
Madison, WI 53711

Council Members Present: Troy Brown, Matt Dallman, Fred Souba, Tom Hittle, James Hoppe, James Kerkman, Representative Mursau, Mark Rickenbach, Henry Schienebeck, Jane Severt, Senator Tiffany, Ken Zabel, Richard Wedepohl, Senator Bewley, Representative Milroy, Ken Price, Marla Eddy (for Bruce Allison), Matt St. Pierre (for Paul Strong), and Fred Souba

Council Members Absent: Bruce Allison, Paul Strong

Guests Present: Darrell Zastrow, Rebecca Diebel, Kelsey Pickart, Jessie Augustyn, Tyler Wenzlaff, Paul DeLong, Ron Eckstein, Steve Ring, Nancy Bozek, Anastasia Wolf-Flasch, Steve Hubbard, Robert Peterson, Earl Gustafson, Gretchen Marshall, Fred Clark, Steve Kairianen, Mike Greenheck, Joe Arington, Adena Rissman

Chair Schienebeck called the meeting to order at 8:45 AM

Council Member Changes

Chair Schienebeck

On behalf of the council, Chair Schienebeck presented Paul DeLong with a plaque of recognition and thanked him for his 13 years of service as Chief State Forester. Chair Schienebeck also welcomed Fred Souba as our new Chief State Forester.

Wisconsin Forest Practices Study – Recommendations

Fred Souba

Fred Souba presented the recommendations of the WFPS Sub-Committees and explained the process followed to reach their prioritized list of recommendations. He then presented his Recommendations to Implementation flow chart and suggested next steps including the COF support of the recommendations and work and of the Sub-Committees and a process for recommendation implementation. Council members felt it would be helpful to include in the list of recommendations a section highlighting why each study was initiated so that the original goal can be carried over into implementation. Many members also felt that the recommendations could be grouped into a few broad categories and it might be more effective to focus the broader picture. The council felt the categories included a) seasonality, b) silviculture guidelines, and c) training, education, and communication.

Motion: Break down the list of recommendations so that they can be grouped into three categories: Seasonality, Silvicultural Guidelines, and training, communication, and education.

Motion Passed

Motion: Implementation subcommittees will be charged with the task to determine which recommendations fit into each category and decide which of those they will address.

The council clarified that subcommittees could consist of people outside of the council to gain more expertise on certain topics.

Action Item: Henry and Jane will develop a charge statement for Implementation Subcommittees. Council members will respond to Jane by December 2nd if they are interested in leading a subcommittee. Subcommittees will then present to the Council at our January meeting.

BREAK

Council Deer Position

Jane Severt

Carried Motion: Accept the Council Deer Position paper

Action Item: Kelsey will post the position paper on the COF website. Paper will be sent to each CDAC Chair, members of the state legislature, and Governor Walker.

Council Budget Priorities

Rebecca Diebel

The council discussed joining the North American Forest Partnership (NAFP) and the benefits that it may have. The estimated partnership dues would cost \$1,000 annually. Benefits to the partnership would include getting outreach and education materials, as well as products and venues, at an extremely discounted rate.

Motion: The Council will support joining the NAFP at whatever level is feasible as a budget initiative.

Motion: Council members will draft a budget initiative for \$100,000 annually to fund basic council operations and additional priorities such as education and outreach, deer research, and implementing WFPS recommendations.

Motion Passed

Action Item: Fred Souba and Darrell Zastrow will prepare the budget initiative to be presented to the Council at the January meeting.

Senator Tiffany requested the council discuss supporting the DNR Forestry Headquarters relocation project as a potential budget initiative. Darrell Zastrow and Rebecca Diebel provided a brief explanation of the economic analysis that was put together by the Division of Forestry and the tools they used to produce the figures.

Motion: The Council will support funding WEEB in the council's budget initiatives

Motion Passed

Motion: Refresh a letter and support stewardship funding in the council's budget initiatives

Motion passed, Troy Brown was opposed

Motion: The council will create a letter to support Master logger funding for up to \$75,000

Motion Passed

LUNCH

Budget Initiative Proposals Cont....

Rebecca Diebel

The council continued discussion about supporting funding for the DNR Forestry Headquarters relocation proposal. Much of the discussion involved weighing the costs and benefits of moving the headquarters. Rebecca clarified that moving the headquarters would include moving forestry specialists, not foresters who are already in the field. Council members felt there was no consensus on moving this forward.

Recommendation from FPS Advisory Committee RE: "Forestry Economic Summit"

Steve Hubbard

Steve Hubbard (WDNR) initiated a discussion for the council to gauge interest in hosting another Governor's Forestry Economic Summit and, if so, what type of format and topics would be covered. Council members felt that another event like this would be beneficial in the future, but that it should be postponed until the Forest Practice Study proposals are completed.

Action Item: The council will revisit this issue brief at the January meeting after discussing the proposed FPS recommendations.

Legislative Reports

Council Representatives and Senators

Senator Tiffany expressed how good it is to see the progress with Good Neighbor Authority. He plans to release a letter that encourages the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to meet the allowable sales quantity. He told council members that two thirds of MFL closed land money went back to local municipalities to help repair roads and aid community projects. He hopes that we can work to get all of the money returned to municipalities in the future.

Representative Milroy updated the council on his concerns regarding the disparity in MFL acreage tax rates and land value. Another concern he would like to address is the erosion of the Stewardship program and selling off lands that protect large tracts of forest. Lastly, Representative Milroy shared with the council that he will be serving on the Natural Resources committee and is worried that the Deer management plan isn't sustainable and hopes to shift hunter expectation, incorporate science, and address industry struggles.

Representative Mursau shared with the council that his main priority is to get funding back to conservation easements and WEEB programs. He also hopes to expose more legislators to the importance forestry plays in the Wisconsin economy.

State Forester Report

Darrell Zastrow

Darrell Zastrow provided a brief State Forester report on behalf of Fred Souba. He shared that program guidance is out in the Private Forestry Handbook. Content of the handbook includes Cooperating Forester Application, Maintaining Cooperating Forestry Status, Terminating the Cooperating Forester Agreement (from both Cooperating Forester's side and DNR's side), Cooperating Forester Dispute Resolution Process, and Working with Cooperating Foresters. Darrell shared that comments on the Northern State Forest Master Plan Variance is due on November 21st. He also provided a short summary regarding motorized vehicle access on state lands and announced his upcoming retirement.

The 2017 council meeting dates were finalized and are as follows:

Thursday, January 26th

Wednesday, March 22nd

Thursday, May 18th

Wednesday, September 20th

Wednesday, November 29th

Adjourned at 2:30