

WISCONSIN PRIVATE FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 5, 2020
 10:00-12:00
MEETING NOTES

Meeting was conducted via zoom.

Attendees: Heather Berklund, Steve Bertjens, Nancy Bozek, Ann Calhoun, Joe Hovel, Buddy Huffaker, Ron Gropp, Bill Klase, Keith Krajewski (guest), Ian Krauss, Kristin Lambert, Dennis McDougall, Kim Quast, Jim Warren, R.J. Wickham

NOTES

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>
10:00am	<p><i>Welcome & Introductions – R.J. Wickham</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNR changes: Heather Berklund is new Chief State Forester, Jim Warren is new Director of the Bureau of Forestry Field Operations, Kristin Lambert is the new Public & Private Forestry Section Chief • new WPFAC members: Kim Quast representing Cooperating Foresters, Ian Krauss representing Farm Services Agency, Steve Bertjens filling in for Andy Hart representing NRCS
10:10am	<p><i>Opening Remarks & Committee Expectations – Jim Warren</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan to adjust and have Jim be the committee chair rather than having R.J. and Kristin be co-chairs • reminder that this Committee has a focus on federal programs – Forest Stewardship and Forest Legacy but was broadened to include “all things private forestry” • members should feel supported and encouraged to bring agenda items forward to the committee • reminder that this Committee advises the Chief State Forester so for any item that we discuss, the Committee can make a decision to take it to the next level and make a formal recommendation to Heather • some committee terms are coming due so we will be reaching out to see if you want to continue or if we should seek a new member
10:20am	<p><i>Division of Forestry Leadership Updates – Heather Berklund</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focus right now is COVID – keeping staff and public safe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ continuing to support the forest industry as an essential service • Climate change – Governor’s Task Force; Department Team and Division Team on climate (Carmen Hardin leading Division Team) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ carbon credits ○ Trillion Trees program ○ if WPFAC has energy around these topics – we can engage more as they start to mature – we can have Carmen Hardin attend a future meeting and/or do a meeting just focused on climate/carbon ○ concentrated conversations would lead to better coordination – forestry community still finding its way on carbon, so unity may take the edge off what may be causing angst currently

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engagement with the Council on Forestry • Idling of the Verso Mill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Governor’s Task Force ○ DNR Forest Products Team heavily engaged ○ impacts of COVID • Building and maintaining partnerships • Division’s niche and our partnerships and support of the private sector • Been able to fill some positions but generally in a hiring pause <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ two tax law vacancies ○ two Private Forestry vacancies ○ we are monitoring and adjusting workload to ensure the priority work is being accomplished • COVID <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ impacts on seedling orders, but seeing an uptick in orders for next spring! ○ public lands contract extensions ○ Tax Law deferred mandatory practice enforcement ○ Private forestry limited/stopped active outreach and paused on foresters doing landowner visits for a period of time – back to being active at this time
10:30am	<p><i>Connecting with 20,000 Landowners – Kristin Lambert</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristin shared a one-page (front and back) progress report on the goal to connect with 20,000 landowners • a lot of positive progress is being made – we are 1/3 of the way toward our goal! • members are encouraged to share the document to celebrate our work! • Buddy would like to get an update on this on the Council of Forestry agenda in the future
10:50am	<p><i>Tax Law Program Updates – Keith Krajewski (NW Tax Law Team Leader) & R.J. Wickham</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presentation focused on strategic goal #3 – to strengthen the Certified Plan Writer (CPW) program and developing a CPW performance monitoring and compliance system that will improve the quality of MFL applications submitted by CPWs. • Five-year average shows that 58% of MFL applications are returned showing an opportunity to develop win-wins for time-savings for all involved. • Wisconsin Consulting Foresters were provided an overview of the system prior to WPFAC meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appreciative of opportunity to provide input early in the public comment process. ○ WCF wants high standards ○ sees the proposal as very reasonable ○ only thought was to offer a different weighting on different return reasons, but determined that would be too complex to implement • What is the impact on private landowners? Particularly around the fact that a CPW who has had their certification revoked can continue to complete the plans they are working on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Their CPW status will be pulled from being listed on the Forestry Assistance Locator at the time of revocation but they will still be listed because they will still be a Cooperating Forester ○ There is a separate list of just the CPWs, and they will be removed from that list immediately at the time of revocation • Tax Law section recognizes that the compliance system alone will not improve the quality of applications and have additional projects such evaluating and updating the CPW

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	<p>certification, improving the CPW recertification (continuing education training) and utilizing automated quality checks in WisFIRS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can reengage on this topic as a committee as need be and have a more focused discussion • R.J. offered to give this presentation to the WWOA board
11:30am	<p><i>Council on Forestry Updates – Buddy Huffaker</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFL foreseeable risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ unclear if COF will advance anything further on this topic • Tom Hittle doing a good job of elevating forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ submitted letters on Governor’s climate task force and rural task force, shared forestry facts, etc. • Seg funding • next COF meeting is 11/18 – forward any requests to Buddy that you want him to talk about at that meeting or any meeting in the future
11:50am	<p><i>Verso Mill Closure – Jim Warren</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impact on stumpage • some of it is out of our control (e.g. people are using less paper; consumption is down – the economics are a bit out of our control) • Forest Products Utilization Team within DNR – could provide information to WPFAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ can at least give members information to take back to the organizations they represent ○ since there is so much unknown a briefing may not be that valuable • Does this affect how landowners should manage their land? Moreover, how should we talk to landowners about this? Does/should it impact our outreach? • COF could take this on in a sense through some of the things they are currently talking about – low quality wood products and WFLGP funding for non-commercial projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WPFAC sees value in seg funds
12:00pm	Adjourn

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Process to become a Cooperating Forester and Certified Plan Writer
 - how many are there
 - how busy are they
 - etc.

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