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

Meeting was conducted via zoom.


NOTES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Introductions – R.J. Wickham</td>
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<td>• 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 &amp; Private Forestry Section Chief</td>
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<td>• new WPFAC members: Kim Quast representing Cooperating Foresters, Ian Krauss representing Farm Services Agency, Steve Bertjens filling in for Andy Hart representing NRCS</td>
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<td>10:10am</td>
<td>Opening Remarks &amp; Committee Expectations – Jim Warren</td>
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<td>• plan to adjust and have Jim be the committee chair rather than having R.J. and Kristin be co-chairs</td>
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<td>• reminder that this Committee has a focus on federal programs – Forest Stewardship and Forest Legacy but was broadened to include “all things private forestry”</td>
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<td>• members should feel supported and encouraged to bring agenda items forward to the committee</td>
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<td>• 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</td>
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<td>• 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</td>
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<td>10:20am</td>
<td>Division of Forestry Leadership Updates – Heather Berklund</td>
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<td>• focus right now is COVID – keeping staff and public safe</td>
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<td>o continuing to support the forest industry as an essential service</td>
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<td>• Climate change – Governor’s Task Force; Department Team and Division Team on climate (Carmen Hardin leading Division Team)</td>
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<td>o carbon credits</td>
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<td>o Trillion Trees program</td>
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<td>o 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</td>
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<td>o 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</td>
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• engagement with the Council on Forestry
• Idling of the Verso Mill
  o Governor’s Task Force
  o DNR Forest Products Team heavily engaged
  o 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
  o two tax law vacancies
  o two Private Forestry vacancies
  o we are monitoring and adjusting workload to ensure the priority work is being accomplished
• COVID
  o impacts on seedling orders, but seeing an uptick in orders for next spring!
  o public lands contract extensions
  o Tax Law deferred mandatory practice enforcement
  o 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 Connecting with 20,000 Landowners – Kristin Lambert
• 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 Tax Law Program Updates – Keith Krajewski (NW Tax Law Team Leader) & R.J. Wickham
• 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.
  o Appreciative of opportunity to provide input early in the public comment process.
  o WCF wants high standards
  o sees the proposal as very reasonable
  o 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
  o 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
  o 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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certification, improving the CPW recertification (continuing education training) and utilizing automated quality checks in WisFIRS
• 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 Council on Forestry Updates – Buddy Huffaker
• MFL foreseeable risk
  o unclear if COF will advance anything further on this topic
• Tom Hittle doing a good job of elevating forestry
  o 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 Verso Mill Closure – Jim Warren
• 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
  o can at least give members information to take back to the organizations they represent
  o 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
  o 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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