

**FOREST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**January 23, 2013**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**FMAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Bill Botti, Chair, Michigan Forest Association  
Mr. Bill O'Neill, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)  
Mr. Gary Melow, Michigan Biomass  
Dr. Donna LaCourt, Michigan Employment Development Corporation (MEDC)  
Mr. Scott Robbins, Michigan Forest Products Council  
Mr. William (Bill) Manson, Jr., Michigan Snowmobile Association  
Mr. Warren Suchovsky, Suchovsky Logging  
Mr. Marvin Roberson, Sierra Club  
Dr. Daniel Keathley, Michigan State University (MSU)  
Mr. Steven Shine, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)  
Ms. Amy Trotter, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)  
Dr. Terry Sharik, Michigan Technological University (via conference call)

**FMAC ADVISORS PRESENT**

None

**PUBLIC PRESENT**

Mr. Scott Jones, DNR  
Mr. David Price, DNR  
Ms. Elaine Brown, MDARD  
Ms. Lori Phalen, Michigan Association of Conservation Districts  
Mr. James Sallee, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
Ms. Valerie Lafferty, DNR

**I. Welcome**

**Chair Botti** brought the meeting of the FMAC to order at 1:03 p.m.

**II. Action Items**

- **Adoption of January 23, 2013 FMAC Meeting Agenda**  
The January 23, 2013 FMAC Meeting agenda was approved as presented.
- **Adoption of November 7, 2012 FMAC Meeting Minutes**  
After some discussion, the November 7, 2012 FMAC meeting minutes were approved.

**III. Public Comment**

**Ms. Elaine Brown**, MDARD, is in the Quality of Life Leadership Academy. She is working in the forestry group. This group is looking at how to help to get more forest management plans for private landowners. The group has been working with MSU, MUCC, etc. The group is looking at marketing plans specifically targeted for private landowners.

The academy started last September and they will be giving their final presentation in May or June. They are looking at what are good models and applicable to this state. They have been given materials and a documentary to work with. **Ms. Brown** reported the group is working with others from the quality of life cluster (MDARD, DEQ and DNR). Approximately 32 people were selected from these departments. Part of the academy is to be part of an action learning team. The team is made up of 5 people, none of which are foresters. The project is to focus on forestry. The team has a set of mentors. It is trying to develop tools and resources it believes will be useful in the future. Ms. Brown sees this as developing a resource that current foresters can use.

**Mr. James Sallee**, MDEQ, Water Resources Division, reported that part of his project is using hydraulic fracturing as a case study to figure out how the 3 agencies can better address the complicated and controversial issues regarding fracking. The charge is to come up with a template that can be put forward to the management teams to help communicating issues and to get ahead of the curve. The main issue is the large volume of fracking and the water used. Vertical drilling has been an issue for a long time. **Ms. Trotter** commended the DNR for engaging in a multi-department endeavor and will be interested in what the team comes up with. **Dr. Sharik** agreed with Ms. Trotter, stating there are plenty of controversial issues that make it worthwhile to engage in a proactive process to deal with these issues.

**Chair Botti** thanked Ms. Brown and Mr. Sallee and welcomed them to attend future meetings.

#### IV. **DNR Strategic Goals and Objectives**

**Dr. Bill Moritz**, Natural Resources Deputy, DNR, stated it was a pleasure to attend the FMAC meeting. He commented the DNR is working on a planning process and has reached a point it can discuss where it is at and where it is going.

**Dr. Moritz** reported it has been a busy year in the DNR. He returned to state service in April. Director Keith Creagh joined the DNR in July. The DNR also has a new public information officer, legislative liaison, and two new chiefs. It has been a busy year of regular business. The DNR has expanded the Pure Michigan campaign, there has been 121 pieces of legislation the DNR has commented on, and it has had a great year in the state parks. The DNR conducted a youth employment initiative, a program offering high risk youths employment working on natural resources in local communities. The DNR also completed a review of dual forest certification and had no corrective actions this year. A total of 56,000 acres of state forest land was put up for prescribed harvest.

The DNR covers a wide spectrum when it comes to natural resources. The DNR is looking at \$2.5 billion from fishing and forestry, and \$14 billion in oil and gas. Natural resources are the backbone of the state's economy. The DNR's budget consists of 94% restricted funds and 6% from the General Fund. The activities of the DNR pay for the work of the DNR.

Dr. Moritz provided the following information:

- Goals: these are derived straight from the DNR's mission statement.
  - Protection of natural and cultural resources;
  - Sustainable recreation and enjoyment;
  - Natural resource-based economy;
  - Building partnerships; and
  - Good, effective business practices and government goals that reflect the direction of the department.
- Sustainable recreation use and enjoyment: Michigan has a wide variety of recreational activities. The state attracts both out-of-state and in-state people.
- Natural resource-based economies: This is part of the DNR's business. Many businesses derive directly from that. There are extractive and renewable resources the DNR goes after, i.e. oil and gas, and timber harvests.
- Building partnerships: When the DNR looked at relationships it realized it already has many. It has developed partnerships with land-based companies to dispose of small parcels it deemed surplus. It has the pheasant restoration initiative. Pure Michigan has really expanded its partnerships. With the youth employment initiative, the DNR partnered with organizations in

communities that were already working with youth. The DNR worked with organizations that had experience dealing with urban youth.

- Effective business practices and good governance: The DNR is expanding work with mobile applications so it can provide more information as people are going down the road. It is also working to innovate in the area of education, whether teaching cultural or environmental resources or providing tools in homes or schools.
- Strategic growth areas for the DNR: With outreach and education, the DNR can continue to do better. It is continuing to work to improve how it communicates how the DNR spends its money. The DNR is currently working with MSU and Demmer Corporation to create a business plan. Very few states have undertaken a business plan for a state agency. Many non-profit corporations have made an effort to have a business plan but in the public sector it is a rare thing.
- Markets for Michigan resources: The DNR is hosting a timber summit to discuss not only timber, but recreation and renewable and nonrenewable resources. Place-based economic development is a catch phrase for broader relationships between the DNR and local communities. The DNR is determining how to work with local units of government to further their economic development.

**Dr. Moritz** reported that this year the Governor gave an energy and environment message. The Governor articulated where he would like to go. Within the message were 19 issues that affected the DNR. The DNR built on those plus on other input it has received into actions that it will be working on to fit within the broader (Governor's) goals. The Governor called for a more aggressive approach with Asian Carp and he is asking for a land use strategy. The DNR is currently working on that. Legislation required the DNR to put together a land use plan. The plan should come together this spring.

The DNR is working with DEQ and MDARD to put together a comprehensive water strategy. This will cover how the DNR is using water and how it is protecting the resources. The plan should come together this year.

The Governor called for an emergency response and restoration fund. Currently a good share of firefighting is paid for out of FDF. With dryer and warmer years, firefighting is getting more costly. This has put stress on the DNR. **Mr. Roberson** commented he thought the DNR has done a great job with limited resources.

**Dr. Moritz** reported this fund would recognize there needs to be additional general funds for firefighting.

Ballast water standards: There will be a summit of Great Lakes Governors and provincial leaders in the spring. The DNR is making sure Michigan standards remain in place and others come up to speed.

The DNR will have a list of unwanted invasive species, as well as an assessment of fracking. It is working with the University of Michigan on this. The key point on fracking is to understand it is a new technology but Michigan standards are among the highest in the country.

Within the recreation component, the DNR garners local support of trust fund projects, state land acquisitions, and projects. It is aligning efforts to support trails. The DNR is working on trails plans that will be forthcoming relatively shortly, with the help of the Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Committee and the Michigan Snowmobile Association. It is interested in building better

loops and connectors to communities. A trail from Belle Isle to Wisconsin is in the works. The land portion of the acquisition is completed but building the trail will take time.

A blue ribbon panel looked at state park water. Many groups made recommendations on how to deal with state parks and all that entails. Within recreation, low water levels will be a concern, from dredging in harbors to making sure recreation harbors are in good shape, and maintaining boat ramps. The DNR is working on how to get resources to deal with this issue. There will be some federal funding available, but it will be difficult to get the funds into the state before it becomes a spring emergency.

Within its broad goals, the Parks and Recreation Division have been working with improving energy (efficiency) within the state parks.

There is a shortage of funds for all things the DNR needs to do. The DNR does not talk about "return on investment" which is critical.

The DNR partnership goal is to be involved with many ownerships, i.e. state, federal, municipal, local, etc.

The completion of strategic planning efforts: The mission of the DNR has not changed over time and Dr. Moritz does not see it changing. The divisions within the DNR have strategic plans. Within the plans will be goals and objectives that will fit well into the annual budget process.

Short contracts do not do the DNR any favors. Businesses looking to relocate are working with their financial partners. The DNR will be working on this front.

Good Neighbor funds: PILT payments are providing revenue into the communities.

The DNR is working with MSU's School of Business to create a business plan.

Coordinated planning efforts: The DNR is a department full of plans on how to put all of its challenges together.

Customer Service: It is an important priority for Director Creagh and Dr. Moritz to be more available to people. Things have changed in the last 15 or 20 years. The constant change has eliminated a lot of institutional knowledge. Advisory relationships are helpful to discuss where the DNR is going, and potential mine fields along the way. Michigan has as much public involvement as any other state.

**Chair Botti** asked where the DNR is with PILT. **Dr. Moritz** replied the DNR presently pays about 80% of PILT payments; 40% is from restricted funds and the DNR is obligated to pay the same amount as the state treasurer.

2014 budget development: The DNR has made its pitch to the administration as to where it needs to position the department. Now the DNR is waiting for the Governor's budget to come out on February 7 to see where it fits. The DNR is not talking about being smaller, leaner and more efficient. It is talking about moving forward to get what it needs for world class resources. As the DNR moves forward, it will continue to work with the FMAC to do this.

The DNR needs to show outcomes. It is developing a set of measures and metrics as part of the strategic plan. Both the Governor and the DNR have scorecards. Good government requires good bench marks.

Dr. Sharik, who attended via conference call asked if this presentation would be available as a matter of record for the meeting. Dr. Moritz agreed it would be made public soon. The presentation was given to the NRC and it will be given to other organizations in the future.

## V. Regional State Forest Planning Objectives

Mr. David Price and Mr. Scott Jones attended the meeting to give this presentation.

**Mr. O'Neill** stated the FMAC had a good conversation at the last meeting. It discussed what the DNR should do with the regional state forest plans. It had not come to any conclusions. The DNR agreed to continue to take comments from the FMAC after the end date. The FMAC decided to submit one comment as an entity.

**Mr. Roberson** stated he would like to see the FMAC submit comments on what is missing, or not adequately represented in the plans. Mr. Melow would like to concentrate more on the framework of the plan rather than the content of the plan. **Ms. Trotter** reported that MUCC is doing its own comments as well. **Chair Botti** commented that he was impressed with what was presented.

**Mr. Price** reported the changes are bigger in the northern Lower Peninsula than elsewhere. The challenge was to identify trends. The DNR tried to take into account the changes it saw that will occur within a short period of time. **Mr. Roberson** questioned why the plan does not cover where the DNR would like to move toward 50 or 100 years from now. **Mr. Jones** responded that future desired conditions are often missing. Trying to define that is not easy and many jurisdictions are afraid to get into that level of public involvement. The DNR needs a tool or model to play with different scenarios to come up with reasonable future conditions. **Mr. Roberson** reported the United States Forest Service does 50 to 100 year plans. If the DNR is not going to have this discussion in its regional forest plans, where will it have the discussion? **Mr. Jones** responded the DNR needs to discuss how it is going to develop a picture of what it wants in the future. At the present time the DNR does not have the necessary tools. **Mr. Roberson** stated he was told when the state plans were reviewed to wait for the regional plans to see desired future conditions. **Mr. Price** responded the DNR has some policies and procedure in the forest resources division that speaks to future desired conditions.

**Chair Botti** stated that Mr. Roberson's comments are legitimate. Mr. Roberson's comments are what the DNR is looking for whether from his constituents or from the FMAC. **Mr. Price** commented once the DNR receives the initial comments, it will then go to the individual organizations to discuss. **Mr. O'Neill** stated that people do not need to be foresters to be able to express what their future desired conditions are. It is helpful when people tell the DNR what their goals and objectives are. People do not have to know the technicalities of forestry to contribute good comments.

**Dr. Sharik** asked if there was a way to have the FMAC put its comments together using Mr. Roberson's comments as a starting point. **Chair Botti** stated the FMAC could come up with a list of concerns prior to the comment deadline. **Mr. Suchovsky** commented what society wants is different from what foresters want. With alternatives used people need to understand there is a tradeoff. The DNR needs to be careful with this since society as a whole does not look at this issue the same way. There is concern the plan completely ignores wildlife issues, etc. The dynamics worldwide is changing. The DNR needs to know how it fits into the bigger picture.

**Mr. Melow** stated given the nature of this project, he suggested putting together a committee that within the next month can meet and make comments to circulate to the remaining FMAC members, and then to make a final decision as a whole prior to the comment deadline. He asked for guidelines and a consensus on what the FMAC wants to discuss. He would like to see the comments come back for the FMAC to discuss and make a final decision on the comments to be submitted to the DNR. **Mr. O'Neill** commented it would be great for the FMAC to do that. It will be challenging for it to determine what elevation will work. It was decided that Mr. Melow, Mr. Roberson and Mr. Suchovsky would meet to create the first working copy of comments to be shared with the FMAC for further discussion.

#### VI. Discussion Regarding Agenda 21

**Mr. Roberson** wanted to bring this to the attention of the FMAC since it is having an impact on natural resources in some areas. Agenda 21 is part of the biodiversity treaty but it is not a force of law in the United States or anywhere else. Some believe this is giving the United Nations the ability to force relocation of people from the urban communities to cities. There are Georgia Legislators as well as respectable organizations that are introducing legislation based on faulty information. There are Legislators here in Michigan that are also introducing legislation. Mr. Roberson wanted the FMAC to be aware this legislation is being introduced by those who do not fully understand what Agenda 21 actually does. **Ms. Trotter** commented that the FMAC needs to acknowledge that this is happening.

#### VII. Oak Wilt Discussion

This discussion has been deferred to the March 6 FMAC meeting. Mr. Roberson will be asking the FMAC to support general legislation, partially based on Wisconsin legislation, to control oak wilt. Wisconsin legislation restricts pruning during the high sap flow.

#### VIII. Standing Discussion Items

- **Legislative Update**

**Mr. O'Neill** stated the updates were provided to the FMAC in its meeting packets. The FMAC should feel free to contact Mr. Trevor Vandyke, the DNR's Legislative Liaison or himself with questions. Legislative updates are provided every quarter. Anything not signed and passed in December is off the table or will be reintroduced.

**Mr. O'Neill** stated he is going to try to bring a presentation on Forest Resources Division funding at a future meeting. On February 7 the Governor's budget will come out. The Governor then works with the House and the Senate to get the budget ready to be passed in June. If the budget is not what the DNR is hoping for, it will insert itself into the legislative process for additional funding. There will be changes in forestry if it is unable to get additional funding. Forest Resources Division has funded 80% of the fire program and it can no longer do that. The division is hoping it will see something in the Governor's budget to assist with that. Cutting trees on state forest lands cannot pay for the fire and forestry programs. The DNR is working on getting fire suppression funded in some way. This past year Forest Resources Division has spent 1/3 of gross receipts on fire.

The timber summit is important. It will be held on April 23 in Lansing. The Governor will kick it off. The DNR is currently developing an agenda and invitee list. The FMAC will be invited, as well as the Timber Advisory Committee and the Commissioners. At the end, the DNR hopes to have a list of opportunities and constraints. The role of the FMAC at the timber summit is participation.

**Mr. Melow** asked what the interplay with Wildlife is. Does Forest Resources Division bill Wildlife for certain services. **Mr. O'Neill** responded that FRD and WLD co-manage the state forest. Revenues from timber go to the fish and game fund. The FRD gets a portion of that for services rendered. The federal contributions to WLD are based on license sales.

**Mr. Suchovsky** commented he would like to see the *effects of funding sources in regard to forest management* as a future agenda topic. He asked if Ms. Sharon Schafer could come back to give another presentation.

Mr. O'Neill agreed to look into software for the FMAC meetings that would enable web-conferencing.

- **Improving Public Involvement Process**  
No discussion
- **Timber Advisory Committee Update**  
No discussion.

**IX. Next Meeting Date / Agenda Items**

March 6, 2013

**Agenda Items**

Oak Wilt Discussion – Bob Heyd, DNR  
FRD Funding Discussion

**X. Adjournment**

**Chair Botti** thanked the public for their attendance. He adjourned the January 23, 2013 FMAC meeting at 3:55 p.m.