

Timber Advisory Council
DNR Gaylord Operations Service Center
May 31, 2012

Attendees:

J.R. Richardson, Bill O’Neill, Mike McCuistion, Jessica Turino, Margaret Minerick, Keith Martell, Jr., Keith Creagh, Gary Melow, Gerald Grossman, Bill Bobier, Stephen Shine, Jon Lamy, Charlie Becker, Shawna Meyer, Debbie Begalle, Penny Melchoir, Rich Bowman, Larry Pederson, Karen Potter-Witter, Mike Vaslevich and Loretta Cwalinski

Meeting began at 10:03 a.m.

Chairman Richardson welcomed MDARD Director Keith Creagh and other attendees. All introduced themselves.

Qualified Forest Act:

Development of Recommendation for Family Forest Program – Chairman Richardson reviewed yesterday’s Sub-committee meeting – new workgroup established. Three conference calls were held to provide background information on other states’ non-industrial private forest activities and then a full day work session was held to develop recommendations for the TAC’s consideration. discussion, and yesterday worked on recommendations to the Council. Four to two voted for these recommendations. Also there are two resolutions to look at today.

Recommendations:

Ms. Stine reviewed the series of meetings that were held on the Qualified Forest Act, how other states are working with non-industrial private forest lands and the need for the TAC to provide a recommendation on how Michigan should assist in producing more timber from non-industrial private forest lands.

Bill O’Neill summarized the coalition of interested parties over the past year in the development of the Michigan House of Representative package of bills directed at addressing the problems with the Qualified Forest Act. He also discussed the Memorandum of Understanding that the DNR signed with DARD which intent was to increase non-industrial private forest landowner’s knowledge about services and financial assistance that was available for managing their forests.

Steve Shine provided an update on the work that DARD is doing to implement the MOU. Presque Isle forester has also been chosen. Other eight, outreach grants working on; making sure qualifications are followed.

JR reviewed the recommendations from the Family Forest Subcommittee (handout). Discussion followed including wording about proposed outcomes, tax issues, competition with the private sector, moving administration of the Qualified Forest Act from DNR to DARD, consistency between all forest management programs, need to not grow the size of government. Director Creagh participated in the discussion and emphasized the opportunities moving it to DARD presented for enhanced forest management.

Chairman Richardson made a motion to keep recommendations as corrected— Ms. Minerick moved, Mr. Lamy seconded. All agree. Motion carried.

Mr. Grossman made a motion to approve the resolution as written draft 5-30-12-1. He reviewed the information included. Discussion followed specifically about the specifics spelled out in the resolution on forester classification.

Resolution 5-30-12_2 motion made by Mr. Grossman – seconded by Ms. Turino. All said aye.

So _1 resolution

Mr. Grossman made a motion to approve resolution 5-30-12_1 – Mr. Lamy seconded motion.

Mr. Becker offered an amendment – do away with a,b and i, and number 2 and have it read...

Eliminate “designated by the MI Civil Service Commission as Forester 12”.

Mr. Grossman seconded amendment – Council voted on amended resolution.

All said aye. Motion accepted as amended, Mr. Melow passed.

Forest Economy:

Presentations were made regarding Michigan’s timber supply.

Mr. O’Neill introduced Dr. Froese who presented a power point on Michigan’s Forest Inventory

Dr. Karen Potter-Witter spoke next, with a power point. The Michigan Forest Biomass Inventory System.. She also presented results from a survey regarding privately owned forestland.

Larry Pederson also had a power point presentation regarding Michigan Timber Harvest. He referenced the FIA database and information, and how some users have interpreted that information incorrectly. His recommendation is to link to the State Forest inventory for the most accurate data.

Mike Vasevich the last speaker, discussed data usage and use in business. His discussion began with the role of the DNR and the TAC etc. The focus of the TAC is on the timber industry. Michigan's forests need to be identified in a clear manner, availability of those forests and accurate data. His second point is to have better contact with mills throughout the state, and know who they are, who the producers are and who are the timber movers (truckers) are. Third point is that stand numbers change over time within Compartments, and eventually go away. The Timber Sale Database is very useful, but some of the value information is really important.

Sustainable Yield Sub-Committee

Charlie Becker updated on the Sustainable Yield Sub-Committee – they've had several phone calls, and their primary discussion is how many acres of state land should be harvested.

Mr. O'Neill said they are planning a couple 'field days' for sharing information. Infestation of bugs is a growing concern, as well, and the discussion of harvesting before wood becomes unusable.

Other:

Chairman Richardson summarized to take all this information back to subcommittees. Members should have all upcoming meeting dates etc.

Resource Deputy Director: Chairman Richardson asked for a resolution encouraging the Department to hire a new Resource Deputy Director.

All in favor, no opposed.

Rich Bowman moved, seconded both.