

Timber Advisory Council (TAC)

Meeting Notes

May 31, 2012

Attendees:

J.R. Richardson, Traxys Power Group; Bill O'Neill, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR); Mike McCuiston, Lowe Foundation; Jessica Turino, Weyerhaeuser; Margaret Minerick, Minerick Logging; Keith Martell, Jr., (Martell Forestry); Keith Creagh, MDNR; Gary Melow, Michigan Biomass; Gerald Grossman, Grossman Forestry; Bill Bobier, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD); Stephen Shine, MDARD; Jon Lamy, Louisiana Pacific; Charlie Becker, Plum Creek; Shawna Meyer, MDNR; Debbie Begalle, MDNR; Penny Melchoir, MDNR; Rich Bowman, the Nature Conservancy; Larry Pederson, retired MDNR; Karen Potter-Witter, Michigan State University; Mike Vasilevich, Loretta Cwalinski, MDNR

Meeting began at 10:03 a.m.

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

Qualified Forest Act:

- **Development of Recommendation for Family Forest Program**
 - JR Richardson (JR) reviewed yesterday's subcommittee meeting; a new workgroup was established.
 - Three conference calls were held to provide background information on other states' nonindustrial private forest activities and then a full day work session was held to develop recommendations for the TAC's consideration.
 - Worked on recommendations to the TAC. Four-to-two vote for these recommendations.
 - There are two resolutions to look at today.

Recommendations

- Donna Stine reviewed the series of meetings that were held on the Qualified Forest Act, how other states are working with nonindustrial private forest lands and the need for the TAC to provide a recommendation on how Michigan should assist in producing more timber from nonindustrial 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 (MOU) that the MDNR signed with MDARD, which intent was to increase nonindustrial 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 MDARD is doing to implement the MOU. The 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, and the need to not grow the size of government. Director Creagh participated in the discussion and emphasized the opportunities moving it to MDARD presented for enhanced forest management.

JR made a motion to keep recommendations as corrected. Margaret Minerick moved, seconded by Jon Lamy. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Grossman (Jerry) made a motion to approve the resolution as written; draft 5-30-12-1. He reviewed the information included. Discussion followed pertaining to the specifics spelled out in the resolution on forester classification.

Resolution 5-30-12_2

Motion made by Jerry Grossman; seconded by Jessica Turino.

All said aye. Motion carried unanimously.

So _1 r=Resolution

Jerry made a motion to approve resolution 5-30-12_1; seconded by Jon. Charlie 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". Jerry seconded the amendment. Council voted on the amended resolution; all said aye. Motion accepted as amended, Gary Melow passed.

Forest Economy

- Presentations were made regarding Michigan's timber supply.
- Bill introduced Dr. Robert Froese who presented a PowerPoint on Michigan's Forest Inventory
- Dr. Karen Potter-Witter spoke next, with a PowerPoint in the Michigan Forest Biomass Inventory System. She also presented results from a survey regarding privately owned forestland.
- Larry Pederson also had a PowerPoint 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 Vasilevich, the last speaker, discussed data usage and use in business. His discussion began with the role of the MDNR 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 the timber movers (truckers) are. The 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 Subcommittee.
 - 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

- JR summarized to take all this information back to subcommittees. Members should have all upcoming meeting dates etc.
- Resource Deputy Director: JR asked for a resolution encouraging the MDNR to hire a new Resource Deputy Director.

Motion: All in favor; none opposed

Rich Bowman moved, seconded both.