



# Committee

Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2022

## Roll Call

### **Present for the Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC or Committee)**

Paul Jernberg, Trailriders Snowmobile Club  
Warren Suchovsky, Suchovsky Logging  
Rich Kobe, Michigan State University (MSU)  
Gary Melow (Chair), Michigan Biomass  
Bill Botti, Michigan Forest Association (MFA)  
Makhayla LaButte, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)  
Kenny Wawsczyk, North Country Trail Association  
Michelle Felde, Michigan Forest Products Council  
Andrew Storer, Michigan Technological University

### **Present for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR or Department)**

Jason Stephens, MDNR  
Sue Tangora, MDNR

Chair Gary Melow called the January 12, 2022, Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC or Committee) meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

## **Consent Agenda**

Paul Jernberg moved to adopt the January 12, 2022 Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) meeting agenda; supported by Warren Suchovsky. The January 12, 2022 FMAC meeting agenda was adopted unanimously.

## **Adoption of October 13, 2021, FMAC Meeting Minutes**

The October 13, 2021, FMAC meeting minutes were adopted unanimously, as presented.

## **Adoption of Revised FMAC Bylaws**

The revised FMAC Bylaws consists of technical changes to support the State of Michigan's open meetings requirements for virtual meetings. Warren Suchovsky moved to adopt the FMAC revised Bylaws; supported by Paul Jernberg. The revised FMAC Bylaws was adopted unanimously.

## **Public Comment**

The FMAC received a letter from the public regarding Asian jumping worms. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) reported it had already responded to the letter. Sue Tangora, Manager, Forest Health and Cooperative Programs Section, Forest Resources Division, MDNR, presented an overview of what is known and what is being done.

- a. Bill Botti asked about the distribution map. Sue responded that those are reports from the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) database (unverified), but with

consultation from Dr. Scott Tiegs at Oakland University, it appears to be a decent estimation of distribution in Michigan.

### **State Foresters Report:**

- a. The MDNR responded to a Michigan State Police request for an Incident Management Team (IMT) to assist the state of Kentucky with a recent tornado outbreak. Ultimately Kentucky selected a closer team from Virginia. This highlights how the MDNR's IMTs are getting noticed across the nation for all-hazard work as well as their fire expertise.
- b. A second carbon offset credit project has been registered with the American Carbon Registry. It is called the Bluesource-Michigan DNR Wolverine-Copper Country Forest Carbon Project. The project is located on about 126,000 acres of state forest lands in the Northern Lower Peninsula (Wolverine and Emmet Moraines management areas) and the Tip of the Keweenaw management area in the western Upper Peninsula. The first project is under third party review by SCS Global Services right now.

### **Action Items:**

Bill Botti brought up the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program's (MAEAP) Generally Accepted Forest Management Practices (GAMPF) topic from October 13, 2021, meeting. Chair Melow agreed to circulate a final copy of the FMAC letter that went to the MDNR Director.

### **Standing Discussion Items**

1. Trails:
  - a. Kenny Wawsczyk reported the North Country Trail is working on developing a flyer regarding updates on its activities.
  - b. Paul Jernberg reported that snowmobile trail riding season is underway; they are having trouble with dirt nodules on newly United States Forest Service (USFS) off-road vehicle designated open roads and are working with the local USFS Rangers to address it. It has been a safe start to the riding season thus far.
2. DNR update - Jason Stephens mentioned he is the new Assistant Chief for Forest Resources Division.
3. The Registered Forester Board has been meeting monthly (virtually), with plans to meet in person next month. Chair Melow asked Bill Botti to provide an update regarding the number of Registered Foresters at the next meeting.
4. Timber Harvest Numbers: The MDNR prepared just over 58,000 acres in Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21), (50,000 state forest, 6,500 Good Neighbor Authority, 1,500 State Game Areas) and has a plan in place for FY22 that should result in comparable outcomes.

### **Member Program Updates:**

1. Warren Suchovsky reported he is retiring from involvement with the master logger program.
2. Dr. Richard Kobe, MSU: There is a new position from the provost on human connection to nature, greenspace, and it has ties to urban greenspace initiatives and wellness.
3. Dr. Andrew Storer, MTU reported:
  - a. There is a lot of Covid on campus.
  - b. They are close to posting a Lecturer position in applied forestry.
  - c. Blair Orr's last day was January 8, 2022 (he refused to call it 'retirement')
  - d. Harvest in northern hardwoods is ongoing at the Ford Forestry Center and is going well.
  - e. Reversion of the Otter River Camp parcel to state ownership is in process (has moved out of Andrew's office and he's waiting on word that the transaction is complete).

- f. There are plans underway for what to do with some older buildings at the Ford Center.
- 4. Makhayla LaButte, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC):
  - a. The field season is on hold until the end of February.
  - b. There is no legislative update; they are expecting that to pick up again in the spring.
- 5. Michelle Felde, Michigan Forest Products Council, reported they are working on training schedule and are hoping to post it this month.
  - a. There will be a Policy Committee meeting to speak about timber cruising and calibration. They'll be working with the MDNR soon.
- 6. Bill Botti – Michigan Forest Association is having its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration this year.
- 7. Chair Melow asked Warren Suchovsky about Michigan Association of Timbermen's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The celebration will be at the casino in Sault Ste. Marie in April.
- 8. Gary Melow, Michigan Biomass update:
  - a. They are still struggling with supply and labor challenges.
  - b. MPSC and stakeholders - the council on climate report is past due (Michelle Felde said it should be out Friday), and they hope to see it soon.
  - c. They are trying to reconcile the 2050 decarbonization with markets, rates, power sources, etc.
  - d. The Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council met with Shannon Lott, Natural Resources Deputy, MDNR, in November. They are still working on a plan to support the Forest Products Industry.

Chair Melow adjourned the January 12, 2022, FMAC meeting at 2:05 p.m.