



# Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2023

### **Present for the Michigan Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council**

Gary Melow, **Vice Chair**, Michigan Biomass  
Tim Biewer, Biewer Lumber  
Rich Bowman, The Nature Conservancy  
Larry Leefers, Michigan State University  
Nick Monkevich, Verso Corporation  
Charlie Becker, **Chair**, Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands

### **Present for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

Chris Schmiede, Forest Resources Division  
Jagdish Poudel, Forest Resources Division  
David Price, Forest Resources Division  
Brenda Haskill, Forest Resources Division  
Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division

### **Support Members Present**

Ben Schram, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD)  
Donna LaCourt, MDARD

### **Welcome**

**Chair Charlie Becker** welcomed all in attendance at the March 24, 2023 Michigan Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council (MTFPAC) meeting, and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### **Michigan Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council Business**

- a. Adoption of March 24, 2023 MTFPAC Meeting Agenda
- b. Adoption of December 9, 2022 MTFPAC Meeting Minutes

Larry Leefers, Michigan State University, moved to adopt the March 24 Michigan Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council (MTFPAC) meeting agenda and the December 9, 2022 MTFPAC meeting minutes. The motion was supported by Tim Biewer, Biewer Lumber. Motion carried and both were adopted unanimously as presented.

### **Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Discussion** – Jeff Stampfly

Jeff Stampfly, Chief & State Forester, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Forest Resources Division (FRD), provided an update on the FY24 budget request for FRD. The funding request was for items such as additional fire staff, equipment for cultivation, and funding authorization for additional forest health response and Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) staff.

### **Miscellaneous Discussion**

1. Rich Bowman, the Nature Conservancy, asked if FRD has enough tree seedlings for the needs and the goals of the climate plan in the state. Per David Price, MDNR-FRD, all states are struggling to obtain

the necessary tree seedlings for planting and Michigan is in that group. A Landscape Scale Restoration grant is being sought to support tree nursery activities.

2. Charlie Becker, Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands, asked if the 2022 cone collection for seeds was successful. David replied that he considered it fairly successful thanks to the work of the regular collectors that take part in the process.
3. Jeff Stampfly noted that the meeting held to update the stakeholders on the Forest Action Plan was well attended. Approximately thirty people attended in person and a similar number attended virtually.
4. Gary Melow, Michigan Biomass, provided a detailed update on the decarbonization efforts across the state. Rich Bowman noted that currently understanding the issues behind decarbonization is a common struggle within all groups and organizations.
5. Gary and Tim would like to see a Governor's Forest Products Summit planned.
6. Brenda Haskill, MDNR-FRD, gave a quick recap of the success of the Greenstone Logger Forums held this week. Gaylord attendance was approximately eighty-five people and there were similar numbers at Harris.

Chair Becker adjourned the March 24, 2023 MTFPAC meeting at 11:20 a.m.