

## MEETING SUMMARY

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (FMAC)**

Michigan United Conservation Clubs Board Room  
2101 Wood Street  
Lansing, Michigan

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

#### **FMAC Members Present**

Mr. William Bobier, Earthscape Resource Management  
Ms. Lynne Boyd, Department of Natural Resources  
Mr. Thomas Dunn, American Motorcycle Association  
Ms. Margaret "Peg" Gale, Michigan Technological University  
Mr. Desmond Jones, Michigan Tree Farm System  
Mr. Frank Reswick, Department of Environmental Quality  
Mr. Warren Suchovsky, Suchovsky Logging  
Mr. Sam Washington, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)  
Mr. Gordon Wenk, Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Ms. Anne Woiwode, Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter

#### **FMAC Members Absent**

Mr. Steven Arwood, Arwood Group  
Mr. Joel Blohm, Great Northern Lumber of Michigan  
Mr. William Cook, Michigan State University Extension  
Mr. Leland Crawford, International Paper  
Ms. Susan Holben, Michigan Economic Development Corporation  
Mr. Mark Janke, Janke Consulting  
Mr. Dan Keathley, Michigan State University  
Mr. William Manson, Michigan Snowmobile Association

#### **FMAC COMMITTEE ADVISORS PRESENT**

Ms. Leanne Marten, USDA Forest Service

#### **FMAC DELEGATES PRESENT**

Ms. Erin McDonough, MUCC  
Mr. Steve Shine, Michigan Department of Agriculture

#### **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) STAFF PRESENT**

Ms. Kerry Gray  
Mr. Jim Radabaugh  
Ms. Sandy Simpson

#### **PUBLIC ATTENDEES**

Mr. George Berghorn, Michigan Forests Products Council

## WELCOME

**Lynne Boyd** welcomed FMAC members and guests and called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

## AGENDA APPROVAL

**Lynne Boyd** gave an overview of the meeting agenda.

**Additions to the Agenda:** Item No. VI/Top Issues Facing Michigan's Forest Resource - Forest Recreation Fund Deficit Overview/discussion by Jim Radabaugh (DNR).

Committee members unanimously approved agenda.

## MEETING SUMMARY

**Gordon Wenk** moved to approve Wednesday, May 3, 2006 FMAC Meeting Summary. Supported by **Warren Suchovsky**. Meeting Summary unanimously approved.

## REVIEW/WRAP-UP RIGHT TO FOREST GENERALLY ACCEPTED FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAFMPs)

Committee members were provided draft GAFMPs document to review for concept, format, and appropriate verbiage. Committee agreed to remove repetition of language in each section and keep page numbering the same.

Committee discussed the term zoned areas and the sensitivity classifications described in the draft GAFMPs for noise, dust, and smoke and visual quality. Committee discussed utilizing another term instead of "zoned" to describe the area.

**Kerry Gray** is working on preparing final version for review by the DNR Natural Resources Commission (NRC) when all comments are received. The NRC review process can take up to two to three months. The GAFMPs are reviewed annually by the NRC.

**Kerry Gray** asked that comments include a well-worded legal statement that forest land owners who are not using the GAFMPs are not necessarily creating a nuisance.

**Action: Warren Suchovsky to assist Kerry Gray on definitions contained in the GAFMPs document. Committee members to provide comments/input to Kerry Gray by close of business day, Wednesday, June 21, 2006. Kerry will compile comments and resend draft GAFMPs by June 29. FMAC members will review for July 17 meeting.**

## PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS/TOP ISSUES FACING MICHIGAN'S FOREST RESOURCE**

Committee reviewed the list of top issues facing Michigan's forest resources (long and short-term) in the next three to five years that was initially developed by the FMAC at the October 2005 meeting and provided at the May 3, 2006 meeting. Utilizing the list, members also discussed items that would like to see on the July 17 field tour meeting in Gaylord. Committee discussed factors on private land/lumber mill development. **Peg Gale** offered to seek individuals to present smaller market opportunities and ethanol products at the July 17 business portion of the meeting.

## **FOREST RECREATION FUND DEFICIT**

**Lynne Boyd** shared updates on the current DNR budget and shortfalls due to reduction (lack of) in legislative general funding. The DNR is gathering funding ideas from other advisory committees. **Jim Radabaugh** provided overview of Forest, Mineral and Fire Management's (FMFM) State Forest Campground revenue issues and decreasing fund balance. The FMFM's revenue has remained flat, but expenses and encumbrances continue to rise. **DNR Staff** shared that when project monies are not spent, this funding is carried over, or goes back into the funding source it came out of. Same process applies to any legislative general funding as well. **Jim Radabaugh** referred to the graphs provided in the meeting package and explained the fluctuation in revenue from visitors could be due to weather conditions. **Sam Washington** shared the Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) has excellent data that could be used to help clarify visitor information.

Jim Radabaugh discussed the roles of fire officers, and short-term workers, in providing maintenance to State Forest Campgrounds and cost allocations. Committee conferred breaking down the amount of staff time spent on non-revenue generating areas

**Jim Radabaugh** gave the Committee an overview on the Forest Recreation Program and Michigan Recreation Camping Guide/State Forest Campgrounds. Explained the process for registering at State Forest land and that no motor vehicle permit is required for entry due to no staff to enforce and facilities are not gated. The DNR is seeking to capture revenue from all users of the State Forest system. **Leanne Marten** shared the USDA Forest Service's process for site specific criteria and the Recreation Enhancement Act (Federal legislation) allows for funding collected locally, remains with those sites to do improvements, etc.

**Sam Washington** stated he is the Chair of the Long-Term Finance Subcommittee for the Citizens for Michigan State Parks (CCMSP) and shared the structural deficit of PRD. The PRD is incurring same concerns as FMFM, revenue going down and expenses going up. The amount of general funds provided to the DNR is funds is less each fiscal year and inflation continues to rise. Discussed the payment in Lieu of taxes (PILT) and general funding is not enough to obtain federal match funding. The DNR system has become almost entirely a user pay and not enough to maintain the level of its programs. The DNR is working on the deficit for the Fish and Game Fund.

Sam Washington, shared the following information the DNR is reviewing to resolve its budget and maintain its programs. Various recommendations from the CCMSP are:

- Fee mechanism that is broad/across the board for all of citizens of the state of
- Find a permanent fix.
- Ascertain funding to manage resources
- Mechanism for inflation (Proposal One for Parks)
- Penny Plan/sales tax
- Bottle Return Plan
- Statewide millage on all real property
  - One-eighth mill = \$35 million
  - One-quarter mill = \$74 million
  - Three-quarters mill = \$108 million
  - One-half mill = \$150 million
- Sales tax increase from 6 to 7 percent percentage = \$1 billion (one-quarter of a penny annually). Builds in an inflation creep. All citizens owning property in Michigan would pay property tax. Would eliminate MVP purchases for in-state residents only. Non-residents are required to purchase MVPs. Camping fees still apply due to cost of electricity, mowing, etc. This needs NRC review too.

**Sam Washington** shared PRD's desire to purchase Big Rock and turning into state park/recreation area. Resolving the funding issues will take time and may need legislature to increase general fund for resource management. Timing is critical and need to move quickly to have in effective by April 1, 2007.

Committee discussed rise of DNR staff salaries and health benefits each year. Discussed the need to continue brainstorming on mechanisms for funding.

#### **NEXT MEETING AND SELECTION OF UPCOMING DATES/LOCATIONS**

Committee members agreed to forgo the August 2006 meeting to allow members to review draft State Forest Plan document that will be provided to FMAC members and the public at the end of July. The State Forest Plan public comment is due at the end of August and public comment will be compiled in September.

FMAC members will receive a copy of the plan at the end of July to share with their organizations/agencies. They will provide their comments by the August deadline. In September, the FMAC meeting will be devoted to reviewing the State Forest Plan public comments. David Price (DNR-FMFM) will provide a summary of public comment.

**NEXT MEETING**

Monday, July, 17, 2006  
Gaylord Operations Service Center  
1732 West M 32  
Gaylord, Michigan  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Agenda Items**

9 a.m. – 11 a.m./Business Meeting  
-- Provide Final Comments of GAFMPs Draft

11 a.m. – 4 p.m./Field Tour

Recommendations for Field Tour:

1. Accessibility (wet areas, roads, bridges, adjacent ownerships)
2. Red Pine (relative to Red Pine Project)
3. Buffer Zone Issues
4. Pest problems (Oak Wilt, Emerald Ash Borer, Warbler Habitat)
5. Change in Market Dynamics
6. Biodiversity Areas, Old Growth Areas
7. Recreation Areas
8. Compartment Review Packets/Review Staff's Management Decisions

**No Meeting Scheduled in August 2006**

**September Meeting:**

**Wednesday, September 13, 2006**

Michigan United Conservation Clubs Board Room  
2101 Wood Street  
Lansing, Michigan  
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

-- David Price, DNR/FMFM to provide analysis of State Forest Plan public comment

Meeting of the FMAC Adjourned at 4 p.m.