

**FOREST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 15, 2013**

**FMAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Bill Botti, Chair, Michigan Forest Association  
Mr. William (Bill) Manson, Jr., Michigan Snowmobile Association  
Mr. Steve Shine, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
(MDARD)  
Mr. Bill O'Neill, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)  
Ms. Kim Korbecki, FMAC Assistant, MDNR  
Ms. Amy Trotter, Michigan United Conservation Clubs  
Dr. Daniel Keathley, Michigan State University  
Ms. Kathy Putnam (representing Dr. Donna LaCourt), Michigan Economic  
Development Corporation  
Dr. Terry Sharik, Michigan Technological University  
Mr. Warren Suchovsky, Suchovsky Logging

**FMAC ADVISORS PRESENT**

Mr. Barry Paulson, United States Forest Service (USFS), Huron-Manistee  
Mr. Andy Henriksen, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources  
Conservation Districts

**PUBLIC PRESENT**

Mr. Robert Heyd, MDNR  
Mr. Brad Garmon, Michigan Environmental Council

**I. Welcome**

**Chair Botti** called the May 15, 2013 Forest Management Advisory Committee meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. He introduced Ms. Karen Putnam, MEDC and Mr. Brad Garmon, Michigan Environmental Council.

**II. Action Items**

• **Adoption of May 15, 2013 FMAC Meeting Agenda**

A request was made to add a 2013 Michigan Biomaterials Initiative Report, to be given by Dr. Sharik, to the agenda.

**Motion: Dr. Keathley** motioned to adopt the May 15 FMAC agenda as updated; seconded by **Mr. Manson**.

Motion to adopt the May 15, 2013 FMAC Meeting Agenda passed unanimously.

• **Adoption of March 6, 2013 FMAC Meeting Minutes**

**Motion: Mr. Suchovsky** moved to adopt the March 6 FMAC Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by **Dr. Keathley**.

Motion to adopt the March 6, 2013 FMAC Meeting Minutes was passed unanimously.

**III. Public Comment**

**Mr. Garmon** provided a report, *Managing Michigan's State-owned Forests: Harvest Levels, Market Trends and Revenue Realities*, and stated he would like the FMAC to send comments. He feels this will help deal with harvest trends quite a bit in the legislature.

#### IV. Forest Health

**Chair Botti** introduced Mr. Robert Heyd, Forest Health Specialist, MDNR, reporting on forest health. Mr. Heyd provided a PowerPoint presentation to the FMAC that can be viewed here:

[http://www.michigandnr.com/PUBLICATIONS/PDFS/ForestsLandWater/FMAC/FMAC\\_May152013\\_small.pdf](http://www.michigandnr.com/PUBLICATIONS/PDFS/ForestsLandWater/FMAC/FMAC_May152013_small.pdf).

#### Highlights:

1. Oak Wilt is moved around in firewood and by the time the MDNR heard about it, it had already spread. It was documented in 1881, found in new areas in 1912 and in 1944 it was discovered what it was. It was first recorded in Michigan in the 1950s, and in 2008 it became an exotic pathogen. We now have an Oak Wilt Initiative and are trying to put together a database to define it so we can move forward. We have an Oak Wilt timber sales clause. There have been suppression grants from the U.S. Forest Service to remove Oak Wilt. **Chair Botti** asked what happens if there is a patch that doesn't get treated. If there is no red oak in the area it could die out (within 100 yards). **Mr. Heyd** stated the DNR needs to make headway and continue to push for suppression funding.
2. Asian Longhorn arrives in about 300 million containers a year in our ports and they inspect only 1 to 3 percent of these containers. The host of Asian Longhorn is mostly red maple but it likes all maples and sycamores. Ohio has created a real problem with this pest due to inaction. The MDNR updates its zip code map each year for quarantined areas. It screens Parks & Recreation's database for those coming into the parks from infested areas. The MDNR goes in and targets areas that campers have visited more than once, especially those coming in from Ohio. The MDNR looks at state parks as well as state forest campgrounds. It also has educational handouts available and is putting together a contingency plan on what it is going to do about this invasive. The plan is in draft form and involves other state agencies. **Chair Botti** asked about states where this pest has been eradicated. **Mr. Heyd** responded Ohio is the problem; most other states are doing well and taking this seriously. The concern is that we have already moved infected wood from Ohio. **Mr. O'Neill** commented the DNR has had dialog with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), and it has been having discussions with Ohio's State Forester. The MDARD has offered Ohio its assistance, as well.
3. At some point this summer, MDARD will be including Baraga and Marquette in quarantine so all areas will be at the same level of quarantine.
4. Silviculture: The MDNR is trying to decide how many acres of beech bark there is. **Dr. Sharik** asked if there is an element of juvenile resistance. **Mr. Heyd** indicated yes; the MDNR has a number of beech on state land that does not have scale on it. It has taken twenty samples of a resistant family and is developing a seed orchard in Brighton. It is out-planting and tagging it to make sure resistance is maintained.
5. Lingering ash: These are trees that are not infested although they are surrounded by the disease. **Chair Botti** asked if there are trends in the species. **Mr. Heyd** responded the MDNR is looking mostly at green and white, but blush ash is very resistant. We need to do the genetics. We always need more research.

6. Maple decline: There is a spot north of Marquette County where they are trying to grow sugar maple; it's on 500 acres of high quality northern hardwoods. The MDNR needs to recreate the site and conditions to learn from it. They would have held off on harvesting because these trees were too stressed. **Mr. O'Neill** stated he is going to visit a number of sites where it is declining to the point that traditional sugar maple management is not working.
7. Hickory Wilt: This is affecting states all around Michigan and has now been found in the Upper Peninsula. It is a native bark beetle. It is a serious problem the MDNR would like to start tracking. It affects Bitternut, not shagbark.
8. Eastern Larch Beetle: Minnesota and Wisconsin are affected and we have seen patches here in Michigan. This is a serious bark beetle and the MDNR will be sending out a press release soon.
9. White Pine decline: This is happening in the Au Sable River area. We need a pathologist to study new issues. The MDNR is working with the Parks and Recreation Division on this.
10. An interagency forest invasive committee has been formed.
11. Firewood Issue: **Mr. Heyd** believes the interagency committee will draft a letter to Director Creagh and the Parks and Recreation Division recommending it step forward and address the firewood issues in state parks and camping areas.

**Chair Botti** asked if forest health is something the FMAC can assist with. **Mr. O'Neill** responded yes, this is an issue that needs a voice. **Mr. Heyd** suggested the FMAC look at the draft contingency plan and comment on that.

**Mr. Suchovsky** commented there had been a lot of talk about Pathologists. He wondered if the FMAC could weigh in, in support of the MDNR getting a Pathologist or possibly having the MDNR develop a partnership with universities to handle this. **Mr. Shine** commented the Timber Advisory Committee (TAC) had discussed the timber industry summit and was asked to parallel it with the agriculture summit (AG). The MDARD ended up adding staff based on the AG summit outcome. This could go to the legislature as needing support.

**Mr. O'Neill** reported that forestry brings in \$33 million; the MDNR does primarily forestry and fire. Fire is not well funded. Seventy-five to eighty-five percent of fires are on private land. Cutting trees on state land funds seventy-five percent of the fire program. Forestry has not funded research, etc., because it is mandated to fund fire. The MDNR currently has a system that is not sustainable. If it can switch the funding model we could probably make enough money to do some really robust things, i.e. state forests that are provided protection should pay for it (20%). If the state invested another \$5 million in FDF for forestry, the MDNR would be able to do some good things. He is hoping forestry stands up and asks to keep the assets it is getting to reinvent itself.

**Dr. Sharik** commented there is a lack of capacity in terms of a laundry list of problems and not having the capacity in state or university for pathology. The issue is how to change and influence that when it does not make sense economically.

**Mr. Heyd** stated the 2012 Michigan Forest Health report is available online at: <http://www.midnr.com/Publications/pdfs/ForestsLandWater/ForestHealth/FHH.pdf>.

It was decided Mr. Heyd will provide the draft interagency report (recommendation to Director Creagh, MDNR,) to the FMAC and it will then determine how to support the recommendation.

**V. Update on the Governor's Forest Products Summit**

Governor Snyder attended the summit and asked three questions. The third question was regarding research. Mr. O'Neill is not sure it is the state's responsibility to do 100% of research. The MDNR could provide support to others to do research.

**Mr. O'Neill** stated he believes conversation is now happening. He hopes the summit helps, as well as the forest community coming together. For the past 10 years, the MDNR has seen a declining budget. Because of conversations with the FMAC, at the summit, etc. both houses have seen forest resources as an investment. Over the next few years we can have further discussions about this. It can be a part of Michigan's resurgence.

**Mr. O'Neill** commented he was pleased the Governor put in a lot of time and effort at the summit. He met with people and walked through the audience shaking hands. He was very involved. He spent about an hour and a half there. He was tuned in to how forestry can play a role and work in Michigan's economic future. He thought some of the discussion was good and it covered both national and state forest economics.

Allan Wieman from GE Capital discussed the factors that are important in deal-making. He indicated they never thought of Michigan in terms of forestry. The panels were insightful as well. Ms. Margaret Minerick discussed unemployment being a problem. Mr. Peter Madden discussed pellet opportunities. Traxys Power Group discussed burning biomass and making electricity.

The Quality of Life Directors (MDNR, MDARD and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) have a very good relationship and demonstrated that at the summit. They, along with Mr. Mike Finney, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, all committed to be part of the solution.

In the afternoon, the summit held five breakout sessions and came up with 3 top priorities. The TAC will identify those that rise to the top and develop an action plan.

**Dr. Keathley** stated he was impressed with the GE Capital presentation. If someone wanted to draw international investment, the presentation went through Michigan's weaknesses and strengths. He was also impressed with the Governor's approach. It was very plain to see the Governor is viewing forestry as part of the economic engine of Michigan, and it needs change.

**Mr. Botti** stated this is the first time he has seen a list of deliverables the Governor wants in the fall.

**Dr. Sharik** saw a huge amount of alignment with what the Governor was saying, and what GE Capital was saying. The Governor is a no-nonsense person who is going to move ahead. The topics, planning, expected outcomes and developed strategies, is streamlined strategic planning. The Quality of Life agencies have similar sets of values. The Governor emphasized export, value-added, and research and development. GE Capital provided the necessary elements for success in terms of the wood products industry. Dr. Sharik thought the summit was very good.

**Dr. Sharik** discussed the realization that education and research related to wood products needs to be more encompassing. We need to figure out how to process and market, and how to enhance the economy locally, as well as how to cycle back to the ecosystem. We have lost a tremendous amount of capacity on the Lake States and within Michigan, including the universities. The total scope has lost capacity. The companies on the coast have reinvented themselves around the word “sustainability” and biomaterials. Dr. Sharik visited industries across the state, as well as universities and landowners, working with the Michigan Forest Association. He is planning a gathering next October 3 and 4 in Traverse City, with landowners, industry, and academicians, to formulate and educate the process around biomaterials. He wants to bring all these people together with academicians, landowners, and legislators, and invite key people in from Virginia, North Carolina, Maine and Oregon (private industry people), to explain how their operations run. He would start by laying out the current situation here and have them report out on how they do it, and then end the conference with a Michigan Biomaterials Initiative. This needs to be a statewide thing. We need to see if we can make progress relative to education, research, and technology. The SAF has agreed to handle all logistics of this meeting so Michigan Tech can concentrate on the program itself. **Dr. Keathley** suggested including Mississippi State at the meeting.

**Mr. Shine** asked if we want to align FMAC with TAC to state these things are important to move Michigan’s economy forward, and that the two committees, as a diverse group of people, feel it is important. **Mr. O’Neill** stated the TAC has not been asked what the FMAC can do. He suggested a more professional communication between the groups, in letter form from one chair to the other chair, asking if there is a role it can play to help with the recent assignment.

## VI. Standing Discussion Items

- Legislative Update

**Chair Botti** asked about HB4285 – Payment in lieu of taxes: This was never designed to come out of land managers; it was supposed to be payment out of the general fund or wherever. Somewhere along the way it started coming out of the operating budget. The MDNR is concerned; it will do a bill analysis but is not sure how far this bill will go. Mr. O’Neill can’t imagine the MDNR will support the bill. He stated he will have Ms. Kerry Wieber, MDNR, attend the next FMAC meeting to discuss this.

**Ms. Trotter** stated the three qualified forest legislative bills were sent to the Governor. They could be signed and implemented regardless of what happens with the senate bill.

Senate Bill 78 is still sitting in the house committee. **Mr. Garmon** stated this bill will get a hearing before summer. They will take testimony but he wouldn't commit to it moving out of committee.

**Mr. Paulson** suggested the FMAC might want to consider making a case to change the formula for fire suppression funding. Mr. Suchovsky and Mr. Melow testified on that issue. **Mr. O'Neill** suggested making this a priority in the fall when funding conversations begin again. He stated he would have Forest Resources Division staff give a budget update at the next FMAC meeting.

**VII. Next Meeting Date**

June 26, 2013

Michigan United Conservation Clubs

2101 Wood Street

Lansing, Michigan 48912

**VIII. Agenda Items**

FRD Budget Process, FRD staff

PILT – Kerry Weiber (Ms. Wieber is unable to attend the next meeting; she will be attending the September meeting in Marquette to give this report).

**IX. Adjournment**

The May 15, 2013 FMAC meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.