

MEETING SUMMARY
FOREST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FMAC) MEETING
Michigan United Conservation Clubs of Michigan
2101 Wood Street, Lansing
December 5, 2007
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

FMAC Member Present

Ms Lynne Boyd, Chair, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Mr. Warren Suchovsky, Suchovsky Logging
Ms. Erin McDonough, Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Mr. Marvin Roberson, Sierra Club (representing Ms. Anne Woiwode)
Mr. Joel Blohm, Great Northern Lumber of Michigan (via teleconference)
Ms. Susan Holben, MEDC
Mr. Desmond Jones, Michigan Tree Farm Systems
Dr. Daniel Keathley, Michigan State University
Mr. Thomas Dunn, American Motorcycle Association (via teleconference)
Dr. Margaret (Peg) Gale, Michigan Technological University (via teleconference)
Ms. Rachel Kuntzsch, Heart of the Lakes
Mr. William (Bill) Cook, Michigan State University Extension (via teleconference)
Mr. George Berghorn, Michigan Forest Products Council

FMAC Members Absent

Mr. Frank Ruswick, Department of Environmental Equality
Mr. Gordon Wenk, Michigan Department of Agriculture
Mr. William Bobier Earthscape Resource Management
Mr. William Manson, Jr., Michigan Snowmobile Association

FMAC Committee Advisors Present

Mr. Ken Arbogast, USDA Forest Service (representing Mr. Jerry Bird)

Public Attendees/Guests

Ms. Judy McReavy, Oxford, Roscommon County
Mr. Bob McReavy, Oxford, Roscommon County
Mr. Tom Ward, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Mr. Ron Easterly, Roscommon County
Mr. Tom Ward, USDA-NRCS
Mr. Brady Schickinger, Representative Sheltroun's Office
Ms. Donna Stine, MUCC

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Present

Ms. Kerry Gray
Ms. Kim Korbecki
Dr. Donna LaCourt

Welcome

Chair Boyd called the meeting of the Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC or Committee) to order at 1:17 p.m. **Chair Boyd** welcomed everyone to the meeting. She stated she is talking to the DNR attorneys regarding counting teleconference votes as part of a quorum. **Chair Boyd** reported the GAFMPS cannot be voted on via email.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Boyd reviewed the agenda and requested comments from the Committee. There were none. The agenda could not be formally approved due to the lack of quorum.

Adoption of Meeting Summary/November 6, 2007

Chair Boyd acknowledged the meeting summary could not be approved due to the lack of quorum; she asked for comments. **Mr. Suchovsky** requested a correction under "Additional Information" from **Mr. David Matthews** to **Mr. David Wright**. Adoption of the November 6, 2007 FMAC Meeting Summary was tabled for adoption at the February 20, 2008 meeting.

Action Items

Chair Boyd reported action items were unable to be completed due to the lack of quorum. She stated she would like to discuss the 2008 meeting schedule. **Chair Boyd** stated she would like to recommend the FMAC change to meeting every other month. She commented the Committee might be more productive and might have better attendance from the members. She asked for comments. The majority of the Committee agreed; **Mr. Roberson** suggested meeting once in the Upper Peninsula, perhaps in conjunction with the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) Upper Peninsula meeting. **Chair Boyd** stated the Committee will unofficially move forward with a 2008 meeting schedule reflecting every other month, beginning February 20, 2008. An updated meeting schedule will be sent to Committee members; the 2008 meeting schedule will be tabled for adoption at the February 20, 2008 meeting.

Bylaws

Chair Boyd opened a discussion regarding the Committee adopting Bylaws. She commented having 12 of 19 members required to meet the quorum has not been working. She directed the Committee to the "Bylaws of the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks (CCSMP)". **Chair Boyd** asked the Committee if they were willing to work off CCSMP's Bylaws to update the Bylaws of the FMAC. She suggested considering issues such as percentage of members present to constitute a quorum, and the ability or inability of the federal government Committee advisor voting.

Mr. Suchovsky suggested adding another advisory member **Mr. Tom Ward** with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. **Mr. Roberson** commented he felt the number needed for a quorum was fine as is; if members cannot find the time to attend, perhaps the Committee does not have the right members. **Mr. Suchovsky** stated most committees require just over 50% for a quorum. **Chair Boyd** suggested one over 50% would be appropriate. She stated if the Committee agreed, they could begin by working off the CCSMP's Bylaws to begin. The Committee agreed.

Article III – Committee Membership

Section 2: Substitutes: CCSMP's Bylaws state substitutes can have voting power. Currently the FMAC does not have substitute voting power. **Mr. Suchovsky** stated he thought it was originally decided that way because the FMAC members are appointed by the DNR Director (Director); **Chair Boyd** responded the CCSMP members are also appointed by the Director. **Mr. Roberson** commented sending a substitute constitutes an absence for purposes of attendance requirements.

Section 3: Compensation: **Chair Boyd** stated while CCSMP covers compensation, unfortunately the FMAC does not have the same statute.

Section 4: Terms: **Chair Boyd** stated the Committee never discussed terms of membership; CCSMP set-up terms. **Chair Boyd** asked the Committee for their ideas on this subject. **Mr. Suchovsky** stated he is not a fan of term-limits, but if the decision is made to have them they should be staggered. **Mr. Jones** commented he is also against term-limits. **Ms. Kuntzsch** stated she felt since members are appointed, term-limits are not necessary, but suggested four-year terms with reappointment after the end of the term. **Chair Boyd** stated she thought that was a good idea, possibly with two- and four-year staggered appointments. She asked the Committee if everyone was in favor; all approved.

Article IV - Officers

Sections 3 (Chairperson), 4 (Vice-Chairperson) and 5 (Secretary): **Chair Boyd** commented the FMAC has never had a Secretary and asked the Committee if they would like modifications to this section; position of Secretary will be eliminated from the section as the DNR is responsible for providing a person to act in this position.

Article V – Meetings

Section 1: Number: Change from “twice per year” to 6 per year, with the right to call special meetings as needed.

Section 3: Quorum: The Committee agreed to one over 50%.

Section 7: Notice: **Mr. Suchovsky** asked if electronic notices, rather than postal notices were acceptable; **Chair Boyd** asked Committee for comments. All approved meeting notification via electronic mail.

Section 8: Open Meetings: **Chair Boyd** brought up the matter of handling public comment, and referred the Committee to “FMAC Bylaws from the October 17, 2007 Meeting Summary”. This states public who submit a request to be on the agenda at least two weeks prior to the meeting may have five minutes to comment; those who fill out a request to comment the day of the meeting may have three minutes to comment. **Chair Boyd** stated she felt this was an appropriate way to handle public comment. **Mr. Suchovsky** asked if the Committee will reserve the right to extend public speaking time; **Mr. Jones** commented he feels the Chair needs to have the right to end public comment after the allotted time has expired.

Article VI – Removal of Committee Members

Section 1: Removal: **Mr. Suchovsky** questioned whether it was within the powers of the FMAC to remove members, or if it should be handled by taking a recommendation of removal to the Director. **Chair Boyd** responded CSSMP talks with the Director prior to removal of a member, but the CSSMP is allowed to vote on removal. **Mr. Roberson** suggested this section should be modified to say that sending a substitute to a meeting still counts as an absence against the Committee member.

Section 2: Non-Attendance of Meetings: CSSMP states members must attend four consecutive meetings to avoid removal from the committee. This will be modified to “members must attend four of the six yearly meetings”.

Chair Boyd stated a draft Bylaws would be provided prior to the February meeting. This will be added as an action item to the February 20, 2008 agenda for adoption.

Action Items

Chair Boyd mentioned the Naming Policy which has been reviewed by the FMAC previously. **Mr. Dennis Fedewa**, DNR, asked the Committee to adopt the policy at this meeting. Due to lack of quorum, this item will be added to the February 20, 2008 meeting agenda for adoption.

Public Comment

Mr. Robert McReavy stated he is waiting to hear if the FMAC will be going forward with the landscape survey discussed at the November 7, 2007 meeting. He has also been waiting to hear about the percentage of mature trees that will be left in the Roscommon area. He commented he owns 85 acres that abuts property that has been clearcut; he toured this area 24 hours after fresh snow and did not see one deer track. He feels the DNR's clearcutting procedure is affecting the ecology there. **Chair Boyd** stated staff is currently working on clearcut data and she will bring information on size of cuts currently taking place in the area to the February 20, 2008 meeting, as well as send electronically to the Committee. **Chair Boyd** thanked **Mr. McReavy** for his comments.

Mr. Ron Easterly stated that after the last public meeting they were told the DNR would be cutting-back on clearcutting; he has been receiving phone calls from Roscommon residents that massive areas have been clearcut yet again. Citizens are angry and feel this is being done for monetary reasons. He feels perhaps timber sales money should go back to the state to cut down on the need for clearcutting. **Chair Boyd** thanked **Mr. Easterly** for his comments.

Ms. Donna Stine reported MUCC received a grant from the People and Land Project of the Kellogg Foundation to produce a strategic plan to increase the active management of Michigan's non-industrial private forest lands. She stated this is important to better wildlife, better ecology, better economy and the carbon market. She commented there will be a strategy planning session and would like to invite the Committee to attend. The goal of this session is to come up with priorities of better management of non-industrial private forest lands. The session will be held on January 11, 2008 at MUCC, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. She requested RSVPs by January 4, 2008 at 517-346-6487, if you plan to attend. **Chair Boyd** thanked **Ms. Stine**.

Marketing and Branding Michigan Wood (Select Michigan Wood)

Chair Boyd announced **Mr. Berghorn** would be making a presentation on marketing and branding. **Mr. Berghorn** introduced himself as the Director of Forest Policy with the Michigan Forest Products Council. He explained the goal of the Council is to protect, promote and sustain forestry, while looking at the marketing and branding approach here in Michigan. He stated this concept started around three years ago with the Department of Agriculture. He reported when the marketing and branding program was rolled-out it would be called "Select Michigan Wood and Wood Products".

Mr. Berghorn asked the Committee how many have heard from any industry that the U.S. is losing its edge to other countries. The Select Michigan program grew out of this; the goal in Michigan is to develop a strategic opportunity to place our wood products on a global scale. He stated when looking at Michigan we have two main legs; high quality wood products and quality manufactured wood products. The way our wood is grown in a sustainable manner and harvested puts Michigan above the rest. **Mr. Berghorn** stated they are focusing on high value hardwoods and across the board at all Michigan hardwoods. He reported people from Asia are currently looking for "Michigan Maple". The second focus of this concept is green building materials.

Mr. Berghorn reported there have been two meetings with the Michigan Association of Homebuilders (MAHB), and GreenBuilt Michigan which has developed its own green building rating system. MAHB is taking the lead on the national stage. The only sector currently seeing progress in the state is green building. There is a disconnect between the market place and end users of these materials.

Mr. Berghorn provided information on the program description, benefits, next step and goals. A copy of the Power Point is provided for further information.

Chair Boyd thanks **Mr. Berghorn** for his presentation.

Projects/Issues for FMAC to Tackle

Chair Boyd stated **Ms. McDonough** had taken the lead in the past on this subject. She commented she would like to see the Committee pick a project to begin to work on.

Ms. McDonough reported the decision was made to focus on biofuels and public perception.

Mr. Suchovsky asked what context biofuels was being focused on; **Ms. McDonough** answered problems, benefits and companies coming to Michigan, wood ethanol, and what it all means for Michigan. **Dr. LaCourt** mentioned that they have just put in a proposal to the Forest Finance Authority for the development of woody biomass harvesting guidelines. She stated that she would like the FMAC to review the guidelines. While the guideline will be for State owned lands she feels they could be applicable to private lands.

Dr. Gale reported Michigan State University and Michigan Tech have a Consortium to start looking at this subject also, and suggested coming up with ways for the Committee to come together with them to work on where we are going in the state. **Chair Boyd** commented **Dr. Gale** was correct; what is the Committee's role? **Dr. Gale** with assistance from **Mr. Cook** volunteered to create a list of all the biofuel/woody biomass projects that are currently going on. The list will be presented at the February meeting and should give the Committee a better idea of what they can do. One stated goal was to recommend a Policy for adoption by the NRC on utilization of woody biomass.

Chair Boyd asked the Committee to discuss public perception. She is looking to the Committee for advice, because she does not think the DNR can address this issue alone. She wants to find a role the Committee can play regarding this issue. **Chair Boyd** stated they need to find a way to relay information to the public in a correct manner. **Mr. Roberson** commented he would like to hear from **Ms. Kathleen Helverson**, Michigan Tech. **Chair Boyd** reported the DNR needs a list of steps to take to correct public perception.

Mr. Roberson commented public input needs to be approached at the right time in the process. He also suggested that the FMAC create a list of steps that can be easily implemented by the DNR to make the public participation process easier, smoother and more "user friendly." **Chair Boyd** agreed with this suggestion and will add it as an agenda item for the February meeting. **Chair Boyd** discussed the value-stream mapping process the DNR is currently undertaking and how it will help with the public participation process. **Dr. LaCourt** explained that the value-stream mapping will be looking at the entire compartment review process from timber marking to the final sale and public participation. **Ms. McDonough** commented that another aspect is to learn how the public views forestry and why, and to use this information to educate public about forestry.

Additional Items

Chair Boyd stated the State Forest Management Plan final draft is almost complete and will be presented for information to the NRC in February and for approval in March. The draft plan will be distributed to the FMAC Committee as soon as the Statewide Council approves it at its January meeting. FMAC members will have the opportunity to review and comment on it prior to the February 20 meeting but she would also like to discuss it at the February meeting.

Chair Boyd reported that the Forest Certification Audit report will be available later this month and asked the Committee if they would like a presentation of the audit results. The Committee agreed they would like a presentation.

Mr. Suchovsky stated he still thinks the Committee needs to address Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) damage issues. **Chair Boyd** responded the DNR has been mandated to update the ORV Plan. This was contracted out to Michigan State University but the DNR couldn't accept and implement the plan as proposed because of statutes. The plan is currently being edited. She reported the plan is also a corrective action from the audit, in addition to boilerplate language to add 25% more trails. She has asked staff to create one document. **Chair Boyd** stated she feels the plan should be compiled before presenting it to the Committee.

Chair Boyd encouraged everyone to please make every effort to attend the next meeting to finalize all action items.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

February 20, 2008

Michigan United Conservation Clubs of Michigan

2101 Wood Street, Lansing

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Items:

Utilization of Woody Biomass

State Forest Management Plan

Forest Certification Audit Results Presentation

Public Participation Process

Action Items:

Adoption of November 7, 2007 Meeting Summary

Adoption of September 12, 2007 Meeting Summary

Adoption of August 1, 2007 Meeting Summary

Adoption of 2008 Meeting Schedule

Adoption of FMAC Bylaws

Adoption of Naming Policy

Adjournment

Chair Boyd called for adjournment of the Forest Management Advisory Committee meeting at 3:02 p.m.