

**FOREST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 13, 2016**

FMAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Gary Melow, Chair – Michigan Biomass
Mr. Bill Manson, Michigan Snowmobile Association
Mr. Bill Botti, Michigan Forest Association (via conference call)
Dr. Terry Sharik, Michigan Technical University
Dr. Richard Kobe, Michigan State University
Ms. Amy Trotter, Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Mr. Steve Shine, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Mr. Scott Robbins, Michigan Forest Products Council
Ms. Deb Begalle, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), (representing Bill O'Neill)

FMAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Marvin Roberson, Sierra Club
Mr. Warren Suchovsky, Suchovsky Logging

FMAC ADVISORS PRESENT

Ms. Leslie Auriemmo, USDA Forest Service, Huron-Manistee

FMAC ADVISORS ABSENT

Mr. Andy Henriksen, USDA Natural Resources Conservation District

PUBLIC PRESENT

Ms. Ada Takacs, MDNR
Ms. Lynn Carter-Regier, MDNR
Ms. Kathy Fischer, Michigan State University Extension

I. Welcome

Chair Melow welcomed all to the July 13 Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) meeting.

II. Action Items

- Adoption of July 13, 2016 Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) Meeting Agenda
- Adoption of April 6, 2016 FMAC Meeting Minutes

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Approval for Letter of Support for Urban and Community Forestry

Dr. Sharik suggested: "Moreover the planting of trees and their utilization (and management) provides jobs and products." Dr. Sharik will provide language.

MOTION: Mr. Manson moved to adopt the letter of support with revisions provided by Dr. Sharik; supported by Mr. Robbins. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Ideas to Enhance Forestry Messages/Exhibits at OAC

OAC will have tabletop or wall posters about career opportunities in the future. Besides displays what can be done for programming? Suggestions: student projects; more history; video. Connect forestry to wildlife, fisheries, etc. Linda Walters is the lead for exhibits and managing facility, and is open for suggestions for exhibits/modifications. Ms. Begalle will check with Parks and

Recreation Division on questions the FMAC had on operational funding. The OAC may be first place people get exposure to natural resources.

MOTION: Chair Melow moved to compose a letter to the DNR encouraging it to take a strategic, collaborative approach (internal and external) for displays and programs related to forestry for the OAC; supported by **Mr. Robbins**. Motion passed.

VI. FRD/DNR Fiscal Year 17 Budget – Deb Begalle, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) **Ms. Begalle** discussed the MDNR's fiscal year 17 budget; see attached.

VII. Red Pine Forest Health Issue (HRD) – Deb Begalle, MDNR
Ms. Begalle discussed the current issues with red pine; see attached.

VIII. Northern Long Eared Bat-Habitat Conservation Plan – Deb Begalle, MDNR
Ms. Begalle briefly discussed the NLEB Conservation Plan; see attached.

IX. Project Learning Tree – Ada Takacs, MDNR
Chair Melow sits on the 12-member steering committee. This is the National Program of American Forest Foundation; most states are involved. They began in 1976 and MUCC coordinated it. Since 2003, the MDNR has led the program in the state. The program is vetted and constantly updated by industry and education professionals.

All activities correlated to common core of school programs. This was not intended to replace curriculum, but to supplement it. It covers all ages, pre k-12th grade and special Early Childhood edition geared to ages 3-7. It involves both formal and informal educators and forestry is in all lessons. Supplements were created that are Michigan specific. About 500 educators are trained per year. This involves Greenworks grants and about 3000 educators in Michigan are using this program. How teachers learn about it? The MDNR works with the Department of Education, uses its website, holds conferences and events (zoos, etc.) to educate teachers about the program. The MDNR also looks for a champion in the school to promote the program.

Ms. Fischer stated there is also online professional development that includes online modules with videos. An online professional guide is being drafted, which will work well for those that can't or won't get outside. **Dr. Sharik** suggested changing the name to "natural resources and environmental."

Projects: Working closely with school forests. Eleven schools are working on forest stewardship plans. The Wheels to Woods program also gets students out to the woods. There are 6200 students so far. The MDNR is looking at revising activities for blind students.

Funding sources: There are no state funds. MDNR received \$8000 from the forest foundation and also from small grants. The cost is \$25-\$50/person for workshops. The FMAC was asked to assist by marketing (get word out there), funding, participate on the steering committee, connections with educators, and to help teach.

The Adopt-a-Forest Program was started in 1989, with United State Forest Service and MUCC involvement. A mobile app is being rolled out; see attached.

X. Urban Food Center – Rich Kobe, Michigan State University
Detroit Urban Food Center. Forestry part of agriculture. Dr. Kobe would like to see name change. MSU putting in an investment of approx. \$300,000. No identified site yet but working with city of

Detroit. Act as center similar to other center but be urban. Unlikely Detroit will be a food growing area...safety of food supply may be the focus. Would group be supportive of name change?

XI. Standing Discussion Items

- Timber Advisory Committee Update- Looking to develop presentation for legislatures. Testimony at SB39 hearing was not providing good info. TAC is looking to inform through bullet above.
- Legislative Update – see attached
- SB 39-Still in the Senate
- HB 5275
- FMAC Member Program Updates
 - Terry Sharik - 2 new faculties on board at MTU; a wood chemist being one of them. MIFBI is now a non-profit institute. Will coordinate activity around biomaterials. Need to find funding to hire a director and staffing. Terry attended meeting around Detroit reforestation program. Greening of Detroit leading effort. SAF, DNR, MSU, AFF, SFI also participated. Build nurseries. Plant 1M trees, focusing on vitalizing marginal areas vs open space.
 - Bill Manson - 6500 miles of 328626 miles. 110,000 miles less than last year. \$1.2 M on maintenance of trails, including grooming. Putting together a 10-year plan. Permit should be \$60/year, but will be difficult to increase to that. \$45 to \$48 next year and for 5 years. Replaced 2 groomers this year, \$255,000 each. Would like 12-14 pieces replaced.
 - Scott Robbins - SFI Private Landowner Guidebooks developed
 - Steve Shine - 20 FAP foresters again. Employee benefits may not be comparable to other employers. QF enrollment strong 313,671 acres. Top 5 counties, Delta, Alcona, Marquette, Menominee, Iron.
 - Amy Trotter - Sara the on-the-ground volunteer. River clean-ups. WD moving to contract vs grant. MUCC putting forth convention resolutions to NRC. MUCC supported the ORV trail in Gwinn GEM after quite a bit of discussion. New board...smaller (17 people).
 - Gary Melow –
 - Leslie Auriemmo - Forester position opening. Reforestation tech at Mio. New authority...temps working for 24 months can apply for internal job postings. 9 more to hire, which she'd like to do before January 1st. USFS won the Enbridge lawsuit.
 - Rich Kobe - Minor in urban community forestry. New hire... forest biomaterials (focus with lignin) starting in November, and human dimensions, Emily; and forest pathologist (August 16th).
 - Bill Botti (by phone) - MFA annual meeting in August 19 & 20th in Detroit. Belle Isle, Greening of Detroit. 5th annual workshop for teachers a couple weeks ago. 15 people.

XII. Next Meeting Date

Meeting Date: October 5, 2016

Location: Michigan United Conservation Clubs, 2101 Wood Street, Lansing

XIII. Future Agenda Items

3 p.m. Travel to Belle Isle/Overview of Projects. A few members traveled to Belle Isle and saw the old sawmill that the Park is looking to refurbish. Also saw the old zoo area, part of which is used for storing tree branches and trunks until they can be removed. There was discussion that this may be a good demo site for the public to see a portable sawmill working and the wood you get from trees.