

**Forest Management Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
July 10, 2019

**FMAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Gary Melow, Chair, Michigan Biomass  
Dr. Ellen Holste, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute (via conference call)  
Mr. Bill Botti, Michigan Forest Association  
Ms. Debbie Begalle, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)  
Mr. Scott Robbins, Michigan Forest Products Council  
Dr. Rich Kobe, Michigan State University  
Mr. Warren Suchovsky, Suchovsky Logging  
Dr. Andrew Storer, Michigan Technological University  
Mr. Ben Schram, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

**FMAC ADVISORS PRESENT**

Ms. Leslie Auriemmo, United States Forest Service, Huron-Manistee

**PUBLIC (GUESTS) PRESENT**

Mr. Jason Hartman, MDNR  
Mr. Tim Greco, MDNR  
Herb ?, PRT  
Sylvain Montpellier, PRT  
Chad Fields, PRT

- I. **Welcome** – Gary Melow, Chair  
Mr. Melow thanked our host, PRT Nursery, for both the tour of the nursery and for providing its facilities for the meeting.
- I. **Consent Agenda**
  1. **Adoption of July 10, 2019 FMAC Meeting Agenda**  
The July 10, 2019 FMAC agenda was approved and adopted as presented.
  2. **Adoption of February 27, 2019 FMAC Meeting Minutes**  
The February 27, 2019 FMAC meeting minutes were approved and adopted as presented.
- II. **Public Comment**  
None
- III. **Woody Biomass Guidelines Update** – Jason Hartman, MDNR  
**Mr. Hartman** provided the handout “Michigan Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidance”. He reported the market for chips has declined significantly. There is no longer whole tree chipping like there used to be. If this issue is revisited, the DNR should look at jack pine. It was partly formed out of forest certification. **Mr. Melow** commented that it was drafted nine years ago, and there are contracts in place with biomass plants for a few years yet. **Mr. Suchovsky** commented that on private sales in the northern Lower Peninsula, many loggers didn’t know about the guidelines. The FMAC decided to keep the guidelines as is for now, and then will revisit it in a few years.

#### **IV. Right to Forest Act – Ben Schram, MDARD**

1. 2002. Protection of forestry related activities from nuisance complaints. Generally Accepted Practices.
2. MEAP program in MDARD for mostly farmers.
3. 2013...Forest, Wetlands, and Habitat-A-Syst. Risk assessment.
4. Mr. Schram is proposing that the MEAP analysis will conform to right-to-forest act and amend GAPs to include MEAP.
5. Mr. Robbins, Mr. Suchovsky and Mr. Schram were asked to review and bring back a recommendation.

#### **V. Michigan State University CLT Update – Rich Kobe, Michigan State University**

Dr. Kobe showed a short video. Discussion followed:

- The MSU STEM Teaching and Learning Facility is being built of CLT.
- Two wings were added to the old power plant.
- There are Glulam beams with CLT floors and some steel and cement.
- This is the first mass timber building in Michigan, the second largest to T3 in Minnesota, and the use of an old power plant.
- 1.3M bd ft. between glulam and CLT.
- FSC certified black spruce. A Quebec company is supplying.
- There is no production facility in Michigan or the Great Lakes.
- 1856 metric tons of CO2 is stored in the building.
- There is an Outreach Specialist to help inform and engage people regarding CLT and the building construction.

#### **VI. State Forester's Report – Debbie Begalle, MDNR**

1. HRD
2. Cruise Method
3. Forest Action Plan
4. Legislative Updates – [March 14, 2019](#), [April 11, 2019](#), [May 11, 2019](#), [June 13, 2019](#)
  - Budget proposal for switch of FDF for GF in QFP.
  - Timber Advisory Council Update – Gary Melow
  - Goals and objectives are developed, and work is being done on a dashboard. Next meeting will be in Escanaba. They will be meeting with the Governor and the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association for a short time.
5. Additional comment - economic analysis of 19 states is ongoing with Dr. Larry Leefers and contract through the state.

#### **VII. Action Items Follow-up – none**

#### **VIII. New Standing Items**

Timber Harvest Numbers - 55,000 acres MDNR, and 7,500 acres of Good Neighbor Authority.

#### **IX. Standing Discussion Items**

1. **Trails** - FEMA money for some trail/facility restoration in Houghton County work has been received. Some trails have issues because of the amount of rain.
2. **Communications from the Field** – Mr. Suchovsky discussed recreational impact to the timber industry and economic impact of the recreational program. Ms. Begalle reported fewer fires than last year. The MDNR is sending staff to western and Canadian fires.

### 3. **FMAC Member Program Updates**

- Mr. Melow reported the commission approved contracts with biomass/energy plants. Hillman will close in a few years. They are having difficulty getting applicants and are hiring through the Society of American Foresters convention.
- Ms. Auriemmo reported they have 14 new forester and 4 new fire positions currently available.
- Dr. Kobe reported a 95% placement rate for foresters. Michigan State University has \$300,000 in scholarships. They are doing well with diversity in the college. He mentioned the Medgar Evers School/MSU program that is helping with diversity. This fall there will be a new academic minor called "Sustainable Biobased Materials. (Gap between forestry and engineering.)
- Mr. Robbins mentioned the acres reduction a concern. Tree Farm had a third-party audit completed with only a few minor issues. Overall, it went well.
- Dr. Rudnicki (representing Dr. Storer) reported the forestry major is down a little. The name has been changed to "Wildlife Ecology and Conservation". There is also a new biomaterials minor offered.

4. [Registered Forester Board](#) -Continuing education seems to be a focus.

### X. **Next Meeting Date**

Meeting Date: October 2, 2019

Location: MUCC, 2101 Wood Street, Lansing, 48912

### XI. **Future Agenda Items**

Follow-up on MEAP-GAPs

Economic value studies