

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forest, Mineral & Fire Management  
Forest Stewardship Program

STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 23, 2006  
10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Grayling Holiday Inn, Grayling, Michigan

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Warren Suchovsky, Chair, FSP State Advisory Committee  
Mike Majeski, USDA Forest Service, S&PF  
Tom Ward, USDA, NRCS  
Mike Hanley, DNR FMFM  
Rick Myrick, MACD  
Kathy Ryan, NRCS, RC&D  
Kerry Gray, DNR FMFM  
Russell Kidd, MSU Extension  
Des Jones, Michigan Tree Farm  
Stephen Shine, MD A  
Steve Kalisz, DNR FMFM  
Ernie Houghton, DNR FMFM  
Pat Turkington, FSA  
Cara Boucher, DNR FMFM  
Gerald Grossman, Grossman Forestry Co.  
Debra Huff, DNR FMFM

**GENERAL COMMENTS & DNR UPDATE**

Cara Boucher updated the Committee on the **Michigan Forestry Bills** which include changes in the tax on Commercial Forest land, Landowner Easements, new tax classification called Qualified forests, revenue sharing bill, and limiting factors. The DNR opposed House Bills. Regarding Senate Bill, DNR has been working with them and were not opposed to them, were neutral on many of these.

Warren Suchovsky added details of these bills. Gerald Grossman added we should be ready with press releases and brochures if bills pass.

**Forest Finance Authority and Tobacco Settlement Money.** Provided \$26 million (one time) granted to DNR to determine appropriate use of money. Committee looking at appropriate uses on State Forest land. In Statute, it must be used on State land, not on private land. DNR provided list of \$55 million worth of potential projects.

**Forest Certification.** Michigan is certified under two systems as of December 2005.

**Forest Management Advisory Council (FMAC)** (advisory to the Director) is working on 2002 Right to Forest (Generally Accepted Management Practices). Patterned after Right to Farm to lower nuisance suits. Subcommittees working on developing the guidelines. Also visual, noise and dust committee looking at the Minnesota materials based on sensitivity. They added smoke to “noise and dust”.

State Forests are developing an annual **State Forest Management Plan**. It will be ready in May or June.

### **FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

Plan Cost share rates. Warren suggested we monitor what they are doing as part of the plan management. On plan rates, we can develop some consistent examples of major/minor. Jerry Grossman moved to accept the amended new rates. Rick Lucas seconded. This will be effective April 1, 2006. This will allow us to get the word out to plan writers. See if grants also need amending. All in favor by voice vote.

Pat Turkington nominated Jerry Grossman as Committee Chair. John Van Dyke seconded. All in favor by voice vote.

Cara indicated that Urban & Community Forestry has an appointed membership. Perhaps we should also look at what organizations should be on the list and who. Jerry said we should review it annually. Deb can send an email notification/list to all. We can formalize the request for partnerships.

What are the voting rights of members? Clarify how the vote is counted – majority or who is there on that day. Add MDA? Russ Kidd asked for a person and an alternate.

### **FLEP UPDATE**

Deb Huff reported that there is still money available, so applications should be encouraged.

**FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM** Jon Mayes was absent. Negotiating easements. Warren suggested that we look at the public access requirement because it may detract from what we can do.

**EMERALD ASH BORER & FOREST STEWARDSHIP.** Recommendations on website, also on outlier sites. Jerry has worked with Angela Reiss (MDA) and he wonders if MDA (or other) wanted to pay to have FSP plan written for these properties. This could present positive aspects of how to manage this problem (if they had a plan so they understood how to integrate it into a commercial operation). Cara indicated much of the control money is gone (MDA).

Targeted effort at plan writers approach landowners with ash problems has been developed.

### **MASTER LOGGER PROGRAM.**

Five more loggers have just been certified. They are working on getting Michigan approved, but not many loggers have signed up.

### **FSP 5 YEAR PLAN**

Deb will send email to SAC with old direction and what progress has been done on each item, including what the audit suggested and what we have done.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Individual Reports:**

**USDA, NRCS.** Tom Ward – TSP’s Tri-State Woodland and Wildlife Field Day in Quincy on October 28<sup>th</sup>, for landowners. NRCS has an increase of \$9 million for technical assistance (funding). Healthy forest (\$2.5 million), EQUIP funded. WHIP took small cut of \$43 million.

**MSU Extension.** Russ Kidd. Reported there will be Michigan Timber Tax workshops on March 22nd. Master Woodland Steward in UP in 2006.

**MDA.** Steve Shine reported foresters are attending outdoor shows in Grand Rapids, Birch Run, Novi. Shared report and map of foresters. Christy Roman is Interim Director. Annual meeting in Sault Ste. Marie this year.

**Farm Service Agency (FSA) – CRP.** The FSA is responsible for compliance checks using there county offices. Landowners must comply before extend and/or re-offer. DNR will assist with training.

**TREE FARM.** Des Jones is getting package of recertifications. MTU – student training is April 21, from 9-3p for tree farm inspector. Joint MFA/Tree Farm meeting on August 18-19.

**MFA.** Warren Suchovsky reported MFA meeting all day Saturday on Toney property in August 2006. Federal timber buyers tour of USFS lands. **John Van Dyke** had a trailer at Outdoorama. MFA has scholarships for forestry/wildlife.

**USFS.** Mike Majeski talked about Backyard Woods.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **ADJOURN**

Pat Turkington motioned to adjourn meeting, Rick seconded. All in favor by voice vote.

## **NEXT MEETING**

To be determined.