

## **TAC Conference Call Notes**

June 18, 2014

J.R. Richardson, Traxys Power; Bill O'Neill, MDNR; Mike McCuiston, Lowe Foundation; Deb Begalle, MDNR; Margaret Minerick, Minerick Logging; Gary Melow, Michigan Biomass; Jerry Grossman, Grossman Forestry; Donna Stine, MDNR; Charlie Becker, Plum Creek; Larry Leefers, MSU; Scott Robbins, Michigan Forest Products Council; Steve Shine, MDARD

### **Report on the Forest Products Energy**

Larry Leefers report has completed a report on the forest industry in Michigan. We are well on our way on meeting of goals of \$20 billion, over \$16 billion. DNR provided support for software, tapped four of colleague which took on different responsibilities for each section report, including tax policy, growth rates, trade data, and structure of the industry and the value of the output. The DNR will be giving feedback on the report and the structure of the report. The report will be reviewed by stakeholders upon completion of the DNR's review. A presentation will be made at the August meeting. This report will be updated each year.

### **ICC Biomass Committee**

We are working on a couple objectives- biomass contribution to resolving the power issues in the Upper Peninsula and also energy policy issues related to biomass. Gary Melow is part of the new Senator Nofs's energy workgroup who will be utilizing this information including self-service power and utility based power. There are two forest products people on the Nofs' committee, partially as a result of the TAC.

*TAC should send a letter to committee about the importance of biomass and copy to the Governor's office.*

### **Update on US Forest Service Subcommittee**

The committee is drafting a charge for the full TAC which will have recommendations on what the TAC can do to address increasing output by the US Forest Service in Michigan. Report will be given in August.

### **DNR Budget**

The Forest Resources Division will get \$3,920,000 in new general fund. We will have more capacity to look at data, more marketing, and economic capacity and also more capacity to harvest timber. Agriculture got \$150,000 to quantify best forest management practices. DNR, DEQ and MDARD and Forest Industry will be on a committee to create a request for a proposal.

August 12 meeting will align with Governor's schedule.

### **2014 Farm Bill**

Contains a rebirth of the biomass assistance program. Trying to identify biomass fuels that will be harvested by the end of September. Biomass power association will be hosting a webinar on the program and how to apply. Target is federal land.

Notes taken by Donna Stine