



Sustainable Forestry Council

580 Taylor Avenue – E-1 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 • 410-260-8531

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY COUNCIL

May 20, 2014

Minutes- Approved

Eric Sprague, Chair
Alliance for the
Chesapeake Bay
Annapolis, MD 21403

Donald Outen
Natural Resource
Manager
Baltimore County
DEPRM
Towson, Maryland 21204

Gary Allen
Center for Chesapeake
Communities
Annapolis, MD 21401

Kirk Rodgers
Private landowner
Woolford, MD 21677

Kim Finch
MNCPPC,
Prince George's Co.
Planning Dept.
Upper Marlboro, MD
20772

Kenneth Roberts
NewPage Corporation
Westernport, MD 21562

Attendees:

Eric Sprague
Don Outen
Gary Allen
Kirk Rodgers
Kim Finch

DNR:

Don VanHassent
Steve Koehn
Joe Gill

Called to order at 10:06 AM.

Secretary Gill opened the meeting and talked about plans to fill the State Forester position upon Steve Koehn's retirement. He asked the members for their thoughts on challenges we (forestry) will be facing and what skills the new State Forester should have.

Steve Koehn briefed the council on his new role as Director of Cooperative Forestry for the US Forest Service in the Washington Office. He also gave his thoughts on the future:

1. Be more proactive – advocate to the Secretary.
2. Urban and Community Forestry is an ambassador program. UCF reaches far more people than any other program.
3. Wood energy could save part of the forest industry.
4. Insect and disease problems are numerous and we are not in a good spot.

Steve also briefed the council on a development in a bill late in the legislative session that could have a major impact on the Forest Service budget. The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) has a section that will dramatically alter special fund availability for the Forest Service Budget especially in FY17 and beyond.

Steve also mentioned the "Governor's Roundtable on Urban Forestry" that was held April 4th. This generated a report that delineates what the Governor can commit to have Maryland do for urban forestry in the future. The draft is in the Secretaries office.

Council membership was discussed. There are two vacancies (Hoge and Purnell). Leslie Weldon has declined to forward her application. Bryan Seipp has submitted his application which has

been forwarded to the Governor's office for consideration. Chairman Sprague asked members for ideas for a member that could fill the "urban forestry" slot previously filled by Greg Purnell.

The council discussed pathways to increase forest management on other DNR forest lands. Gary moved that we write a letter to the Secretary regarding adding all "forest" to state forest management duties, to facilitate Maryland Forest Service assisting management for State Parks, Wildlife Management Areas, and other state forested lands. Kim seconded and the council approved.

The council also discussed the importance of conservation easements to the future of forest conservation and the forest industry and the need to address the issue of private land certification. Kim offered a friendly amendment to include all three subjects in the letter to the Secretary. Gary seconded and the council approved.

Eric announced that a Woodland Incentive Fund workgroup will be formed whose purpose is to develop ways to address funding for the Woodland Incentive Fund. There will be 8 members with 4 meetings planned over the summer. A report will be due December 1, 2014.

Gary Allen handed out a draft paper regarding the development of the next generation of natural resource leaders. A brief discussion included how can we get forestry into high school curricula and what is DNR doing regarding minority recruiting?

Gary Allen announced that air quality regulations have changed and will allow smaller wood fired boilers to meet new requirements (60% efficiency).

Gary Allen mentioned the "Baltimore Wilderness" proposal that was submitted in January. This proposal was part of a 12 state effort to improve "green resiliency". One hundred million dollars was to be available over the 12 states with ten million for Maryland. This \$800,000 request is to be acted upon in mid-June.

Don Outen handed out a paper and briefed the council on a project he is working on in Baltimore County called the Prettyboy Benefits District. This is a place-based sustainability entity using the local environment, community and economy.

The next Council meeting will be July 22 at a site to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald VanHassent