



# Sustainable Forestry Council

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## SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY COUNCIL

July 9, 2013

Minutes

### Attendees:

Eric Sprague  
Don Outen  
Gary Allen  
Al Goetzl  
Connie Hoge

### DNR:

Don VanHassent  
Steve Koehn  
Dan Rider

Called to order at 10:10 AM.

Gary Allen announced the first meeting of the Thermal Renewable Energy Credit Task Force will be August 6. Gary represents the Council on the Task Force and Dan Rider represents DNR.

Eric gave an update on the Woodland Incentive Fund. As far as we know, no guidance has been sent out on the process of reporting revenue to the Woodland Incentive Fund. Nor is it clear who has the authority to send out guidance. Can we look, at some point, at making the current 100% wooded requirement something less, perhaps proportional? For example, if a parcel is 40% ag and 60% wooded, 60% of the transfer tax would go to WIF rather than 0%. This would have to be done via legislation with a great deal of discussion beforehand.

On a somewhat related note, we need ask MALPF to attend a future meeting and update the Council on their activities involving forest land.

On July 2, Gary Allen, Don Outen and Rob Feldt, DNR Forest Service, met with the Maryland Department of Planning to discuss models and guidelines for forests as required by HB706.

Thoughts on what the guidelines would include:

- Vulnerability assessment
- Restoration opportunities
- How to meet 40%
- Forest assessment
- Data source and availability

Other comments/questions that will need to be addressed:

- The FCA manual will need to be updated at some point
- Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP) and PlanMaryland requirements will have to be included
- What is the proposed work plan/schedule?
- What have counties proposed in response to WIP regarding forests?

Potential GIS products – can Rob Feldt do these?

- Forest cover with urban zoning overlay
- Our “white paper” map overlaid with Priority Funding Area (PFA) layer
- Zoning levels on forest outside of PFA’s
- Tier 3 overlay vs. forest cover

Dan Rider presented an overview of the wood energy arena including the upcoming start of the TREC Task Force on August 6. The Task Force is to meet numerous times and develop their final report by December 31, 2013. The Council agreed to draft a position statement on why it’s good to use wood for thermal RECs, using examples, and forward to Secretary Gill for approval. Gary will do the first draft.

Don V. briefed the Council on plans to implement HB706. In addition to the meeting with MDP already mentioned, the Department is planning to develop a “Lawn to Leaf” program to encourage owners of large areas of turf to plant some to trees. This may be done in conjunction with the National Arbor Day Foundation (discussions are ongoing) and may also be used in the revised 5-103, Reforestation Law, plantings that will be able to be planted on private land as of October 1, 2013. Regulations will be drafted and published to address all changes approved in HB706. The Department will also be developing an outreach effort to explain changes to 5-219, TAXMOD, as well as FCA changes.

Sandi Patty, DNR – Power Plant Siting, provided an update on the proposed powerline construction activities across the state and their potential impact on forests. Sandy gave a presentation to the Council several years ago when two major powerline construction projects were under review. Due to a number of reasons, both of those projects have been pulled. The planning horizon under consideration now is 2017/2018. There are currently 4 upgrade projects with 4 more expected soon. These are generally replacement of poles or towers and will result in little, if any, forest loss. Sandy’s PowerPoint will be posted on the SFC website.

Connie Hoge moved the approval of the minutes from the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Don Outen seconded. With one minor edit the minutes were approved.

The next Council meeting will be September 10.

The meeting adjourned at 2:36PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald VanHassent