



# Sustainable Forestry Council

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

Friday, January 27, 2017

10am – 12:45pm

E-1 Forestry Conference Room, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401  
Conference Call-In line 1-888-450-5996

Eric Sprague  
American Forests,  
Washington, DC 20005

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  
Verso Corporation  
Westport, MD 21562

Alberto Goetzl, chair  
Dream Catcher Farm,  
LLC  
Adamstown, MD 21710

Bryan Seipp  
Center for Watershed  
Protection  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Christine Cadigan  
American Forest  
Foundation  
Washington, DC 20036

## Minutes

### Attendees:

Al Goetzl  
Eric Sprague  
Kim Finch  
Bryan Seipp  
Gary Allen  
Christine Cadigan

### DNR:

Donald VanHassent  
Anne Hairston-Strang

### Guests:

### Action items:

- MFS send hearing date on SB365 and one-page information summary
- Kim Finch send analysis of effects of SB365 proposal on mitigation requirements for recent development in Prince George's
- Gary Allen provide paper from Bay Commission and expectations for fellowships
- MFS provide copy of Woodland Incentive Workgroup report when released
- MFS pursue recognition certificates for past member, Don Outen (Director, Secretary, Governor)
- MFS request information on process to change from 9 to 11 members for the Sustainable Forestry Council
- MFS invite an application for SFC membership of Beth Hill of Dorchester Lumber to fill the position vacated at Kirk Rodgers' passing
- MFS develop SFC Retreat Agenda to involve other forestry stakeholders and generate interest in SFC membership

### Minutes:

Al Goetzl called the meeting to order at 10:10am and welcomed Kim Finch as vice-chair. Draft minutes from the December 13th meeting were reviewed; Gary Allen moved that the minutes be approved, Kim seconded it, and minutes were approved on voice vote with none opposed.

Don VanHassent gave an update on DNR and MD Forest Service activities, including legislation introduced since January 11<sup>th</sup>, the start of the Maryland General Assembly. He reviewed forest-related bills that seek to alter the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) (SB365, SB29), change fee-in-lieu payments from State lands (SB273), and modify income taxes with perpetual conservation easement (SB254). Don explained that DNR was providing information on the bills, but had not taken positions to support or oppose. Don explained that the proposed budget for Maryland Forest Service for FY18 was essentially flat, even with the full effect of the prior SB862 that limits sharing of Special Fund revenues between Forest Service and Park Service, with other Special Funds and

increased General Funds filling the gap. For personnel, approval to fill a permanent position had been recently received.

Council members discussed the bills, including the fact that SB29 would allow jurisdictions the discretion to increase thresholds or ratios for forest replacement, and SB365 would require specified increases. They noted that SB365 related to some issues raised from a 2011 SFC report on no net loss of forests, and requested a one-page summary of factual information on the bill. Discussion included effects on competition for tree planting sites, lack of information on status of unspent fee-in-lieu mitigation funds, and concerns such as property rights and affordable housing. Kim volunteered to evaluate the effect if ratios had been implemented in the Prince George's County FCA program during the last year or so. Gary brought up a paper from the Chesapeake Bay Commission that would be ready to share after the following Thursday. Members discussed the need to consider forest health, to allow flexibility in using fee-in-lieu mitigation funding, and to better link water quality mitigation and development guidelines. Anne noted that there were ongoing discussions with MD Dept. of Environment to better understand interaction of the stormwater requirements such as the guide for Accounting for Impervious Surfaces, Total Maximum Daily Loading tracking, and forest mitigation efforts. Due to past discussions, the Chesapeake Bay Program was including mitigation plantings tracked separately from voluntary efforts.

Gary Allen reported on the Woodland Incentive Fund Workgroup approved by the legislature, which met Nov. 22 and Dec. 5, 2016, and the December 2016 report. Notice of submission of the report to the legislature was not received at the time of the meeting, and members requested copies of the report when submitted. Gary noted that it did not recommend new regulation or legislation, and focused on better training and implementation of the existing provisions to assure that funding due to the Woodland Incentive Fund was paid correctly to the fund, and training with assessment office staff be pursued. He noted that the current process for tax assessment office to classify land was easier for agriculture than forest, and tax benefits were similar. The Workgroup also discussed updating status of forest conservation in the state, led by the Sustainable Forestry Council. Members agreed that the topic should be included in the planned retreat later in the year.

The status of recognition efforts for Kirk Rodgers was discussed, with consultation of family members underway. Members suggested that options under consideration, such as establishing a plaque and naming a trail, should be complementary and both could be pursued once the family indicated preferences for a location. Members requested that recognition certificates from the Director, Secretary, and Governor be pursued for Don Outen's contributions.

Suggestions for new members were discussed to fill the vacancies from Kirk Rodgers and Don Outen. Members agreed to nominate Beth Hill with Dorchester Lumber to bring perspectives from forest industry on the Eastern Shore, information previously frequently shared by Kirk. Additional names to represent urban and local jurisdiction perspectives were considered, and more information on the potential nominees was requested.

The SFC discussed planning for a retreat following the end of the General Assembly. They suggested timing be after the first week in May, be two days near beginning or end of the week, and the location be at Woodmont, where a previous retreat was held. The suggested topic was state of sustainable forestry in Maryland, including status of forest conservation, sources of fund sources for tree planting, legislation session outcomes, strategy for tracking and reporting progress for the 2013 Forest Preservation Act, and recommendations on needs and funding.

Gary shared information on fellowships being offered for the Natural Resources Career Camp and Urban and Community Forestry at Allegany College, and planning for a summit on Urban and Community Forestry. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anne Hairston-Strang  
MD DNR Forest Service