



# Sustainable Forestry Council

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## SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY COUNCIL

June 21, 2011

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

Gary Allen  
Eric Sprague  
Don Outen  
Connie Hoge  
Kim Finch  
Ken Roberts  
Kirk Rodgers

#### DNR:

Don VanHassent  
Rob Feldt

Chairman Allen welcomed everyone and mentioned several objectives for the meeting – 1) reach consensus on definition of no-net-loss by the end of the meeting and 2) develop a list of stakeholders to reach out to with outreach efforts to begin in approximately 60 days.

Rob Feldt, DNR-FS, gave a presentation on forest cover data. A copy of the presentation will be posted in the PowerPoints section of the Sustainable Forestry Council website. The Council has discussed the possibility of using forest patch size in the definition of no-net-loss and/or in future recommendations. This presentation focuses on the percentage of forest cover in various forest patch sizes (i.e. – 73% of forest cover is in patch sizes greater than 200 acres). The Council also discussed the need for threshold levels of housing units per square mile to delineate urban, ex-urban and rural areas.

The Council discussed the type of imagery to be used to determine baseline and future levels of forest cover. Although not yet an official recommendation, the consensus is that NAIP imagery is the most reliable and useful. However, this will require the budgeting of funds to acquire and analyze the imagery on a consistent, periodic basis.

The following is a list of potential stakeholders to be contacted regarding the Council's efforts:

- Maryland Association of Counties
- Maryland Municipal League
- Partnership for Sustainable Forestry
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- League of Conservation Voters

Maryland Department of the Environment  
Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Maryland Department of Planning  
Farm Bureau  
American Farmland Trust  
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy  
Center for Agro-Ecology  
Blue Water Baltimore  
Society of American Foresters  
Anacostia Watershed Society  
Potomac Watershed Partnership  
Home Builders Association  
Realtors  
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay  
Maryland Association of Nurserymen

Our major goal could be to stabilize forest loss by 2020. We will need to begin to “bend the curve” of forest loss and begin implementation of recommendations as soon as possible, and ultimately return to 2007 levels of forest cover. Returning to 2007 levels could mean we would need to add 100K acres of forest to recover what was lost during the bending the curve time period.

Potential items to “Bend The Curve”

- \*mitigation
- \*alter Forest Conservation Act
- \*residential large lot tree planting
- \*zoning/forest component
- \*taxation
- \*ecosystem markets
- \*biomass markets
- \*forest industry assistance

The Council had a brief discussion on the need for an analysis of turf areas (excess lawn) and the possibility of conversion to trees. Don Outen will provide a data and process write-up on Baltimore County’s efforts in this regard. Incentives such as property tax credits and income tax credits may be needed to help encourage landowners to participate. Virginia may be trying to a similar thing.

The next meetings will be held August 2 and September 13 at locations to be determined.

Adjourn – noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald VanHassent