



Sustainable Forestry Council

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

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Conference Call 1-888-450-5996

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Kim Finch
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Alberto Goetzl, chair
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Christine Cadigan
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Foundation
Washington, DC 20036

Elizabeth Hill
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Minutes

Attendees:

Al Goetzl
Eric Sprague
Ken Roberts
Bryan Seipp
Gary Allen
Kim Finch

DNR:

Anne Hairston-Strang
Kenneth Jolly
Dan Rider
Rob Feldt

Guests:

Donnelle Keech, The Nature Conservancy
Suzanne Dorsey, Harry R. Hughes Center for AgroEcology, Inc.

Action items:

- Advertise opportunity to donate to Kirk Rodgers Memorial for Tree Farm (Ken Jolly)
- Distribute AgroEcology RFP to partners and develop workshop proposal (all)
- Update no-net-loss tracking paper (Rob Feldt)
- Send December meeting poll (Anne Hairston-Strang)

Minutes:

Al Goetzl, Chair, opened the SFC meeting at 1pm, with a review of the agenda and minutes from the May retreat. Gary Allen moved that the minutes be accepted with proposed revisions, Eric Sprague seconded, and minutes were approved unanimously. Anne Hairston-Strang provided a DNR update, noting that budgets remained level, with reductions in General Funds augmented by Special Funds through Program Open Space, 2 technician position retirements were in the process of being re-filled, and that the USFS competitive grant proposals were due by 10/13. SFC members raised concerns about the sustainability of the Program Open Space funding, generated through real estate transfer taxes, which can be volatile, and the need to address increasing workload from an increasing number of landowners.

SFC members reviewed a white paper prepared by Rob Feldt in the Forest Planning section, and discussed the assessment methods available to track tree cover to meet the 40% goal codified in the Forest Preservation Act of 2013. Al Goetzl said that having a consistent metric to track progress towards the goal was a critical feature. Gary Allen expressed a preference for the state providing the land cover data used in tracking rather than a regional source. Eric Sprague suggested that the US Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data would be preferred to keep tracking consistent with the type of data used when setting the goal at 40%, even though other data sources had spatial information and fine-scale resolution, to avoid showing increased tree canopy only because of finer resolution rather than tangible canopy increases. Members suggested that the white

paper identify FIA as the consistent tracking source for the No-Net-Loss Forest goal, and identify the other spatial data sources as valuable for targeting and local planning, able to track tree canopy and forest cover over an acre separately, and use less technical terms in the paper. Rob Feldt suggested that the white paper could contain the technical information to reference the details, and a web page could be developed during the fall with layman terms. Kenneth Jolly noted that state personnel do not participate in data collection for FIA in Maryland, although they do in some states.

Suzanne Dorsey with the Harry R. Hughes Center for AgroEcology explained the Center's upcoming Request For Proposals that will be soliciting pre-proposals for expanded agriculture and forestry markets and economically viable forest industry in Maryland for traditional and urban wood sources. Full proposals would be invited later in the year with selection expected Feb. 2018. She also explained that the Center would be investing in a forestry literacy program with professional marketing to raise awareness of forest industry in the state and the need for forest management. SFC members discussed potential partnerships, pilot projects, and a workshop to share pilot outcomes and develop leadership. Dan Rider brought up possibilities for architectural wood, agroforestry, and thermowood.

Members discussed the Kirk Rodgers Memorial. Bryan Seipp reported on communication with the Maryland/Delaware Society of American Foresters executive committee, and the inclusion of a voluntary donation with registration at the next SAF meeting and a matching offer from SAF for up to \$100. Ken Jolly offered to pass the request to the Tree Farm network and Forestry Boards.

Anne asked for any additional member suggestions, noting the State Forester's interest in an urban forestry perspective. Eric Sprague announced that he would be stepping down after serving on the Council as a charter member.

Gary Allen updated the SFC on his continued efforts to pursue the identified paths to correct the deficiencies in funding mechanisms for the Woodland Incentive Program, and an upcoming meeting with the DNR Director of Legislation on whether training with State Department of Assessments and Taxation would be forthcoming or whether a legislative remedy was appropriate. He noted that they had been trying to work with SDAT on the issue over three administrations.

The next meeting was discussed for early December, with Anne to send a poll for a workable date. Al Goetzl adjourned the meeting at 2:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Hairston-Strang
MD DNR Forest Service