



# Sustainable Forestry Council

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

Monday, January 22, 2018

11:30am – 12:30 pm

Tawes State Office Building,

580 Taylor Ave., E-1, Annapolis, MD 21401

Conference Call 1-888-450-5996

Gary Allen  
Center for Chesapeake  
Communities  
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Kenneth Roberts  
Verso Corporation  
Westernport, MD 21562

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

Bryan Seipp  
Center for Watershed  
Protection  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Elizabeth Hill  
Dorchester Forestry Bd.  
Linkwood, MD 21835

## Minutes

### Attendees:

Al Goetzl  
Elizabeth Hill  
Ken Roberts  
Bryan Seipp  
Gary Allen  
Ken Roberts

### DNR:

Anne Hairston-Strang  
Don VanHassent  
Dan Rider  
Rob Feldt  
Jack Perdue

### Guests:

Donnelle Keech, The Nature Conservancy

### Action items:

- Add donation link for Kirk Rodgers Memorial in letters to Forest Landowner Association and American Forest Foundation (Jack Perdue) (done)
- Notify SFC of budget hearing dates: March 2 for Senate and March 7 for House (Don VanHassent to follow with more details and budget bill link)
- Follow up on memorial project steps with Mike Schofield and potential trails (Anne Hairston-Strang)
- Submit no-net-loss tracking website draft for internal review (Don VanHassent)
- Send 2018 meeting poll (Anne Hairston-Strang)
- Coordinate tour/meeting with Rural MD Council (Dan Rider and Anne)

### Minutes:

Al Goetzl, Chair, opened the meeting at 11:30am via conference call. The draft minutes were reviewed and corrections made. Gary Allen moved to adopt the minutes as revised, Beth Hill seconded the motion, and minutes were approved unanimously.

Don VanHassent, State Forester, presented the DNR Update and Legislation Review. As of Jan. 22, no forestry legislation had been submitted. The submitted budget for MD Forest was essentially flat (\$11.6 million), relying primarily on Special Funds, with about 1 million in General Funds and less than 1 million in Reimbursable Funds. The Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund and Program Open Space were fully funded in the budget. SFC members requested hearing dates on the budget, and Don replied that he would convey budget hearing dates as soon as they were set. In response to a question about a copy of the budget, Don identified the download source on the Gen. Assembly/Dept. of Legislative Services web site, HB160.

Don reviewed a recent meeting with Del. Dana Stein on the Woodland Incentive Fund. The outcome was that they are following up with a ruling from the Attorney General's office, since some very forested counties had not generated any tax payments as would be expected with development. Del. Stein plans to submit a letter asking for clarification from AG office on "entirely wooded", expected within a few months, flag for later follow up. If the ruling does not result in normal forested land with roads for forest management and the intended funding from transfer taxes, a possible legislative remedy will be considered for next session.

Rob Feldt reported that a revised web page on tracking no net loss of forest cover goal of 40% as codified in the Forest Preservation Act of 2013 was generated and is under internal review. SFC members suggested that distribution of the website, once internally approved, be conveyed to legislative oversight committees in the House and Senate.

The SFC discussed options for improving forest products markets as a fundamental need for sustainable forestry in Maryland (medium term priority from the 2017 retreat). Dan Rider described a forestry mill tour for county officials and legislators on the Mid-Shore during 2017 and its effectiveness of raising awareness and understanding about forest products markets. Working with Rural Maryland Council, he is planning another tour on the Lower Eastern Shore in 2018. SFC members suggested combining a meeting on forest market issues with the tour and trying to plan a combined meeting with Rural Maryland Council to better coordinate agricultural and forestry issues. It could be after the tour or on a second day. The Harry R. Hughes Center for AgroEcology was suggested as another point of coordination, given their interest in expanding viable forest markets. A tour in Western Maryland could be later in the year. For future meeting planning in 2018, Anne said she would send a poll, once tour date options are available, targeting late April or early May, September and December. Dan agreed to follow up with RMC and coordinate with Agroforestry, with assistance from other staff.

Members discussed efforts to recognize Kirk Rodgers contribution. Al Goetzl described the two letters he had drafted to the Forest Landowners Association and American Forest Foundation. Jack Perdue asked about specific content or format for changes to the links that are accepting donations on the MD/DE Division website, previously only on a registration form. Anne discussed the revised idea for a memorial location, sharing that Mike Schofield had identified an opportunity as part of an historic Church Creek Fire Tower Display option, and a volunteer committee on forest history was willing to work on content that would tie in Kirk Rodgers contributions and his family's legacy to forestry in the state.

Al Goetzl adjourned the meeting at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anne Hairston-Strang  
MD DNR Forest Service