



Sustainable Forestry Council

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

**Tuesday, Sep. 22, 2020
1 pm-3 pm
Conference Call- Google Meet**

Gary Allen
Center for Chesapeake
Communities
Annapolis, MD 21401

Kim Finch, co-chair
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

Elizabeth Hill
Dorchester Forestry Bd.
Linkwood, MD 21835

Donnelle Keech
The Nature Conservancy
Cumberland, MD 21502

Bill Rees
Catonsville Tree Canopy
Committee
Catonsville, MD 21228

SFC members:

Al Goetzl
Kim Finch
Gary Allen
Donnelle Keech
Beth Hill
Bill Rees
Bryan Seipp

DNR Staff:

Anne Hairston-Strang
Dan Rider
Marian Honecny
Tom Bradshaw

Guests:

Phil Gottwals, ACDS, LLC
Anna Jensen, ACDS, LLC
Joe Hinson, ACDS, LLC
Jimmy Shue, ACDS, LLC
Jason Dubow, MD Dept. of Planning

Action Items:

Anne identify follow-up opportunity on voluntary forest carbon market issues
Anne follow up on member nominations
Jason Dubow and MDP staff develop specific request to DNR Secretary for SFC to take on issues prioritized by the Sustainable Forestry Workgroup, Rural Economies Workgroup, Sustainable Growth Commission

Al Goetzl, Chair, opened the Sustainable Forestry Council (SFC) meeting at 1 pm. Gary Allen moved that the May minutes be approved with font corrections. Bill Rees seconded, and minutes were approved unanimously.

Anne Hairston-Strang gave a DNR update from Acting State Forester Kenneth Jolly, noting level funding for MD Forest Service in the FY22 budget, continuing vacancies in eight regular positions (almost 10% of staff), and the expected release of the draft MD Forest Action Plan for public comment in October. She explained that MD Forest Service will be starting forest harvest site reviews statewide starting October 1 to make sure appropriate technical assistance is available for loggers and regulators, and holding a virtual meeting on 9/29 with counties that have sediment and erosion control authority delegated from MD Dept. of Environment; Soil Conservation Districts have been previously consulted and have modified application forms to allow MD Forest Service to access sites for field review. A competitive grant for a Delmarva Woodland Stewards program was submitted to USDA Forest Service to increase interaction between forestry and wildlife habitat on the Eastern Shore. She noted that it has been a busy year for assisting with out-of-state wildfire suppression, with equipment, crew, and some 10-person modules had deployed to Texas, Colorado, and California.

Phil Gottwals, Anna Jensen, Joe Hinson, and Jimmy Shue of ACDS, LLC gave an overview of their work on the Maryland Economic Adjustment Strategy. The project goal is to identify opportunities and barriers for forest products sector in Maryland. They presented information on the growing volume of larger-diameter timber and growth greatly exceeding removals, especially high in comparison to neighboring states, although all Mid-Atlantic states were growing more wood than was harvested. Key recommendations were for increasing awareness of the forest industry including web presence and social media, more supportive policy environment, better connectivity between primary harvesters and secondary manufacturers to use MD wood, and workforce development. Market opportunities were reviewed for domestic, export, and new product development. The opportunities with a public private partnership for outreach and advocacy was highlighted, and the need for greater supply chain connectivity and visibility, and ability to link consumers to unique products. New advanced technology businesses such as Blueprint Robotics were presented. Discussion included social media connections and the importance of framing messages around forests, sustainability, and clean energy.

Members also asked about the voluntary carbon markets, and Anne summarized ongoing work by American Forests and DNR for estimating carbon effects of common forest management practices in Maryland, an effort funded by the US Climate Alliance and in partnership with Pennsylvania, and noted the Family Forest Carbon Initiative underway by American Forest Foundation with funding from Amazon. Members requested follow-up at a future meeting. Greater interaction with the economic development community was discussed. Tom Bradshaw commented on the potential for increased workforce development for job skills and investment in skilled trades education at Career and Technology Centers. There is a linkedin page for the economic adjustment strategy - <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/maryland-forestry-economic-adjustment-strategy/?viewAsMember=true>

Gary Allen led a discussion on the biomass energy issue, including potential demonstration projects and partnerships in eastern and western Maryland. Partnership with Maryland Energy Administration was identified as a key factor. Members discussed follow up with key stakeholders in the environmental and technical assistance to business communities, highlighting the complementary nature of on-demand biomass energy to other variable-supply renewable energy such as wind and solar. The federal Wood Innovation Grant proposal opportunity was discussed, due January 15th.

Anne provided an update on the Kirk Rodgers memorial, which is scheduled for design completion in April 2021 and construction expected to be completed by the fall of 2021; Matt Hurd, Eastern Regional Forester, is coordinating the memorial display for Kirk Rodgers with Francis Zumbrun and the Rodgers family, using the donated funds still held by MD/DE SAF.

Jason Dubow reviewed the priority issues generated by the Sustainable Forestry Workgroup of the Rural Economies Subcommittee, MD Sustainable Growth Commission, and solicited general level of interest. He explained that MD Dept. of Planning can help staff priority actions following the sunset of the Growth Commission authorization. A potential motion to adopt priorities was tabled until receipt of a specific request crafted by MDP.

Anne requested nominations for the vacant SFC positions and received suggestions for follow-up.

ACDS will present refined recommendations at the next meeting Nov. 10, and a fuller discussion of the MDP proposal will be discussed.

Bryan Seipp moved to adjourn the meeting, Bill Rees seconded, and Al Goetzl adjourned the meeting at 3:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hairston-Strang
Forest Service