

## Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) Meeting Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2018

### **FMAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Rich Kobe, Michigan State University  
Mr. Bill Botti, Michigan Forest Association  
Dr. Andrew Storer, Michigan Technological University (MTU)  
Dr. Ellen Holste, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute  
Mr. Ben Schram, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)  
Ms. Amy Trotter, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)  
Mr. Warren Suchovsky, Suchovsky Logging  
Ms. Debbie Begalle, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)  
Ms. Kimberley Korbecki, Assistant (MDNR)  
Mr. Gary Melow, Chair, Michigan Biomass

### **FMAC ADVISORS PRESENT**

Ms. Leslie Auriemmo, United States Forest Service Huron-Manistee

### **PUBLIC PRESENT**

Dr. Mark Rudnicki, MTU  
Ms. Kerry Wieber, MDNR  
Mr. Scott Jones, MDNR  
Ms. Jen Davis, Michigan Citizen  
Mr. Ian FitzGerald, MUCC Intern

#### I. **Welcome**

**Chair Melow** called the October 10, 2018 Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

#### II. **Consent Agenda**

- **Adoption of October 10 FMAC meeting agenda**  
Suggestion was made to eliminate the item entitled “Woody Biomass Guidelines Update”, and to place it on a future agenda.  
Agenda was approved and adopted unanimously, as amended.
- **Adoption of July 11, 2018 FMAC meeting minutes**  
No changes; July 11 FMAC meeting minutes was adopted unanimously.
- **Adoption of 2019 FMAC Meeting Schedule**  
**MOTION:** Mr. Manson moved to adopt the 2019 FMAC meeting schedule as presented; supported by Dr. Holste. The 2019 FMAC meeting schedule passed unanimously.

#### III. **Public Comment**

None

#### IV. **LAND CAP BILL** (Kerry Wieber, MDNR)

**Ms. Wieber** reported on the following pieces of legislation; Senate bills [302](#) and [303](#), and Public acts [238](#), [239](#) and [240](#) of 2018.

- a. PA 238 addresses several items under the Forest Resources Division. Ms. Wieber provided the following highlights:
  - Requirement for the DNR to consider requests to remove berm gates or barriers if requested by a public body; requires the legislature to appropriate funds for this.
  - Appraisal must occur within a 180-day timeline.
  - The DNR must consider land (just state forest land) as surplus and decide on one request before acting on another. It must consider selling the land if it will be not considered surplus.
  - PA 238 is specific to forest management due to yearly harvest objectives. Ms. Begalle referenced both the State Forest and Regional State Forest Plans; it legislates us to put at least 90% of our goal up for timber sales each year.
- b. PA239 – the land exchange and management fund. Now also can use funds to cover costs for recreation activities and recreation development.
- c. PA240 – approves land strategy of 2013; the DNR is not permitted to make changes without legislative approval and must complete its update by July 1 of 2021. Taxes not paid cannot purchase land. Indicates that land owned by state and federal government gives the local unit power to veto the purchase by the DNR if more than 40 percent.

V. **Forest Action Plan Update** (Scott Jones, MDNR)

**Mr. Jones** gave a presentation regarding the FRD's Forest Action Plan. He reported that FRD is just getting started on the process of updating the [Forest Action Plan](#). The update addresses all forests in the state regardless of ownership. It's an Important piece of the sustainability puzzle and is required by the Federal Farm Bill.

- a. It's a living document with a review completed in 2015.
- b. It was plagued with too many high priority areas and not enough focus. Rather than amend it mid-term, the FRD tweaked it and lived with it until a new plan could be made.
- c. The new plan will have two parts with a very detailed landscape assessment.

VI. **State Forester Report**

- **Legislative Update** – updates of [June 14, 2018](#) and [July 12, 2018](#) were included as information in the FMAC meeting packets.
- **Michigan Registered Forester Board** – board members have been selected. Some will serve 2-year terms and some 4-year terms. Licensing and Regulatory Affairs originally handled registered foresters but then felt it didn't fit well into their programs, so it was reassigned to the MDNR. The board needs to meet at least once per year. Brenda Haskill, MDNR out of Gaylord, will take the lead on the board. A public announcement will be made soon.
- **Landcap Bill** – the MDNR will also be revising the Regional State Forest Management Plans, using a different model and looking for different data. It will be preparing at least 550 acres. The MDNR only has control over that it prepares and what it offers. Staff are directed to do what is silviculturally sustainable.
- **Education Campaign** – started last fall. This spring the MDNR focused on 8-5. It also conducted another survey, which moved the needle, i.e. sixty percent said public land is very important to them which is an eight percent increase. GUD Marketing conducted another survey over the summer and Ms. Begalle will have Kathleen Lavey, Communications Specialist, return to the FMAC to give a presentation.
- **Timber Advisory Council (TAC) Update** – the TAC will be holding a face-to-face meeting in November. They intend to get their goals nailed down for the next five years. The Chair

presented Governor Snyder with a token of appreciation for his support of the forest industry. They will also be:

- a. Looking into the information Marketing is collecting;
- b. Project Learning Tree – looking into what datasets are available.

**Dr. Kobe** reported the North American Forest Partnership met in Atlanta a month ago and settled on three things: reimagining our cities; forest timber – rethinking our carbon future; and connecting people to forests, i.e. #forestproud.

#### VII. **Action Items Follow-up**

None

#### VIII. **New Standing Items**

**Mr. Suchovsky** expressed his desire to be continually updated on the work to reduce harvest areas and asked to add to “Standing Discussion Items” the topic “Timber Harvest Numbers”.

#### IX. **Standing Discussion Items**

- **Trails** – Rain is causing havoc on the trails. The MDNR is trying to fix sites where there was a major event and is trying to get the trails back in shape before snowmobile season begins.
- **Communications from the Field** – none
- **FMAC Member Program Updates**
  - a. **Gary Melow** (Michigan Biomass) – gave an update on the Public Service Commission rate case. There is a significant rate decrease. Plants continue to have bilateral contracts and it takes legal action to appeal to the federal government. The new energy statute requires this be reviewed every two years; Consumers Energy wants the review to be now.
  - b. **Ellen Holste** (Pierce Cedar Creek Institute) – is planning an *Intersection of Environment of Citizens* meeting. They are looking for ideas for topics and speakers, as well as organizations such as the Sierra Club.
  - c. **Amy Trotter** (MUCC)
    - Discussed the current lease for the facility MUCC is housed in. They are down to 12 staff persons but wanted to retain the conference room in the facility. The MUCC will remain in the current facility for at least the next seven years.
    - Are in the process of hiring a Youth Camp Director and an AmeriCorps person (Engagement Specialist). These positions will be helping all programs. They are reaching out to local biologists.
    - MUCC is physically helping with on-the-ground projects.
  - d. **Leslie Auriemmo** (USFS Huron-Manistee) – are continuing the resume resolution. They are expecting the timber target to go up more than expected with will create more pressure to produce. The USFS is glad for the Good Neighbor Authority.
  - e. **Rich Kobe** (MSU)
    - MSU is interested in putting in a mass timber building. The university is waiting for bids to come in. This is a \$100 million project and the successful bidder should be known by the end of the month. It will be a sustainable building offering carbon storage, etc.

- The forestry department is going well. Since 2012, there has been an 85% increase in undergrads with 26 doctoral students and 11 new hires. There is also a high student diversity. In 2018 there are more incoming female students and 18% of undergrads are of persons of color. The doctoral program consists of more than 35% of the students. MSU is national leading for diversity.
- f. **Andrew Storer** (MTU)
  - Is working on the transition of leadership since Dr. Sharik retired. Dr. Storer came into MTU as Dean. Enrollment numbers are up a few percent. Dr. Storer discussed perception and the importance of continuing to convey to students that there are careers available in forestry.
  - Has been charged with increasing the number of undergrads, grad enrollment and expenditures. At the university there is fifteen academic deans, four of which are new. MTU also has a new university President (Richard Koubek).
- g. **Warren Suchovsky** (Suchovsky Logging) – there is a logger convention scheduled soon. Mr. Suchovsky will send further details at the end of the month.
- h. **Bill Botti** (Michigan Timbermen Association) – MTA is harvesting the state Christmas tree in Alpena.

X. **Next Meeting Date**

January 2, 2019  
 1:00 pm  
 Michigan United Conservation Club  
 2101 Wood Street, Lansing

XI. **Future Agenda Items**

Woody Biomass Guidelines Update (future)  
 Right to Forest – Jan 2 (Ben Schram)  
 Reforestation Program  
 GUD survey results  
 Forest Action Plan update

XII. **Adjournment**

**MOTION: Mr. Manson** moved to adjourn the October 10 FMAC meeting; supported by Mr. Schramm. **Chair Melow** adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.