

TAC Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2019

Present: JR Richardson, Larry Leefers, Nick Monkevich, Donna LaCourt, Jeff Stampfly, Gary Melow, Ben Schram., Jerry Grossman, Charlie Beck, Mike McCuistion, Rich Bowman, Rich Kobe, Scott Robbins, Bill O'Neill

The Timber Advisory Council (TAC or council) recognized Bill O'Neill, Natural Resources Deputy, who recently retired from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the DNR's support for the TAC for many years.

The TAC discussed the Governor's visit at the Upper Peninsula fairground and agreed that the TAC presentation to her went well.

JR will follow-up with the DNR Director on appointments to the council. The TAC makes recommendations to more than the DNR; is a separate entity than DNR; and has been functioning well.

Follow-up with legislature – The council would like to present to the House (Howell) and/or Senate Natural Resources (McBroom) committees using the same PowerPoint presentation as given to the Governor. The TAC chair and Ms. Begalle (DNR) would be recommended to give the presentation. JR would follow up with Governor as well after the fair presentation.

MSU STEM Building Presentation-Rich Kobe

New building is being added to the old Shaw Lane power plant near the stadium. A combination of glulam, CLT, concrete (because of the labs), and steel. This is the first in Michigan and in the region. Granger is the contractor. Nordic from Quebec is supplying the wood materials. 1.3 M bd ft. FSC certified wood-mostly black spruce. 1856 metric tons of CO2 storage.... equivalent to 394 cars driven for one year. No need to fireproof with CLT. Comes within 1 mm and fits together well. MSU is trying to hire an extension person. The DNR has provided some funds. Looking for additional funds from others.

Overview of some MSU forestry programs:

- Minor in Sustainable Bioproducts
- Leadership and Business skills
- Forest Biomass Innovation Center
- Carbon
- Mass Timber

Suggestion for the TAC to meet with the governor and/or legislatures, MSU (Rich Kobe), possibly the carpenters' union, for a box lunch presentation.

Mass Timber Manufacturing Attraction (Donna)

1) Attract mass timber manufacturer and 2) work with partners/stakeholders to create a strategy on how to build a market for CLT.

How to work together and coordinate efforts by various groups: Michigan Forest Biomaterials Institute (MIFBI); Timber Advisory Council (TAC); Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD); and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and possibly others. Develop a strategy.

Dr. LaCourt provided a draft handout entitled "Pure Opportunity: Mass Timber in Michigan".

Dr. LaCourt would like feedback before the end of August on the handout. It's meant to attract a manufacturer. Dr. LaCourt, et al, will be reaching out to present to manufacturers and others, to have a conversation on what they are looking forward to, what we have to offer, etc.

Dr. LaCourt is looking at a team to pursue marketing. Mr. Bowman is volunteering; Mr. Robbins, and Dr. LaCourt will contact Mr. Biewer to see if he's interested. MIFBI and others would be involved as well.

Dr. Leefers gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Examples of next steps (for a policy sub-committee):

- Compilation of policies, programs and actions for companies expanding or location in Michigan;
- Create a Mechanized Logging Operations program to train people for unfilled industry positions in the field at one or more community colleges;
- Fund a study of building codes and can be changed to encourage increased use of wood products;
- Work with US Representatives and Senators to increase national forests timber sales; and
- ID new opportunities for forest residuals and mill wastes.

Recommend five or so policy thrusts for the Governor in mid to late 2019.

- Appoint ad hoc forest policy committee (Gary Melow, Rich Bowman, Scott Robbins, Deb Begalle and Donna LaCourt), to identify issues or items to pursue; review information (previous papers), and get updated, especially with the United States Forest Service.
- OR convene a roundtable (although not at this time).

Scott Robbins – Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) has been asking what the state of Michigan's plan is for best management practices (BMP) monitoring. It has no plans as of now.

Jerry Grossman – The Registered Board of Foresters' meeting day is before the fall Society of American Foresters' (SAF) meeting. The MDNR should be investing some money in infrastructure. Ms. Begalle commented that there is \$4.15 million in the impending FY20 budget for infrastructure. As a note, there's been capital outlay money since FY16, and projects are being completed on buildings, bridges and roads. The funds for capital outlay have been from the forest development fund derived from timber sale revenues.

Gary Melow - Biomass. Hillman signed a contract for 3 years, with 25% reduction in fuel use. Starting September 1, they will no longer receive fuel deliveries. They will also be laying off staff and will operate as a "Peaker." There is a lot of concern by various people, businesses, etc. Mr. Melow is having conversations with staff on this.

Two Viking facilities signed contracts; Others, Cadillac, Grayling and Genesee, have contracts in place for several years yet.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Next face-to-face meeting:

Changed the date to **December 6, 2019** at Gaylord.

- a. Will invite USFS staff to the next meeting. Will discuss Good Neighbor Authority status as well as timber availability hurdles.
- b. Will also invite UPWHW to discuss lowland management.