



WISCONSIN PRIVATE FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WPFAC)**Date:** October 18, 2018**Location:** Marathon County – UW Extension Building, Wausau, WI**Attendance:** Diane Anderson, Rob Anderson, Heather Berklund, Nancy Bozek, Aaron Burmeister, Ann Calhoun, Ron Gropp, Andy Hart, Joe Hovel, Buddy Huffaker, Bill Klase, Kristin Lambert, Trent Marty, Dennis McDougall, Al Murray, Brandon Soldner, Fred Souba, Brock VanOss, Chuck Wagner, Jim Warren, R.J. Wickham**Absent:** Earl Gustafson, Shawn Hagan


| Time | Agenda Item Presenter <i>Type (info/discuss/recommend)</i> | Decisions <i>(include why)</i> | Assignments/Follow-Up <i>(include deadlines)</i> |
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| 9:00 - 9:20 | Welcome/Review Agenda Jim Warren <i>Informational</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim encouraged committee members to feel they can “own” this committee, bring forward agenda items, etc.; goal is not for the agenda to be DNR driven, and we need committee member engagement to accomplish that • Committee members voiced that they may need more guidance on what items they should be bringing forward and how to ensure this committee is tackling the highest priority issues that warrant the WPFAC/Fred Souba’s attention | | |
| 9:20 - 9:50 | Introductions & Updates from Committee Members Jim Warren <i>Informational</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One committee member expressed the importance (for WI’s timber economy) of encouraging landowners to harvest on a timely basis rather than harvesting when they can get the best price • On October 20, 2018, an episode of Into The Outdoors aired entitled, “Not So Sure: Protecting Forests, Enhancing Lives”. What is sustainable forestry and how are our lives enriched from proper forest management? These answers and more fill up this half-hour as we follow trees from the forest to finished products. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bring the DNR Forest Economist or one of the Forest Products Specialists to a WPFAC meeting in the future | |

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| 9:50 - 11:00 (with 10 min break) | <p>The Next Million Acres Diane Anderson & Kristin Lambert <i>Informational/Discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diane Anderson, DNR Private Forestry Outreach Specialist, gave a presentation which provided an overview of how DNR has been strategizing their work to accomplish the goal of reaching 20,000 new woodland owners for The Next Million Acres. • Diane’s presentation also covered some of the initial successes that have occurred, which have been strong partnership projects, including WoodsCamp and the radio vignettes done with WWOA. These projects had outcomes beneficial for both parties. • Diane also explained DNR’s goal for developing a landowner tracking database that has the potential for being a statewide database that partners could contribute to and extract information from. • The conversation then transitioned into a “post-it exercise” where committee members were asked to identify 1) current actions and 2) new opportunities that the organization they represent is currently doing in the areas of ACQUISITION, CULTIVATION, IMPLEMENTATION & EVALUATION/TRACKING. • A couple committee members commented about 1) existing efforts already underway and 2) how to partner with groups not represented on WPFAC. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The WPFAC report recognized the good work currently occurring and emphasized the need for a cooperative, collaborative approach. That is still the goal; to bring all of our good work together under a common goal. 2) There is definitely a desire to reach out to, partner, and strategize with as many organizations as possible, including those outside of WPFAC. • Other committee members mentioned the importance of working with landowners who resonate with “conservation” and helping them understand how sustainable forest management can help them achieve their goals (i.e. they aren’t mutually exclusive), and the difficulty connecting with landowner heirs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of the post-it exercise (raw, not interpreted):  Post-It_Exercise_Summary.xlsx | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee members are asked to further populate the spreadsheet and share with Kristin ○ Kristin will review the results of the post-it exercise and follow up with committee members on how various partnerships can be pursued in a way that can help each organization pursue new opportunities or strengthen the work they are currently doing. |

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| 11:00 - 12:00 | <p>Tax Law Program Updates R. J. Wickham <i>Informational</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tax Law Section is working to achieve a performance measure from the Division of Forestry’s 2017-2022 Strategic Direction which states, “By 2022, 97% of mandatory practices will be resolved* within 1 year of being scheduled.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tax Law Specialists have put a significant amount of time into making progress on this. – Mandatory practices have gone from 64% resolved to 90% resolved. – 5,000 overdue mandatory practices have come down to 1,500. – Resolved includes rescheduling, eliminating, establishing a contract for services, processing cutting notices, or processing cutting reports. • 7 internal adhoc teams have been established for “phase 3.1 of Tax Law’s Implementation Plan/Program Strategy”. The goal in phase 3.1 is to evaluate and analyze current processes. Phase 3.2 will be the process improvement phase. The categories are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sound forestry; Point of entry; Transactions; CPW; Staff; Compliance; and Communication/Engagement • For Sound Forestry, R. J. shared draft updates for the Tax Law Handbook, which will be posted for public comments on DNR’s program guidance webpage soon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – These changes came about indirectly from the WI Forest Practices Study recommendations. A realization that Tax Law was relying too strictly on the Silviculture Handbook. The goal is to provide landowner with more flexibility while still being within the bounds of sound forestry. – The revised handbook draft removes very specific references to the Silviculture Handbook, BMPs for water quality, etc. to avoid these things appearing to be the exclusive list for how to define sound forestry. – All 3 fundamental principles of sound forestry must be met. – Committee members had several comments, including 1) specific wording in the draft handbook language, 2) questions/concerns | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee members should provide comments through the 21-day program guidance process |

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| | about what this will mean for administrative time, 3) how to get everyone on the same page about words like “maintain” so that landowners aren’t stuck in the middle when confusion/disagreements arise. | | |
| 12:00 - 12:45 | Lunch | | |
| 12:45 - 1:00 | Committee Member Spotlight: Oak in the Driftless Landowner Workshop Ann Calhoun <i>Informational</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann gave a presentation highlighting the Oak in the Driftless Workshop that occurred in Baraboo on September 29, 2018. • The workshop was designed in a new way; trying to provide presentations in categories of beginner, intermediate and advanced. This was done to acknowledge the variety of participants at the workshop and where they fall with their experience level. • Landowners self-identified their experience level upon registration, but weren’t required to go to certain presentations. • The results showed that generally participants landed in the right presentations for their skill set and found the content level “just right” for them. • The workshop also highlighted the value of a walk in the woods with a forester, and various opportunities for signing up for a walk-through were provided. • 40 landowners signed up for walk-throughs. | | |
| 1:00 - 1:30 | Cooperating Forester, Certified Plan Writer & Conservation Easement Program Updates Ron Gropp <i>Informational</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ron Gropp, DNR Private Forestry Specialist, provided a variety of DNR updates. • Conservation easements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – New easement acquisition: Lake of the Pines; 21,000 acres in Sawyer County | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ron’s presentation:  WPFAC (Oct.2018)_Gropp.pdf | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pending easement acquisition: Great Northern; 14,350 acres in Iron County – Starting to see connectivity between various easements now in the north – Proposal to open 24 miles of motorized access on the existing Chippewa Flowage easement in Sawyer County bringing the total to 32 miles of motorized access – Projects are utilizing state Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program dollars, which are going to sunset end of state fiscal year 2020 – Gearing up to submit a project to the federal forest legacy program – A committee member encouraged DNR to pursue both state and federal dollars so that we aren't relying solely on state dollars; especially with the Land & Water Conservation Fund expiring – In an effort to achieve one of the Division of Forestry's Strategic Direction Measures, Ron initiated a satisfaction survey of all easement landowners and their managing agents; overall satisfaction with the program was 87.5% (goal was 90%). – One committee member acknowledged the importance of the annual easement meetings as an important connection point, especially if lands have changed ownership. • Cooperating Forester Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Will likely be initiating updates to Cooperating Forester accomplishment reporting so that walk-throughs with landowners are differentiated between new and repeat. This way, new walk-throughs that CFs do can be counted as accomplishments toward the WPFAC goal (20,000 landowners). – Hoping in the next year to make upgrades to the Forestry Assistance Locator. • Training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – DNR implemented a new private forestry training to the class of 2017 & 2018 DNR integrated foresters – 31 new foresters total. – 30 new CPWs have been trained through two classes in 2018; CPW training curriculum under-going a review. – DNR Forestry in-services statewide focused on Private Forestry | | |

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| 1:30 - 1:45 | Ruffed Grouse Statewide Management Plan Team Mark Witecha (by phone) <i>Recommendation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark requested that WPFAC make a recommendation for a forest industry representative for the ruffed grouse statewide management plan team | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPFAC supported either Mark Huempfer (Wild Rivers Forestry, Inc.) or Forrest Gibeault (Steigerwaldt Land Services) to be part of the team. Forrest Gibeault has been asked to be on the team. | |
| 1:45 - 2:30 | DNR Forestry Leadership Update Heather Berklund <i>Informational</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heather Berklund, Deputy Division Administrator for Forestry Field Operations, provided a broad update on the Division of Forestry A couple of highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry currently at a ~7% vacancy rate; several important positions currently in the hiring process. No major recommendations resulted from the Legislative Audit of the Forestry Account. The committee requested that Heather/DNR share future vacancies with WPFAC. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heather's presentation: <div style="text-align: center;">  WPFAC_10-18_HB.pdf </div> | |
| 2:30 - 2:45 | Open Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can WPFAC help to promote WWOA's 40th anniversary in 2019? The Act 358 change removing yield/severance tax will hit townships big this year. Example – Town of Laona expecting a \$50,000 hit. Word on the street about new treatment option for HRD. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If this becomes a viable treatment option, it will still require a pesticide applicator license because it will be used as a pesticide. Partners in Forestry hosting an event on Saturday, 11/3. What is the process for WPFAC to make recommendations to Fred? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DNR can promote WWOA's 40th anniversary through gov.delivery, facebook, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPFAC members encouraged to share ideas on how to partner on WWOA's 40th and cross-promote! Jim, R.J. and staff will work together to come up with a better process for how WPFAC can make recommendations. |
| 2:45 | Wrap-up | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kristin will email WPFAC to solicit |

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| - 3:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next WPFAC meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Don't schedule it just to schedule it – Possible agenda item is to talk more on post-it exercise – Send email requesting agenda items; identify what may be action items; decide on date for next meeting accordingly – Would be nice to focus on a fewer number of agenda items at each meeting | | agenda items for the next meeting. Members are encouraged to own the next agenda and put ideas forward! |
| 3:00 | Adjourn | | |