



Jim Doyle, Governor  
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
FAX 608-267-3579  
TTY Access via relay - 711

## Forestry BMP Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

December 10, 2008  
Conference Call

---

### Update on the state budget: Darrell Zastrow

The most recent information is that there will be a \$5.4 billion deficit in the next state budget. It is expected that all state agencies will have a short timetable to come up with a new budget. Our current forestry budget has some cost increases that mostly have to do with fuel and although fuel costs have come down in recent months, the overall cost for the year is up. The governor will propose budget in February, and then the legislature will debate it. It will likely take a while to come to a final budget.

---

### Biomass Harvest Guidelines: Carmen Wagner

Several factors have led to the initiation of efforts to produce guidelines for biomass harvest in Wisconsin. Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and Florida have developed or are developing guidelines. In November 2007, the Council on Forestry requested that WI DNR staff be assigned to a technical team to work on Biomass Harvesting Guidelines (BHG). Staff members assigned were Carmen Wagner, Eunice Padley, Sarah Herrick, Darrell Zastrow and Joe Kovach. An Advisory Committee was formed to work with the Technical Team to develop BHGs.

As part of the BHGs process, a subcommittee on forest soils provided recommendations for nutrient poor soils in July 2008. This subcommittee addressed concerns about poor soils. The subcommittee was made up of experts from NRCS, Forest Service, and Plum Creek, as well as Carmen and Eunice.

On December 3 2008, the BHG committee met to review the fifth draft of the BHGs based on public comments. The Technical Team made further revisions to the BHGs based on Advisory Committee comments for the final draft. The final draft will be presented to the Council on Forestry on December 16.

At the February 4, BMP Advisory Committee meeting, it was agreed to review 5 soil and water related concerns from the BHG Advisory Committee. They include:

- 1 – Erosion Prone Sites
- 2 – RMZ Standards for Fine Woody Material (FWM)
- 3 – RMZ Category for Dry Washes
- 4 – Filter Strips
- 5 – Infrastructure Caps

## Review of 2008 BMP monitoring

There were 65 timber harvests monitored this year. They included:

- 52 NIPF timber harvests
- 10 RMZ study sites
- 3 biomass timber harvests

Identifying timber harvests was particularly labor and time intensive this year. Over 625 sales were reviewed for eligibility and nearly 250 landowners were contacted. Monitoring teams were patient and understanding with dates and lack of timely information. Many sites were dropped in early review because they did not meet criteria. A number of landowners declined participation for reasons including:

- Not yet started, no cutting
- LO not interested
- LO health
- Conflicts with bow hunting or duck hunting

In addition, there were a number of landowners that we were simply unable to contact.

The costs for monitoring were much higher this year than in years past.

Reimbursements to teams were four times higher. Reasons included the high cost of gasoline and Forest Service budget issues.

---

## Upcoming Meetings

February 4, 2009: Stevens Point

April 15, 2009: Location to be determined in North-Central Wisconsin

June 10, 2009: Location to be determined in North-Central Wisconsin