



## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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### BMP Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

June 27, 2007

Goodman Park, Marinette County, Wisconsin

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#### Committee Members Present:

Jim Olive, FISTA; Matt Dallman, The Nature Conservancy; Dean Pelkey, Packaging Corporation of America; Steve Kariainen, SFI SIC; Bob Rogers, Society of American Foresters; Tim Tollefson, Stora Enso North America; Kent Mikkelson, Thilmany Procurement Group; Theresa Heyer, USDA Forest Service; John DuPlissis, UW-Stevens Point; Jane Severt, Wisconsin County Forests Association

#### DNR Staff Present:

Darrell Zastrow, Carmen Wagner, Kristin Shy, Quinn Williams, Tim Miller

#### Additional Guests:

Karen Gardner, Huber Resources Corp.; John Scott, Marinette County Forest;

#### Presentations:

All presentations from the meeting are available on the DNR's Forestry BMP website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Usesof/bmp/advisory/>.

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#### Welcome and Introductions: John DuPlissis

John reviewed the agenda and asked for additional items. John welcomed the group and introduced new members Dean Pelkey, Kent Mikkelson, and Jane Severt. John asked everyone to introduce themselves.

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#### BMP Monitoring: Kristin Shy, Carmen Wagner

Kristin reviewed the selection of sites for BMP monitoring. The site characteristics were also reviewed. Intermittent streams and wetlands were the most common water features. Aspen was very common on both industrial and federal sales. There was also a high number of northern hardwood stands on industrial sales. The federal sales had a high number of white spruce sales due to SNEED.

Kristin also reviewed the results of 2006 BMP monitoring. Correct application improved on both federal and industrial lands. BMP effectiveness was also evaluated and over 98% of time no adverse impact was observed when BMPs were applied, correctly or incorrectly.

When BMPs were not applied where needed, 40% of the time on federal lands an adverse impact was observed. On industrial lands, 56% of the time an adverse impact was observed. There is a high confidence interval though due to the relatively low amount of instances of BMPs not applied.

Carmen discussed the conversion of BMP monitoring to an electronic based system. The decision being made by the DNR IT staff has been delayed. Carmen and Kristin will work to get the work prepared so that when the programmers are available, everything will be ready to go, and work can begin as soon as possible. Carmen will update the Committee when a decision is made by the IT staff.

Carmen explained that we will not be BMP monitoring this year. Based on the four year cycle for BMP monitoring approved at the February meeting, we expect to monitor NIPF landowners in 2008.

Carmen explained the work plan for 2007 – summarize results from regional monitoring exercise, complete analysis of 1995-2006 monitoring data focusing on BMPs and regional data, prepare BMP monitoring worksheet and analysis for conversion to e-based system, review BMP manual and develop new text (no change to BMPs themselves), and review how to capture NIPF timber sales for BMP monitoring in 2008.

Darrell encouraged the Committee to share with Carmen any ideas they have for sharing data sets of non-industrial private timber cutting. There needs to be sales other than MFL. Contacting master loggers and cooperating foresters were two suggestions. Steve suggested getting support from WWOA to advertise in their newsletters.

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**Forest Management Recommendations for Coastal Trout Streams and the Red Clay Plain:  
Kristin Shy**

Kristin reviewed the development of the products for the management of woodlands for coastal trout streams and for the management of woodlands on Lake Superior's red clay plain. Training on these topics was provided at two Logger Conferences, a FISTA training session, a Plum Creek training session and an open house at Living Forest Cooperative. Key management recommendations were also covered for both topics.

Matt questioned whether the BMPs should include some of this information. Carmen explained that when the 1995-2006 BMP analysis is completed, we will have an idea if we are seeing any patterns regionally. If such patterns are evident, for example certain BMP trends seen in the red clay plain, then we may address that as we update the BMP manual or the BMPs themselves. As the BMP manual is updated, general information (not necessarily BMPs) can be added regarding the red clay plain and protecting trout streams.

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**DNR ATV Trail Guidelines: Tim Miller, DNR**

Tim provided an explanation for how ATV trails are located and designed on state property. The ATV trails must be designated by an approved plan and the goal is to design, site and maintain trails that provide a quality experience for the user which are sustainable. The trails must be sustainable ecologically, physically, and socially/economically. Funding for the trails comes from different federal sources.

One of the criteria looked at when sighting trails is the potential effects on the resources. One example is when trails are converted from snowmobile trails that are in the wrong places. Other considerations include adverse impacts from off trail use, and following waterway and wetland regulations.

Safety for trail users is another criteria considered. Things such as speed, ability, signage, stream crossings, and alternative routes are examined. It is also important that impacts to existing recreational users are minimized. Existing recreational uses will generally have priority over new proposals. One issue is motorized versus non-motorized uses.

Another big consideration is how the trail will impact local economy. Many times there is support from local clubs and other sponsors need to be considered. It is important that local cooperators and their responsibilities are clearly identified.

Administrative issues also effect trail development such as existing staffing levels, development costs, enforcement capacity, etc. Trails must also be monitored. This includes trail tread and adjacent areas and designated use area inspections – twice a year by law. DNR does have closure authority if there are issues with safety, resource damage, un-authorized off-trail use, etc.

Tim showed pictures from Flambeau River State Forest and an ATV trail improvement project done there. He stressed the importance of keeping water off of ATV trails.

Jane asked what the state's oversight is in siting trails. Legislators want to develop something that is used across the board, not just on state land. Tim agreed with Jane in that it shouldn't be law statewide.

Bob asked how much it costs to construct an ATV trail. Between \$15,000 and \$30,000 a mile. Jane added that money for maintenance isn't enough. In Lincoln County, they run out every year. Also, as the state shies away from having trails on state land, more pressure is put on county lands.

Quinn asked what the impacts are with forest certification. Jane thinks it will be more generally about motorized vehicle use on lands not necessarily specifically ATVs.

Darrell added that Minnesota doesn't have a designated use system, whereas Wisconsin does. This means that Wisconsin designates certain trails for ATV use. For FSC, that saved us for forest certification. BMPs are designed for forest management. Trails used for forest management sometimes are then designated for use by ATVs. This is where the situation gets sticky in terms of BMPs. But, having designated use is, in Darrell's opinion, the best route.

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#### Other Forestry-Related Items: Carmen Wagner

##### NR 115 Public Hearings Scheduled:

Chapter NR 115, Wis Admin. Code, sets standards for many shoreland activities, including shoreland development and shoreland buffers. The current NR 115 does not reference Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices. This has caused confusion in the past because the current buffer standards in NR 115 differ from the RMZ standards in the Forestry BMP manual.

The proposed NR 115 would exempt forest management activities from the shoreland buffer requirements if the property owner, or an agent or contractor of the owner, implements the voluntary forestry best management practices found in "Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality".

“Forest management activities” is defined as actions taken to establish, maintain or enhance forest land including planting trees, thinning and trimming trees, and harvesting timber and other forest products.

“Forest land” is defined as any property on which trees exist, standing or fallen, alive or dead, that are primarily grown because they are valuable for forest products, watershed or wildlife protection or non-residential recreational uses. Forest land does not include property where shade or ornamental trees are grown primarily because they are valuable for landscape, aesthetic, agricultural or similar purposes.

Public hearings begin at 4:30 with Q&A session and at 5:45 the public comment period begins. The dates and locations of public hearings are:

- **July 24** – Wausau, North Central Technical College, Health and Science Building Auditorium, 1000 West Campus Drive
- **July 25** – Rhinelander, High-School Auditorium, 665 Coolidge Avenue
- **July 26** – Rice Lake, Blue Hills Masonic Center, 225 West South Street
- **July 31** – Tomah, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Community Room, 1001 Superior Avenue
- **August 2** – Green Bay, Neville Museum Theater, 210 Museum Place
- **August 7** – City of Pewaukee, Technical College
- **August 8** – Stoughton, Opera House, 381 E. Main Street

Additional information on the proposed changes to NR115 and the public hearings is available at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/news.htm>

Darrell added that if the Division of Forestry decides to make a comment that we will share that information with the Committee.

Contact: Toni Herkert at [Toni.Herkert@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Toni.Herkert@wisconsin.gov) or (608) 266-0161

#### County Forest Certification Audit:

On June 12 – 15, the County Forests were visited for their FSC and SFI certification audit. Overall the audit went well with most of the existing corrective actions being closed; however, a few new issues came up.

SCS will issue CAR 2007.1 requiring development of guidelines for the retention of coarse woody debris. Dave Wager cited an FSC standard that harvests shall "mimic natural disturbance mechanisms". As such, he and Mike Ferrucci (who issued an SFI Opportunity for Improvement on this) believe loggers are taking too much biomass off harvest sites. The development of bio-energy plants will result in even less residual as demand for "fuel rods" and any other convertible material increases. The State Forest audit in July will no doubt have a similar CAR. SCS will give DNR two years to resolve the CAR.

Another new issue (an "OFI" or recommendation rather than a CAR) will be that DNR develop guidelines for stand-level retention of den trees, snags and trees for wildlife habitat and other non-commercial purposes. Although foresters are leaving a fair number of "habitat" trees in even-age harvest areas and in selection cuts, the auditors believe DNR needs better written guidelines to assure consistency.

SCS will also make a recommendation that the BMP manual include language regarding protection of vernal pools. The auditors interviewed a couple logging operators who were not

aware of any guidelines that they should stay out of potential vernal ponds when the depressions are dry.

Contact: Paul Pingrey at [Paul.Pingrey@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Paul.Pingrey@wisconsin.gov) or (608) 267-7595

FISTA BMP Training Schedule for 2007:

The following BMP training sessions are scheduled in 2007:

- August 22 Hayward
- September 21 Tomahawk

Contact: Kristin Shy at [Kristin.Shy@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kristin.Shy@wisconsin.gov) or (608) 266-9275

BMP Manual Updates:

We had submitted an application for a Great Lakes Commission grant for funds to update the BMP field manual. Updates to the manual will include such items as options for erosion control, background information to better explain BMP issues, practices to avoid, clarification of definitions, updated permit and statutory/regulatory information, and color photos/diagrams. The BMPs themselves will not be altered.

Unfortunately, funding for the GLC grant cycle for FY2008 was not included in the federal budget. We are looking for other sources for funding. We currently have about 100 copies of the BMP manual available at our warehouse. The BMP manual is available electronically on our web-site in the meanwhile.

Contact: Kristin Shy at [Kristin.Shy@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kristin.Shy@wisconsin.gov) or (608) 266-9275

NEFSC:

On July 29 – August 3 is the North East Forest Soils Conference. The conference is a field tour running from Cloquet, MN to Thunder Bay, ON. Topics to be covered include soil disturbance guidelines, riparian zone management, biomass harvesting, natural disturbance emulation and fire management and fire break restoration. Information on the conference is available at: [www.NEFSC2007.com](http://www.NEFSC2007.com)

Contact: Dan Duckert, Forestry Specialist, Centre for Northern Forest Ecosystem Research, Thunder Bay, ON at [dan.duckert@ontario.ca](mailto:dan.duckert@ontario.ca) or (807)-343 4039

SAF Meeting:

The Fall SAF meeting is in Telemark on October 16-17, 2007 and will be focusing on hydrology and erosion issues. Speakers include Sandy Verry (USDA FS – Retired), Charlie Blinn (University of Minnesota) and Carmen Wagner (WDNR).

Contact: Jay Gallagher at [james.gallagher@wisconsin.gov](mailto:james.gallagher@wisconsin.gov) or (715) 372-8539

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**NEXT MEETINGS:**

November 14, 2007 – Wausau area

February 20, 2007 – Wausau area