

**Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee
April 1, 2009 Meeting Notes**

Natural Resources Building, Room 175B

Attendees:

Dennis Dart, Farm Forestry Association (chair)
Maurice Williamson, Farm Forestry Association (member)
Phil Hess, Farm Forestry Association (member)
Sherry Fox, Farm Forestry Association
Mickey Woolley, Small Landowner
Marc Engel, Department of Natural Resources
Adrian Miller, Washington Forest Protection Association
Mark Hicks, Department of Ecology (member)
Ken Miller, Farm Forestry Association (member)
Jeff Galleher, Department of Natural Resources, Small Forest Landowner Office
David Whipple, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Glenn Kohler, Department of Natural Resources
Dan Pomerenk, Department of Natural Resources, Small Forest Landowner Office
Laura Eaton, Department of Natural Resources, Forest Practices

9:10 Budget Outlook

Dan Pomerenk stated that according to the senate budget bill, DNR will lose 15 full time equivalent employees. DNR doesn't know how the reduction will impact the Small Forest Landowner Office.

9:20 Review Previous Meeting Notes and Today's Agenda

The meeting notes were approved as written. Dan Pomerenk will post them on the SFLO webpage.

Sherri Fox asked about the status of the conifer restoration document.

- Dan Pomerenk will email the track changes and clean version of the conifer restoration document to Marc Hicks and Dave Whipple. Dan will email the final version to Sherri Fox on April 15, 2009. Sherry Fox explained that if everyone can agree on a name for the conifer restoration document, it can go to policy on the April 16, 2009.

9:25 Clean Water Assurances

Mark Hicks gave a general overview of the document titled "2009 Clean Water Act Assurances Review of Washington's Forest Practices Program".

- Mark explained that Ecology was sued by Northwest Environmental Advocates. They settled the lawsuit by agreeing to measure a set number of Total Maximum Daily Load's a year and conduct an assessment in 2009 which would determine whether or not the program is working. Ecology believes that there is a lot of value in continuing with these clean water act assurances, but there currently is not enough viable data to support continuation. CMER research may be needed to verify that the forest practices rules are effective.
- Mark Hicks said that we need to do a risk assessment on the 20 acre exempt land. We need creative ideas to resolve the gaps in data. What has been done on the 20 acre exempts? Mark Hicks believes that Charlene Rodgers and Carol Walters may have enough information that it could be useful to him. He will contact them.

- David reminded everyone that Rural Technology Initiative (RTI) has done much work, but we cannot access the database to fill in the gaps. We also cannot afford to pay RTI to finish the work. DNR has to do it internally.
- Dan told the group that Deb Naslund is looking into the cost to DNR to go forward and fill in these data gaps.
- Sherry suggested that we put together a serious meeting with Luke Rogers (RTI) about how to resolve this issue. If RTI information is needed, she is willing to help facilitate getting it. Also, the final draft for RTI is on the website. It has a lot of good, useable information.
- Maurice Williamson suggested a non-regulatory approach to RMAPs to avoid resistance from landowners to allow DNR staff on their property.
- Dennis suggested that private contractors review the landowner's property and report back. (like compliance monitoring)
- Sherry Fox suggested that we get an RMAP project in the CMER budget. Mark Hicks stated that CMER has more priorities on their list than the budget allows and no new projects will be able to be introduced.
- Sherry Fox suggested that small forest landowners fill out a road maintenance survey. Mark Hicks disagreed because not everyone would report honestly. He does like the private contractor idea, but doesn't think there's enough money to support it.
- Mickey Woolley stated that most people object to having DNR staff on their land because staff may discover problems that landowners can't afford to fix. He suggested that the state give landowners more incentives. One idea was to give landowners a break on business and occupation or harvest tax.
- Sherri Fox suggested tapping into fish passage money and to do the road maintenance assessments while staff is out assessing fish passage barriers.
- Sherry Fox suggested water temperature be collected on proposed alternate plans for landowners. She has committed WFFA staff (scientists) who are willing to donate some of their time if DOE agrees and allows WFFA staff to use DOE equipment. Mark Hicks liked the idea and suggested that other measures could be taken at the same time; measuring shade etc. There was a general discussion on the challenges of data collection.
- Mark Hicks welcomes comments on the Clean Water Act Assurances Review within the next couple days.

2:10 RMAP Legislative Report

- Sherry Fox felt that the report should be shown to Policy as well as the legislature because this program was created by Forest and Fish Policy. David Whipple agreed and suggested that Policy not only read the report but receive a presentation on it.
- General discussion revolved around the small landowner caucus feeling that the better approach to collecting RMAP data would be to first exhaust the existing information that DNR may have through FPARS, existing RMAP checklists, and RTI data before asking that small landowners provide information.
- Dan Pomerenk suggested that Luke Rogers, co-author of RTI's *The 2007 Washington State Forestland Database Final Report*, be asked to give a presentation on the RTI database at a future meeting.

1:30 Eastside Forest Health documents and training

- Glenn Kohler reported that he is a few changes away from finalizing the forest health document. The document will be a "living document" and can be changed as new information comes.
- Phil Hess is fine with the report but questioned what will go in the field guide.

- Glenn Kohler explained that training will be targeted to professionals and foresters. The foresters can advise the small landowners.
- Dan Pomerenk explained that Glenn Kohler has little additional time to dedicate to this project. He asked the group if a checklist would suffice instead of a full formalized book.
- Dennis Dart had envisioned a simplified, formalized field guide as being very useful for small forest landowners.
- Glenn Kohler explained that the walk-through checklist should work as a simplified hand-out.
- Phil Hess stated he felt that the document works. The next step is to develop a checklist for DNR and landowners to use to identify alternate plan candidate stands.
- Maurice Williamson suggested that the training should include the large industrial landowners as well as small landowners.
- David Whipple reminded the group that if you were to include large industrial landowners then the checklist would need to be brought to policy and the board for review.
- Sherry Fox advised against the idea of including large and industrial landowners.
- Adrian Miller said that he is fine with industrial landowners being excluded from the training as long as the resources are available to everyone.
- Ken Miller suggested there be a workshop vs. training.
- Glenn Kohler agreed with the idea of a workshop and suggested it occur on an actual site that is threatened with forest health issues. .
- The committee agreed that this version of the Forest Health Document is final. Dan Pomerenk stated that the Forest Health document will be on DNR's SFLO alternate plan webpage.
- Dan Pomerenk requested that the advisory committee find candidate stands where riparian function is threatened by significant tree mortality that could qualify for an alternate plan based on forest health issues.

It was agreed that the training would occur in the fall.

3:35 Meeting Adjourned