

State Forest Managers Meeting

Pasadena Office

March 12, 2020

10am - 3pm



ATTENDANCE

1. Kenneth Jolly (DNR-MFS, Acting Director/State Forester)
2. George Eberling (DNR-MFS, WMD Regional Forester)
3. Matt Hurd, (DNR-MFS, EMD Regional Forester)
4. Sean Nolan (DNR-MFS - SRSF)
5. Scott Campbell (DNR-MFS - PGSF)
6. Mark Beals (DNR-MFS - GRSF)
7. Mike Schofield (DNR-MFS - CF/PSF)
8. Alex Clark (DNR-MFS - CF/PSF)
9. Jack Perdue (DNR-MFS - Forest Resource Planning)
10. Dan Rider (DNR-FS - Utilization/Forest Stewardship)
11. Marian Honeczy (DNR-FS - Urban & Community Forestry)

AGENDA

1. **Maryland Forest Service Program Updates** - Kenneth Jolly
 - MFS has access to the excise tax funding available through the purchase of ORVs. This fund provides about \$45k/month, \$540,000/yr for the development of new ORV trails. This funding can be used for ORV projects, equipment but we are not sure if it can be used for staffing. This is a new funding source for us. The Off-Road Coalition will be meeting with the DNR Secretary soon.
2. **State Forest Website Updates** - Marian Honeczy
 - If State Forest manager have issues with utility tree trimming they should come to Marian.
 - State forest trails will be also added to the DNR app. It has been missing and we are not sure why.
 - The state forests websites will be getting an update with map locations. This will be similar to other land units.
3. **Marketing Initiatives** - Dan Rider
 - MFS has received an EDA grant for \$100k plus \$50k (DNR in-kind). The purpose is to do a re-evaluation of the Maryland forest products industry.
 - Maryland must be aggressive in attracting new forest products industry, other states have.
 - FIA tells us about the state-of-the-forest and now we might use this information to attract new industry.
 - Salisbury State University uses FIA data to answer important questions of the industry, resources, markets, schools, accessible timber resources and more.
 - Local zoning offices have been an issue in new industry coming to our state. We are now working with county zoning to address regulatory issues.

- Tim Thomas (WMD) is working to establish a chip export market in Europe of 900,000 tons. The Verso mill that closed in 2019, used about 1 million tons / yr.
- Tom Johnson has a potential pellet mill in development.

4. **Forest Certification**

	<u>SFI</u>	<u>FSC</u>
• Pesticide reporting	OFI	Minor CAR
• Fuel leaks	Minor CAR	Minor CAR
• BMP checklist	OFI	OBS
• Indigenous people outreach	OFI	OBS
• Seed Mix	OFI	OBS
• Regeneration criteria	OFI	NA
• Contract coordination	OFI	NA
• Internal audit	OFI	NA

5. **Review of Certification Standards & Compliance**

6. **Streamside Management Zones** – the revised statewide standard has modified the SMZ guidelines changing the buffer width from the 50' + 4' / %slope to 50' + 2' / %slope. The buffers on state forests harvests have been following the 50+4 rule which was justified with SCS a few years ago. The idea of adopting the 50+2 rule has been discussed with SCS but no formal request has been made. It was suggested that we now ask for that review.
7. **High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) designations** were made during the early years of our forest certification program. As we have come to have a better understanding of forest certification requirements and how HCVF functions, it has been proposed that we reconsider our designations to better align with current forest management practices and goals.
8. **SFI Annual Reporting** – deadline to SFI March 31
9. **2020 Auditors** - Beth Jacquain (SCS/FSC), Michelle Matteo (NSF/SFI)
10. **State Forest Metrics & Quarterly Reports**
11. REMINDER: AWP approval procedures (no printed copy, just signature page)
12. Next SFM meeting date - Wed, September 23, 2020
13. State Forests Internal Silvicultural Audit – GR (3/31), SR (4/1), PG (4/2), ES (4/7)
14. Audit - April 21 – Eastern Shore

FOREST CERTIFICATION AUDIT PREP

Please have the following documents and/or information prepared for the evaluation, to be reviewed onsite:

- Training records (e.g., workshops, conferences, safety courses, etc.);
- Recently completed or active timber harvest planning and monitoring documentation;
- Complaints received;
- Controversial issues (stakeholder input);
- Accident records;
- Operational plan(s) for the next 12 months;
- Inventory records;
- Chemical use records (including quantitative data on the use of pesticides, any chemical use forms, target pests);
- Records of sales of FSC-certified products; this includes copies of invoices, bills, shipping documents, as well as log load/trip tickets, timber sale contracts, and relevant bill payment documents; and
- Records of logo use approvals by SCS given in any prior year.