



# Sustainable Forestry Council

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## SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY COUNCIL

November 27, 2012

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

Gary Allen  
Eric Sprague  
Don Outen  
Kim Finch  
Al Goetzl  
Kirk Rodgers  
Connie Hoge

#### DNR:

Don VanHassent  
Steve Koehn  
Olivia Campbell

Called to order at 10:13 AM.

Steve Koehn briefed the members on the budget situation for the Maryland Forest Service. FY12 closed out in the black with out-of-state fire reimbursements and several additional USFS grants contributing significantly to the bottom line. FY13 appears to be in good shape. At the Department level there are concerns about the account balances in many of our Special Funds. These funds have been drawn down over the last 4-5 years to backfill for reduced General Funds. At the current rate of drawdown some of these funds may have a negative balance by the end of FY14. To address this problem, the Department is developing contingency plans so that if cuts do come, we'll know how they will be disbursed.

Olivia Campbell gave a brief review of the process for submitting a departmental bill for consideration in the legislature. Don VanHassent briefed the Council on how the "Forestry Omnibus" bill came to be and the main content areas: establish no net loss of forest as state policy; provide assistance to county planning organizations; modify Reforestation Fund uses; modify TAXMOD uses; modify malicious or negligent fire setting language and modify Forest Conservation Act to address non-compliance remedies. Details will be available once the bill is approved and submitted to the legislature.

Kirk Rodgers moved acceptance of the previous meeting's minutes. Eric Sprague seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Steve Koehn provided an update on the LEED Green Building Council. LEED only recognizes Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood. It does not recognize Sustainable Forestry

Initiative (SFI) certified wood even though SFI is an internationally known certification system. This inequity has been pointed out to them but nothing has changed. The Maryland Green Building Council has addressed the issue by not awarding a point for use of wood, certified or not, in its' program. Maryland is working on ways to promote "Maryland grown, Maryland sawn" wood.

Secretary Griffin stopped by to announce that Chairman Gary Allen will be stepping down as Chair of the Council on January 1, 2013 and that Eric Sprague would be the new Chair. Sec. Griffin thanked Gary (and the entire Council) for all the work done so far and he looks forward to our continued efforts.

A brief discussion on if the Council would want to propose a "Governor's Proclamation" regarding wood use in state buildings. Although thought to be a good idea, it was agreed we need to first get a feel for the chances of success.

Chairman Allen gave a summary of the biomass energy meeting held at the Navy Stadium on November 14. It was very well attended, over 100 attendees. Biomass energy is receiving greater interest from the Governor's Office. Gary and Eric will draft a letter to the Secretary regarding biomass energy and send to the Council for review and comment.

Another item of discussion was water quality and the benefits trees and forests provide. Meeting WIP/TMDL requirements and receiving credit for activities requires "additionality". Mitigation planting receives no credit because the planting is replacing a "loss" – i.e. no "additionality". Planting a tree has multiple benefits – water quality, air quality, ecosystem services, etc. The Council should consider writing a white paper on why tree planting should receive credit for each of those benefits and eventually present it to STAC.

Chairman Allen informed the members of the State Growth Commission. It may be worth inviting the Chairman to a future meeting to talk about areas of common concern.

Council members should provide input to Eric on pressing issues in their areas of concern. This will help develop future meeting agendas.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50PM.

The next Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 22.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald VanHassent