

Maryland DNR Forest Service



Chesapeake Forest Certification & Audit Review

December 1, 2009

Vision Forestry LLC, Salisbury MD

Attendance

MD DNR Forest Service

Steve Koehn, Kip Powers, Mike Schofield, Rob Feldt, Kenneth Jolly, Jack Perdue, Sam Bennett, Alex Clark (DNR/Vision)

Vision Forestry

Neil Sampson, Larry Walton, Bill Cheesman

General Discussion

DNR MFS will we need to include the DNR Land Acquisition & Planning program in the public process for the Pocomoke State Forest sustainable forest management plan.

For better clarification and we need to consolidate the state forest and Chesapeake Forest webpages.

2009 FSC CARs

FSC 2009.3 Vernal Pools – Scott Smith is working on this and will provide training to Forest Service staff. Note: that training occurred on March 31, 2010.

It was commented that the Pocomoke State Forest is in the process of being developed.

FSC 2009.7 – we should draft a letter addressing this issue to FSC-US and copy Mike Thompson and copy Dave Wager.

FSC 2009.9 – Chesapeake Forest has completed the work required on Pocomoke State Forest.

REC 2009.1 – the Citizens Advisory Committee is the same. We will discuss this further.

REC 2009.2 – Larry Walton will distribute indicating the role of DNR on DNR jobs. This comes from the “Staying at Peace with Your Government” document.

2009.4 – Vision Forestry has considered the cost/benefit. It does notify neighboring landowners about herbicide applications but not harvesting. Harvests in this region are common place and the neighbors understand their nature.

2009.5 – Vision Forestry will provide the modeling graphic to be placed on the DNR website depicting average net over 5 year period. Activity is guided by the management plan, weather, and markets.

2009.7-8 – Kenneth Jolly will provide a write up and DNR will submit to auditors.

2009.11 – DNR staff will document training completed.

2009.12 – the Pocomoke State Forest plan will include an implementation process.

2009 SFI CARs

SFI-2009-1 / PSF CFI – the field work for the CFI for Pocomoke State Forest is completed. The analysis work is beginning.

SFI-2009-2 / ORV – areas of the PSF ORV trail have been fenced off and closed for maintenance work.

SFI-2009-3 / SFI Standard - The DNR and Vision Forestry staff took the time to discuss the new SFI standards for 2010. Neil Sampson has also met with Western MD state forest staff to discuss certification standards and in developing a plan to meet the requirements.

Vision Forestry Report

The Chesapeake Forest audit report is in the process of being done. They are using a new firm for sending information to the mills, etc.

Current markets – we are still behind in harvests but catching up. Tom Johnson is asking for more sorted products. It takes more time to process. The Virginia pulp mill will be closing.

The Chesapeake Forest/Vision Forestry contract will expire in 2011. The bid release will be in October 2010, for a 5-year contract. Some contract adjustments may be necessary to adjust to new acquisitions.

The new Vision Forestry staff includes Alex Clark. He also works for MFS.

It was noted that we should be able to merge the Pocomoke State Forest and Chesapeake Forest models easily.

Pocomoke State Forest Management Plan

Kip Powers led the discussion of the efforts to revise the Pocomoke State Forest management plan to date. Perdue and Strang will be working on the monitoring section of the plan.

New Acquisitions

The Beasley/Rogers property (1,045 acres) has been added to the Chesapeake Forest.

Chesapeake Forest Managers Report

This started with a discussion of the on-going Right-of-Way and boundary issues. The staff is beginning work on the 2012 annual work plan. It was mentioned, that we may want to consider adding the Pocomoke State Forest into the next contractors scope of work. Next Thursday, the Citizens Advisory Committee will meet.

Hunt Club Leases

There currently are 171 clubs on Chesapeake Forest at about \$10/acre. This equates to about \$363,000 in leases. They also have about \$6,800 in camping fees. There are a few restoration projects that are on-going.

Pocomoke State Forest Managers Report

The Citizens Advisory Committee review is this coming Thursday. Two harvests were been bid recently. The prices are better than expected which is encouraging for future market trends. The ORV versus HCVF conflicts were highlighted in the recent audit. Some ORV trails were closed for maintenance. The staff is awaiting the DNR ORV report before taking further action.