



## Sustainable Forestry Council

580 Taylor Avenue – E-1 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 • 410-260-8531

June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Google Meet and in person -- 2pm – 4pm

### SFC Members

Bryan Seipp (Chair)  
Tony DiPaolo  
Donnelle Keech  
Beth Hill  
Gary Allen  
Fred Johnson  
Kim Finch  
Steve Resh  
Bill Rees

### DNR Staff

Anne Hairston-Strang  
Daniel Rider

### Other Attendees

Steve McHenry

Bryan Seipp, Chair  
Ecotone  
Forest Hill, MD 21050

Kim Finch  
MNCPPC,  
Prince George's Co.  
Planning Dept.  
Upper Marlboro, MD  
20772

Gary Allen  
Maryland Forestry  
Foundation  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Elizabeth Hill  
Maryland Forests  
Association  
Linkwood, MD 21835

Donnelle Keech  
The Nature Conservancy  
Cumberland, MD 21502

Bill Rees  
Catonsville Tree Canopy  
Committee  
Catonsville, MD 21228

Steve Resh  
Allegany College of  
Maryland (Retired)  
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tony DiPaolo  
Pixelle Specialty  
Solutions  
Delmar, Maryland 21875

Frederick Johnson  
M-NCPPC Department of  
Parks and Recreation  
Upper Marlboro, MD  
20774

### Action Items:

- Plan 2025 SFC Retreat for the fall
  - Select a date
- MFS continues to work with WHS on clarifying the guidance for forest management as it concerns NLEB protection

### Call to Order

Chair Bryan Seipp opened the meeting at 2:00 pm.

### DNR Updates – Dr. Anne Hairston-Strang, Director/State Forester

- State entering a hiring freeze; most forestry vacancies have recently been filled
- Federal FY26 budget proposal eliminates State, Private, and Tribal Forestry funding; potential significant impacts to Maryland programs
- Urban & Community Forestry and Stewardship programs already seeing major cuts
- Despite cuts, Maryland has secured new federal grants under the Inflation Reduction Act for underserved landowners
- Reorganization of Urban & Community Forestry program: eight positions now split into urban foresters (law/regulatory) and community forestry coordinators (volunteer support, 5 Million Trees, board engagement)

### Discussion: Bat Guidance

- Ashley summarized Wildlife & Heritage Service guidance affecting timber harvests; noted complexities and ongoing efforts to clarify implications for state and private lands
- Members requested scenario documents to better understand potential impacts.

## **Woodland Incentive Fund (Mel Nolan Fund) – Daniel Rider, Program Manager**

- Fund uses include:
  - Supporting additional stewardship and program staff
  - Landowner cost-share payments (record sign-ups this year; expenditures lagging)
  - Supporting Forestry Board Summit, urban forestry camp, and high school apprenticeship programs
  - Contributing to spongy moth suppression and Evergreen Heritage Center training program
  - Matching Marbidco's Fund to sustain capital grants for forest products industries
- Anne emphasized the importance of stewardship, health, education, and workforce investments enabled by the fund.

### **Additional Updates**

- Discussion of market development opportunities for yellow poplar and thermally modified wood
- Forestry boards remain active in education and recruitment, supported by camps and fellowships
- Council agreed on the importance of continued outreach to legislators about federal forestry funding

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Associate Director --- Policy and Planning