



Sustainable Forestry Council

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

Gary Allen, Chair
Center for Chesapeake
Communities
Annapolis, MD 21401

Eric Sprague, Vice-chair
Pinchot Institute for
Conservation
Annapolis, MD 21403

Kirk Rodgers
Private landowner
Woolford, MD 21677

Connie Hoge
Carroll County Forestry
Board
Westminster, MD 21157

Gregory Purnell
Ocean City Arborist, retired
Ocean City, MD 21842

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

Kenneth Roberts
NewPage Corporation
Westernport, MD 21562

Donald Outen
Natural Resource Manager
Baltimore County DEPRM
Towson, Maryland 21204

Alberto Goetzi
Dream Catcher Farm, LLC
Adamstown, MD 21710

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY COUNCIL

June 21, 2011

Minutes

Attendees:

Gary Allen
Eric Sprague
Don Outen
Connie Hoge
Kim Finch
Ken Roberts
Kirk Rodgers

DNR:

Don VanHassent
Rob Feldt

Chairman Allen welcomed everyone and mentioned several objectives for the meeting – 1) reach consensus on definition of no-net-loss by the end of the meeting and 2) develop a list of stakeholders to reach out to with outreach efforts to begin in approximately 60 days.

Rob Feldt, DNR-FS, gave a presentation on forest cover data. A copy of the presentation will be posted in the PowerPoints section of the Sustainable Forestry Council website. The Council has discussed the possibility of using forest patch size in the definition of no-net-loss and/or in future recommendations. This presentation focuses on the percentage of forest cover in various forest patch sizes (i.e. – 73% of forest cover is in patch sizes greater than 200 acres). The Council also discussed the need for threshold levels of housing units per square mile to delineate urban, ex-urban and rural areas.

The Council discussed the type of imagery to be used to determine baseline and future levels of forest cover. Although not yet an official recommendation, the consensus is that NAIP imagery is the most reliable and useful. However, this will require the budgeting of funds to acquire and analyze the imagery on a consistent, periodic basis.

The following is a list of potential stakeholders to be contacted regarding the Council's efforts:

- Maryland Association of Counties
- Maryland Municipal League
- Partnership for Sustainable Forestry
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- League of Conservation Voters

Maryland Department of the Environment
Maryland Department of Agriculture
Maryland Department of Planning
Farm Bureau
American Farmland Trust
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
Center for Agro-Ecology
Blue Water Baltimore
Society of American Foresters
Anacostia Watershed Society
Potomac Watershed Partnership
Home Builders Association
Realtors
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Maryland Association of Nurserymen

Our major goal could be to stabilize forest loss by 2020. We will need to begin to “bend the curve” of forest loss and begin implementation of recommendations as soon as possible, and ultimately return to 2007 levels of forest cover. Returning to 2007 levels could mean we would need to add 100K acres of forest to recover what was lost during the bending the curve time period.

Potential items to “Bend The Curve”

- *mitigation
- *alter Forest Conservation Act
- *residential large lot tree planting
- *zoning/forest component
- *taxation
- *ecosystem markets
- *biomass markets
- *forest industry assistance

The Council had a brief discussion on the need for an analysis of turf areas (excess lawn) and the possibility of conversion to trees. Don Outen will provide a data and process write-up on Baltimore County’s efforts in this regard. Incentives such as property tax credits and income tax credits may be needed to help encourage landowners to participate. Virginia may be trying to a similar thing.

The next meetings will be held August 2 and September 13 at locations to be determined.

Adjourn – noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald VanHassent