



Sustainable Forestry Council

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

Friday, December 13, 2019

1pm-2:30pm

580 Taylor Ave., E-1 corner Conference Room, Annapolis MD 21401
Conference Call- google hangouts

Gary Allen
Center for Chesapeake
Communities
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Kenneth Roberts
Verso Corporation
Westernport, MD 21562

Alberto Goetzl, chair
Dream Catcher Farm,
LLC
Adamstown, MD 21710

Bryan Seipp
Center for Watershed
Protection
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Elizabeth Hill
Dorchester Forestry Bd.
Linkwood, MD 21835

Donnelle Keech
The Nature Conservancy
Cumberland, MD 21502

Bill Rees
Catonsville Tree Canopy
Committee
Catonsville, MD 21228

SFC members:

Al Goetzl
Kim Finch
Bill Rees
Gary Allen
Beth Hill
Ken Roberts

DNR Staff:

Anne Hairston-Strang
Kenneth Jolly
Marian Honeczy
Dan Rider

Guests:

Action Items:

- Kenneth Jolly to mail Tree Farm calendars to SFC except Gary and Ken
- Anne send meeting date poll to SFC and share legislative summary information as available
- Marian to send information on tree canopy hearing (sent, links below)

Link to hearing:

<http://mgahouse.maryland.gov/mga/play/d05e15b9-9aa9-4bc1-9ba0-0aa959aeaab3/?catalog/03e481c7-8a42-4438-a7da-93ff74bdaa4c>

Link to handout:

http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/publications/2016-FIA_MDAnnualReport.pdf

Al Goetzl, Chair, opened the Sustainable Forestry Council (SFC) meeting at 1:03pm. Gary Allen moved to approve the July minutes and Ken Roberts seconded the motion; all approved the July minutes as written. Al offered an amendment to the October minutes, reflecting all data requests in the action items; Gary moved that the minutes be approved as amended, Ken seconded and all approved.

Anne Hairston-Strang provided a DNR update, reviewing staff changes, including Don VanHassent's retirement as State Forester, and the status of the Forest Action Plan, due to USFS by June 30th. She explained that the Harry R. Hughes Center for AgroEcology requested an extension from December 1, 2019 to June 1, 2020 for the SB729 Forest Technical Study; updated forest cover data was expected for Maryland in early spring and was needed to improve the relevance of the report.

Marian Honeczy reviewed recent and anticipated legislation, including Forest Conservation Act changes. She discussed status of compliance with SB234 on FCA fee-in-lieu strategy, accounting, and reporting that were due October 1, 2019. Tree canopy cover baseline and forest loss were discussed. Marian noted that University of Vermont had published an article noting that tree plantings could be seen in remote sensing only after 10 years. Marian referenced a Nov. 1, 2017 work session, held to help answer questions that were generated during the 2017 session at FCA bills hearings, and where a tree canopy baseline was established; she volunteered to share the link (above). Anne shared that Don VanHassent was going to be monitoring the legislative session and would be preparing legislative summaries again this year for anyone interested. SFC members requested that it be sent as available.

Gary spoke about a proposed Green New Deal for Maryland, with a number of options under discussion but not finalized, but expected to include significant tree planting for carbon sequestration. Another potential bill would raise the cap on the transfer taxes going to the Woodland Incentive Fund from \$200,000 to \$500,000 and define wooded as 80% forested rather than 100% forested, addressing the potential for misclassifying a transferred parcel as not wooded if it had a road or shed on it. A bill for better supporting the 1943 law that established the District Forestry Conservation Boards is being patterned after the Mel Grants Program, where the local Boards apply for funds and provide local match, and reforestation grants could support planting projects. Funding of \$300,000 is being sought for an urban forestry careers camp, similar to the Natural Resources Careers Camp in Western Maryland, but housed at University of Maryland College Park and setting up ties to utilities who need urban forestry skills and green schools where students may have particular interest.

Beth Hill provided an update on the briefing that MD Forests Association is planning with Bill Miles from Association of Forest Industries. The briefing is scheduled for 1pm January 16th with the House Environment and Transportation Committee, with a reception beforehand.

Dan Rider provided an overview of the active progress on a suite of grants addressing the declining forest industry and new carbon accounting efforts. The U.S. Economic Development Authority grant to Maryland is funding a consultant to develop an economic adjustment strategy and a GIS tool to support scoping for potential forest product operations, with the request for proposals expected in January. A Western MD Woodyard feasibility study was awarded to ACDS, LLC through Western MD RC&D, and is underway. Other grants are expanding staff training in IMPLAN economic impact modelling and other utilization and market needs. Dan described Elliot Campbell's partnership with American Forests and PA DCNR to measure carbon effects of forest management and value the broader ecosystem services associated with different practices, a U.S. Climate-Alliance-funded grant expected to conclude later in 2020.

Gary provided an update on the MAERDAF-funded biomass policy grant and the environmental stakeholder roundtable anticipated for May 2020. He reminded members of the SFC Biomass subcommittee meeting for 12/16 to firm up an agenda and speakers.

Gary reviewed other progress and issues for tree planting. He described the Healthy Forests, Healthy Waters projects funded through the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays Trust Fund for a partnership with MD Forestry Foundation, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and MD Forest Service. The current grant will fund 80,000 trees on 200 acres, the largest effort so far with this partnership. He raised the possibility of a partnership with State Highway Administration for planting trees for interested landowners with easements or who may be interested in easements.

Meeting dates for 2020 were discussed, and a next meeting date was set for Jan. 27, 2020. Additional dates in April, June or July, October, and December were discussed as being set after Anne sends a meeting date poll. The two biomass policy roundtables would be in May and June.

Al Goetzl adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hairston-Strang
Maryland Forest Service