



# Sustainable Forestry Council

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

Monday, December 4, 2017

Tawes State Office Building,  
580 Taylor Ave., E-1, Annapolis, MD 21401  
Conference Call 1-888-450-5996

Gary Allen  
Center for Chesapeake  
Communities  
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Kenneth Roberts  
Verso Corporation  
Westport, 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

## Minutes

### Attendees:

Al Goetzl  
Elizabeth Hill  
Ken Roberts  
Bryan Seipp  
Gary Allen  
Kim Finch

### DNR:

Anne Hairston-Strang  
Don VanHassent  
Dan Rider  
Rob Feldt

### Guests:

Donnelle Keech, The Nature Conservancy  
Bill Rees, Baltimore Gas and Electric

### Action items:

- Send donation link for Kirk Rodgers Memorial to Forest Landowner Association (Al Goetzl) and American Forest Foundation (Kenneth Jolly)
- Contact Choptank Electric for Kirk Rodgers memorial (Dan Rider)
- Follow up on memorial project steps with Mike Schofield and potential trails (Anne Hairston-Strang)
- Update no-net-loss tracking website draft by 12/18 and submit for review (Rob Feldt)
- Send 2018 meeting poll (Anne Hairston-Strang)

### Minutes:

Al Goetzl, Chair, opened the SFC meeting at 2:05pm. The Council reviewed the minutes. Gary Allen moved that the minutes be accepted, Kim Finch seconded, and minutes were approved unanimously. Don VanHassent provided a DNR update, noting that the Assistant Secretary for Land, Daryl Anthony, has announced his retirement at the end of December 2017. The FY2019 proposed budget is basically level, with Special Funds replacing General Funds; the budget is expected to be submitted to the legislature on Jan. 17th. For personnel, six retirements out of 86 positions have been announced in 2017, and one is now filled with a replacement. SFC members raised concerns about budget stability, noting that the Special Funds from Program Open Space, generated through real estate transfer taxes, can be volatile. Don reviewed the Legislative Session, which will run Jan. 10 to April 9, and possible legislation on Forest Conservation Act, roadside tree permits, and/or licensed tree expert continuing education crediting adjustments. He described the 2017 legislation that is resulting in DNR paying property tax rather than payments-in-lieu based on land revenues, and is now effective in Garrett, Allegany, and Somerset. Gary requested information on the fiscal impact when that information becomes available.

Beth Hill reported that the Cropper Bros. sawmill closed last week and is not expected to re-open. It was one of four sawmills that had been remaining on the Eastern Shore, about a quarter of the demand for pine sawtimber in the region. Dan Rider said that the calls for updating the Timber Product Output report have revealed that a majority of forest products mills are describing uncertain futures. Maryland Dept. of Commerce now has a dedicated staff person for resource-based industry, who could assist with developing new forest industry options that could maintain markets for affordable sustainable forest management.

SFC members reviewed a draft web page prepared by Rob Feldt, covering the tracking methods for the no-net-loss forest cover 40% goal codified in the Forest Preservation Act of 2013. Al Goetzl suggested that summary statistics on forest cover by the different methods be added as bullets. Gary Allen suggested that there be a clear explanation of the source of difference between 40% forest estimates from Forest Inventory and Analysis and the 50% tree canopy estimates from high-resolution data sources that includes trees less than one acre, and other technology improvements since the 2013 law. Members suggested clear conclusion about the tracking method to be used for official tracking, comparisons to other data sources, sampling error, expected timing of future data collection, and description of refinements in technology since the 2013 law. Beth Hill moved to approve the list of recommended additions, Kim Finch seconded, and the motion passed unopposed. A deadline of 12/18 was set for Rob Feldt to make additions and forward for interval review.

Members discussed the Kirk Rodgers Memorial. Bryan Seipp reported that the online donation link was set up on the Maryland/Delaware Society of American Foresters web site, and over \$200 dollars had been raised through voluntary donations with registration at the last SAF meeting and a \$100 matching offer from SAF. Al Goetzl suggested that Kenneth Jolly follow up with American Forest Foundaton/Tree Farm for additional donations. Dan Rider suggested that the public giving for Choptank Electric may be a source of support. Members requested that Anne follow up with Mike Schofield on implementation steps for the memorial and potential for naming a trail.

The SFC discussed the Harry R. Hughes Center for AgroEcology request for proposals. The proposal submitted for the workshop was not chosen for a full proposal. Dan Rider described some of the Center's planned work on public outreach for forestry literacy and analysis of barriers to forest products markets in Maryland.

For the Woodland Incentive Fund, Don VanHassent summarized progress; a letter has been drafted for Sec. Belton to send to Dept. of Assessments and Taxation to inquire about appropriate implementation of wooded property transfer taxes. The FY17 report on the WIP fund was filed in September, and shows continued input from fees, but little from the expected transfer tax revenue, despite a robust real estate market.

Anne reported that Donnelle Keech's member application was submitted to the Governor's appointments office, and Donnelle confirmed that she had received confirmation of submittal electronically. The SFC reviewed the member suggestion of Bill Rees with Baltimore Gas and Electric, whose resume had been circulated with the SFC the previous week. Bill's experience includes substantial work with urban forestry issues. Al Goetzl recommended Bill Rees for membership, Bryan Seipp moved to invite Bill Rees to apply for SFC membership, Kim Finch seconded, and all approved by voice vote.

Gary Allen updated the SFC on his continued efforts to pursue the identified paths to correct the deficiencies in funding mechanisms for the Woodland Incentive Program, and an upcoming meeting with the DNR Director of Legislation on whether training with State Department of Assessments and

Taxation would be forthcoming or whether a legislative remedy was appropriate. He noted that they had been trying to work with SDAT on the issue over three administrations.

The next meeting will be a call held in late January, and Anne will send a poll for a workable date. Discussion included future meetings in late April or early May, September and December. Meetings could include a forest industry tour in eastern or western Maryland, possibly an optional tour for Day 1 and meeting on Day2.

Member updates included Al Goetzl's report on increased duties on importing hardwood plywood and multilayered wood flooring, and increased log exports to China based on their interest in meeting the US Lacey Act requirements for using raw materials documented to be from legal sources. Gary Allen reported that Outdoors MD coverage of the Natural Resources Career Camp (video at <https://video.mpt.tv/video/3006815882/>), and that Forestry Boards have awarded three student fellowships, two in the Green Schools Program and one for planning an Urban Forestry Summit in May or June 2018. Donnelle Keech reported that The Nature Conservancy has received a Central Appalachian National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant for forest management outreach in Allegany and Garrett Counties.

Al Goetzl adjourned the meeting at 4:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anne Hairston-Strang  
MD DNR Forest Service