



# Sustainable Forestry Council

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

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**February 12, 2019**

**580 Taylor Ave., E-1, 1-800-450-5996**

**3pm – 4pm**

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  
Gary Allen  
Bryan Seipp  
Kim Finch  
Bill Rees  
Beth Hill  
Donnelle Keech

DNR Staff:

Don VanHassent  
Daniel Rider  
Anne Hairston-Strang

Action Items:

Don VanHassent notify SFC about budget bill hearings (done)  
Al draft of SFC recommendations on legislation to DNR (done)  
Donnelle send Solar Blueprint summary  
Subcommittee on Biomass Energy Summit meet (Gary, Beth, Donnelle, Bryan)

Al Goetzl, Chair, opened the Sustainable Forestry Council (SFC) meeting at 3pm. He asked for any revisions to the August and November meeting minutes. Bill Rees moved to accept the minutes, Gary Allen seconded it, and all approved. Additional review time was given for the December minutes.

Don VanHassent delivered an update on Maryland Forest Service activities and the Maryland Legislative Session for 2019. He reviewed bills on definition of forest for no-net-loss (HB120/SB203), use of county Forest Conservation Act fee-in-lieu funds (HB272/SB234), Task Force on Forest Conservation (SB729/HB735), use of ORVs for game retrieval (HB728), solar energy blueprint to protect natural resources (HB532/SB744), prohibition of clearcutting > ½ acre for a solar farm (HB851), and bills to establish 2 forestry fellowships. DNR has supplied informational reports to the legislature. The SFC asked about the budget bill, and Don replied that hearings were not yet scheduled, but he would notify the committee when they were. Legislation was discussed, and concerns raised about the ORV use on State land and potential to threaten sustainable forest certification. Gary moved that the SFC oppose HB728, Bill seconded it, and all supported the position. Donnelle indicated that The Nature Conservancy had a summary for the solar energy blueprint, and she could distribute that. Bryan noted that the definition of forest in HB120 was technically complex and highly related to issues SFC addresses. They recommended better representation from the forestry community on the forest conservation task force bill (SB729/HB735), beyond 1 in 15 members. Al volunteered to accept comments and summarize for a letter to DNR, with a draft by 2/15 prior to some scheduled hearings on the bills.

Future meeting dates were discussed and proposed as:

4/11 on Forest Products Markets (now scheduled 4/9)

5/30 – invited to MD/DE Society of American Foresters meeting on urban wood utilization

7/11 – Sustainable Growth Policies

10/15-17- Forest Products Markets for Sustainable Forest Management

12/13- TBA

Outreach meetings for Maryland’s Forest Action Plan are slated for May and June.

Anne said that the MD Dept. of Planning had completed a website on planning to conserve forest resources, as required by the uncodified section 4 in Forest Preservation Act of 2013 (HB706) (link on agenda).

Gary Allen recommended holding a hearing on biomass energy as part of renewable energy portfolios this year and inviting key environmental leaders. SFC members discussed sponsoring a hearing on biomass, its benefits, values, issues, and recognition in renewable portfolio standards. Beth moved to establish a subcommittee to plan an event, Gary seconded it, and all approved. Volunteers were requested for a subcommittee, and Gary, Beth, Donnelle, and Bryan volunteered.

Al Goetzl adjourned the meeting at 4:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hairston-Strang  
Maryland Forest Service