



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

June 11th, 2026
2pm – 4pm
Google Meet

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

SFC Members

Bryan Seipp
Tony DiPaolo
Beth Hill
Gary Allen
Fred Johnson
Kim Finch
Steve Resh
Bill Rees

DNR Staff

Dr. Anne Hairston-Strang
Daniel Rider
JT Bowers
Ashley Triplett-Peltzman

Other Attendees

Action Items:

- Ashley Triplett-Peltzman: Distribute forest markets forum planning document and background documents ([Economic Adjustment Strategy](#) and [Moore-Miller 2024 State Plan](#)).
- Ashley Triplett-Peltzman: Provide potential meeting dates for late July/August steering committee and resend comments call for AWP.
- Ashley Triplett-Peltzman: Share the [Forestry Hub](#) (forest industry resource)
- Gary Allen: Connect Ashley Triplett-Peltzman with wood product spokespeople and coordinate DC trip messaging with Elizabeth Hill and Joe.
- Bryan Seipp: Gather biomass storage info and distribute market steering committee materials.

DNR & Maryland Forest Service Updates

- FY27 Budget: Secured one contractual conversion despite complex grant requirements; unit-level details are being finalized.
- Personnel: In the process of hiring for the new Forest Conservation Program Manager position to assist local jurisdictions with Statewide FCA compliance; nursery management is in transition following a key retirement of Richard Garrett.
- Operational: Regional forest district councils are reorganizing for transparency; drone programs are expanding to support prescribed fire operations.

Legislative & Regulatory Update

- Forest Conservation Act: Regulation package submitted with 10 major changes for consistency with state laws SB526 and HB1511.
- [Executive Order](#): A new order led by the Dept. of General Services prioritizes local Maryland wood in state-funded construction projects.

Market Coordination and Utilization

- Forest Markets Initiative: The Council will serve as conveners for a fall forum targeting stakeholders across economic development and conservation.
- Biomass & Innovation: A feasibility project with UMD is studying terrestrial biomass storage in Wicomico County to generate carbon credits.

State Forest Annual Work Plans & Audits

- Work Plans: Public comments for Eastern and Savage River forests highlight conflicting interests between early-successional forest and mature canopy protection.
- Audits: State forest audits were successfully completed with only one minor corrective action; Tree Farm system audit is ongoing.

Roundtable Topics

- Federal Funding: Strong concern voiced over federal proposals to cut forest research funding; a DC advocacy trip is being organized.
- Public Perception: Council discussed countering "do nothing" management perspectives with scientific data on overstocked forests and climate resilience.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Triplett-Peltzman

Associate Director --- Policy and Planning