



July 25th, 2023

Google Meet 1pm – 3pm

Bryan Seipp, Interim
Chair
Ecotone
Forest Hill, MD 21050

Kim Finch, co-chair
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
Bill Rees
Donnelle Keech
Kim Finch
Gary Allen
Fred Johnson

DNR Staff

Anne Hairston-Strang
Daniel Rider
JT Bowers
Sandi Olek
Rob Feldt
Dylan Behler

Guests

Action Items:

- Followup for Private Forest Landowner Incentives Workgroup

Interim chair to the Maryland Sustainable Forestry Council (SFC), Bryan Seipp, called the meeting to order at 1:03pm. Review of January meeting was completed and April minutes were given an additional week for comments. Gary Allen moved to approve January minutes as final and to approve April with any received corrections, and Bill Rees seconded; all approved.

Anne Hairston-Strang, Acting State Forester, gave a Maryland Forest Service update, including efforts to accelerate hiring, and the challenging spring fire season, and expansion of prescribed fire. Bryan and Tony noted the growing interest in prescribed fire by private landowners. JT Bowers and Sandi Olek provided information on the 5 Million Trees Initiative, including new partnerships with Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, MD Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators, Chesapeake Bay Landscaping Professionals buffer training, and MDE data tracking. A schoolyard forest program is under development. Rob Feldt shared the results of the State Forest audit under two different certification protocols (FSC/SFI), an excellent outcome with an audit free of any Corrective Action Requests, major or minor. Rob also explained progress in Maryland's work with the White Oak Initiative, and Tony noted the troubling trends with disease and death, and the potential value of prescribed fire in regeneration. Dan Rider

reviewed workforce development efforts and plans to participate in the underserved landowner federal grant opportunity. Members discussed other workforce needs and opportunities, including invasive species, local government programs, and the Junior Achievement Center programming underway in Salisbury.

The Council welcomed Dylan Behler, the DNR Legislative Director. Legislative outcomes were discussed, including the passing of the MD Forestry Education Fund and the Irreplaceable Natural Areas regulations for State-owned lands. Forest Conservation Act updates and formation of the private landowner incentives workgroup was reviewed for SB 526/HB 723, and Sec, Kurtz's presentation at the summer 2023 MD Association of Counties noted. Dan Rider explained the progress in promulgating the firewood kiln regulations required by a 2022 law.

Other member issues were discussed. Beth Hill described the Lower Eastern Shore Forest Economy Tour and the concerns with harvesting and wood processing in the Frederick County overlay for Sugarloaf Treasured Landscapes. Gary Allen provided information on the Natural Resources Career Camp and Mel Fellows

activities, and plans for an Urban Forestry Camp at University of Maryland College Park. Donnelle Keech discussed efforts to evaluate reforestation opportunities and forest habitat connectivity with partners including MD Forest Service, Wildlife and Heritage Service, and Audubon Mid-Atlantic.

Dan Rider discussed Forest Stewardship, Utilization, and Health program activities, including the ongoing mapping for Northern Long-Eared Bat, the New Hampshire Wood Energy Tour, and the transition for MD Clean Energy Center staffing from Maura Ross to Maya Ross. Anne reviewed the substantial expansion of spotted lanternflies in Maryland, and shifts in strategies for suppression to direct spray. Dan, Sandi, and JT reported on the successful Roundtable on Protected Land Stewardship and information provided to land steward groups for tree planting and forest management programs.

The Council discussed possible meeting dates on 10/12 and 12/18 and more discussion on topics including FCA, stewardship, and workforce. Gary suggested more detail on the FCA private incentives workgroup and net gain of forests goal, wood energy, equity, and communications.

Brian adjourned the meeting at 3:05pm

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Hairston-Strang