



September 14th, 2022

Google Meet 3pm – 5pm

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
Allegheny 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
Beth Hill
Tony DiPaolo
Bill Rees
Donnelle Keech
Kim Finch
Fred Johnson

DNR Staff

Anne Hairston-Strang
Daniel Rider
Marian Honeczy
Kenneth Jolly

Guests

Al Goetzl (Retired SFC Chair)
Jason Dubow, MDP
Mark Buscaino

Action Items:

- Distribute updated potential wood energy facility list from Maryland Clean Energy Center
- Gary will send Anne his detailed opinion on uses for the Woodland Incentive Fund

Interim chair to the Maryland Sustainable Forestry Council (SFC), Bryan Seipp, called the meeting to order at 3:05. Bill Rees moved to approve the minutes from the July 2022 meeting, Beth Hill seconded, and the minutes were approved as written.

Anne Hairston-Strang, Acting State Forester, gave a Maryland Forest Service update. MFS is heavily involved in the National Society of American Foresters 2022 Convention Sep. 20-24, including 7 field tours highlighting many Maryland projects, MFS display, hiring fair both, and sponsorship, receiving extensive national visibility. Kenneth Jolly is representing MFS at the National Association of State Foresters meeting in Washington State. For the 5 Million Tree effort, 2 staff have started and an additional staff person will start in November. Marian Honeczy had a person start in the Tree Equity position; she is working with US Forest Service to provide equity training for some staff and urban forestry training for Tree Stewards through Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. MFS is receiving additional federal funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure

Law funds in fire, stewardship, and forest health as well as increased core funding in Urban and Community Forestry. MFS submitted its riparian forest buffer strategy, highlighting an increase in CREP acreage (from mid-50's to over 90 acres in 2022) and the increase of almost half of a million seedlings to bring State Nursery seedling production to 2.7 million. Kenneth reviewed the Pocomoke Wildlands bill and trail corridor, where land was removed from Wildlands designation to allow a boardwalk trail and new land added for a net gain of 80 acres, creating a model for future Wildland changes. For State Forests, new certification elements are triggering planning for climate resiliency and wildfire mitigation; Jack Perdue has initiated work on these, and with his retirement in December will be aided by Justin Arseneault. Kenneth also updated the SFC on Tree Farm, including a new rep in Western Region and looking for new ones in Southern and Central regions.

Tony DiPaolo conveyed his appreciation of Eastern Regional staff doing a good job adding sustainable trails on State Forests. Dan Rider gave an overview of an effort to realign the Forest Stewardship Program design with current common landowner objectives such as recreation, wildlife, and privacy, noting an application for the Rural Maryland Council funding by Gary Allen. The grant would cover a study with findings and

recommendations, based on listening sessions around the state, and could address priorities of cost-share programs. Dan invited SFC members to the Forest Legacy meeting anticipated on October 25th. He reviewed the need for annual review and approval of Legacy applications.

Dan then gave an update on projects surrounding the Forest Economic Adjustment Strategy. Sarah Crow with New March Strategies is leading the Wood Product Supply Risk Analysis, which should get released in December 2022. Phase I and II (discovery and framework) of the ESG branding/ protocol is complete, which was informed by the April Charette.

Topics for the September 2022 meeting include the Forest Technical Study, if released by then, and the Opinion works Survey. Bryan suggested an update on 5 Million Trees for the December 2022 meeting. Fred Johnson suggested discussing forest management for parks and its tie into work force development at a future meeting. Donnelle has been working with Audubon Mid-Atlantic, who is working on Forestry for the Birds and dynamic forest block projects. Kenneth Jolly gave an update on the September Society of American Foresters Convention in Baltimore. Anne is leading the tours and Steve Resh is running the Quizbowl program.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Hairston-Strang