



July 6<sup>th</sup>, 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  
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  
Beth Hill  
Steve Resh  
Bill Rees  
Donnelle Keech  
Gary Allen  
Kim Finch  
Fred Johnson

DNR Staff

Anne Hairston-Strang  
Daniel Rider  
Marian Honeczy  
Kenneth Jolly  
Iris Allen

Guests

Al Goetzl (Retired SFC Chair)  
Jason Dubow, MDP

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. Beth Hill moved to approve the minutes from the May 2022 meeting, Bill Rees seconded, and the minutes were approved as written at 3:08pm. [Here is the link to the new SFC website](#), which is updated with recent meeting materials and SFC members.

Anne Hairston-Strang gave a Maryland Forest Service update. Several positions were recently filled, including the Western Region Urban Forester, Assistant Manager at Green Ridge State Forest, Forest Health Planner, and several field forester positions. The final budget has not come in yet, but the preliminary FY23 budget shows an increase from FY22. There is high Program Open Space income due to the real estate market. The number of vehicles requested has gone down due to rising prices. The Forest Technical Study release has been pushed back again, it might be released by the end of the month. Wildlife and Heritage is going to begin the regulation

draft process for the Irreplaceable natural areas bill soon and the MD Forest Service will help with the drafting. Anne has requested that the SFC provide input after the internal DNR draft is complete. Maryland is putting together a combined unit DNR Incident Management Team to aid in emergency fire response. Two prescribed burn Story Maps have been developed, one for the [Frederick City Watershed](#) and one for [Dan's Mountain](#). Some future funding opportunities including NFWF, the White Oak Initiative, USDA Climate-Smart Agriculture, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (a.k.a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law). Money from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes increased funding from U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Community Wildlife Defense Grants.

Dan Rider then discussed forest stewardship. Maryland is required to have annual Forest Stewardship Committee meetings. In the past they have been briefings, but this year Dan wants to host a collaborative discussion and revamp the Forest Stewardship Committee. Dan would like to invite anyone who has an interest and will make announcements in the Maryland Forestry community. One of the main topics will be the Forest Legacy Program. Gary suggested having a discussion on using the Woodland Incentive Funds for

landowner incentives to encourage good forest management, potentially focusing on markets and forest ecosystem services

The 5 Million Trees positions were then discussed. Next week 26 people will be interviewed for the 11 Admin I positions (10 tree planting specialists and 1 assistant nursery manager). For the two Admin III tree planting supervisor positions, six people will be interviewed in two weeks. The on boarding will likely happen in mid-August. There will be a mix of urban and rural work with positions spread throughout the state. Several members of the SFC and DNR team emphasized the importance of community outreach and communications to get more trees in the ground. Anne mentioned that Opinion Works is going to release a Riparian Forest Buffer Communication Plan, which should help inform outreach efforts.

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. Phase III is the construction of the business plan and will be a two year effort; Dan is seeking funds for that now. Maryland Department of Commerce is entering an MOU with the Maryland Forest Association focused on outreach and partnerships. There is progress in workforce development on several fronts including Allegany College working to expand their forest technology program. MARBIDCO is distributing money to expand new wood markets. There are several innovations in treating logs without methyl bromide. The Maryland Clean Energy Center is looking to have some tours at existing wood energy facilities and is working on a forest sustainability supply chain analysis. There are several projects in the works to get wood energy in facilities in western Maryland. Dan thinks it's likely that some of the recommendations from the USFS analysis will be for combined heat and power (CHP). Dan is looking for input from the SFC on what should go on a Forestry Dashboard and what are facilities that could be good candidates for wood energy (good candidates use 20 to 30-year-old equipment to burn fossil fuels).

The SFC then had a discussion on opportunities for the Woodland Incentive Fund. Gary reiterated his point of using it for landowner incentives and outreach to work with ecosystem services markets. Anne suggested a forest health emergency contingency program. Donnelle would like invasive species management assistance to be part of this. She also suggested using it to expand the use of prescribed fire. Bryan is interested in using the funds to develop markets to incentivize tree planting. Anne suggested looking at programs in other states that could be implemented in Maryland.

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 4:58pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Hairston-Strang and Iris Allen