



Sustainable Forestry Council

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

Monday, October 28, 2019

1pm-3pm

580 Taylor Ave., E-1 corner Conference Room, Annapolis MD 21401
Conference Call- google hangouts

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:

Kim Finch
Gary Allen
Bryan Seipp
Beth Hill
Donnelle Keech
Ken Roberts

DNR Staff:

Don VanHassent
Anne Hairston-Strang
Kenneth Jolly

Guests:

Action Items:

- Kenneth Jolly send written update of Tree Farm and calendars to SFC
- Elliott Campbell send carbon and forest management proposals to SFC
- Anne send to SFC prior summaries of wood as carbon neutral, data on tree growth and planting, woody biomass, and processing technology at scales appropriate to Maryland forest resources
- Gary send questions about biomass from Climate Action Network to SFC

Kim Finch, Vice-Chair, opened the Sustainable Forestry Council (SFC) meeting at 1:05pm. More time was requested to review the July 11 minutes, so minutes approval was deferred to the next meeting. Gary Allen reviewed some possible legislative actions for 2020, including a bill to provide resources to local Forestry Boards through the MD Forestry Foundation, possible efforts for the forest products industry crises, and solar farm siting issues to reduce conflicts with prime agricultural soils and major forest blocks.

Kenneth Jolly delivered an update on the Maryland Tree Farm program. He noted the success of Maryland receiving Regional Tree Farm Inspector of the Year (Dan Lewis) and Regional Tree Farmer of the Year (the Buckels in Garrett County). Other items included the photo contest and new MD Tree Farm calendar, a first this year, and partnering with outreach with Forestry Board workshops, Delmarva Forestry Seminar, and Frederick/Washington County seminar on Nov. 8th, and sponsoring efforts for Natural Resources Career Camp and Project Learning Tree. He reported on

the good progress in meeting required Tree Farm inspections, adding new Tree Farms, and converting Pioneer status to full Tree Farm for sustainable certification. Status was 860 Tree Farms statewide, about 112,000 acres, 130-acre average tract size.

Gary asked about availability of economic data, and Beth noted that some wood producers use some of their own product and not all is tracked through sales data. Kenneth reported that the National Woodland Owner Survey has some information; he also described the certification available through the Tree Farm System, recognized as sustainable under the PEFC standards, and the tracking system used for paper manufacturers to verify sustainable sourcing of fiber.

The October 8th meeting with MD Dept. of Environment was reviewed. Discussion included short vs. long time frames when evaluating carbon impacts from wood, narrow views of accounting for carbon impacts that do not include long-term storage and substitution effects, and life-cycle analysis, and the need to address forest ecosystem sustainability and not just tree regrowth. They noted the understanding of links between water quality and forest management. Members requested current summaries of wood and carbon neutrality issues, data on tree growth and planting, woody biomass, and processing technology at scales appropriate to Maryland forest resources. US Climate Alliance grants were discussed and requested, and Beth suggested following up on US Fish and Wildlife Service forest management efforts coordinated by Matt Whitbeck at Blackwater Wildlife Refuge.

Planning for a biomass policy grant was discussed. Gary outlined the recently awarded MAERDAF grant for a white paper, environmental stakeholder roundtable, and woody biomass industry roundtable. Several topics were suggested to be addressed:

- Conflicts of natural resource conservation and renewable energy (e.g., conversion to solar)
- Life-cycle analysis and long-term vs. short-term
- Comparison with life-cycle footprints for solar, wind, and geothermal
- Role of wood-based energy in meeting demand with 100% renewable energy
- Forest ecology and biomass
- Forest health concerns and management options interaction with biomass
- Differences by physiographic regions for ecology, ownership, harvests, and scale of markets
- European Union strategies for timely progress towards carbon reduction goals
- New England and other US examples
- Descriptions of biomass harvests, range of post-harvest conditions, biomass harvesting policy
- Ecological services of forests for water quality and more

The ongoing vacancy for SFC was discussed, including efforts to better address urban forest and utilization, environmental justice, and career pathways.

Beth provided updates on MD Forest Association activities, including joint outreach on forest markets issues that were well-attended, and concerns over the ability to retain logging capacity especially in the near term with sudden losses of markets, and need for smaller, well-distributed markets for sustainable forestry. She shared that Butch Glotfelty received Regional recognition as 2019 Logger of the Year, in addition to being the 2018 Maryland winner, and that the 2019 Maryland winner Bruce Barnes is nominated for the 2020 regional award.

New meeting topics for 2020 were discussed, and suggestions given for biomass, woodland stewardship network outreach models, and data-driven marketing (TNC example). A reminder was given for the next full meeting date of 12/13.

Anne reported that that income received through transfer taxes on forested land sales exceeded the Woodland Incentive Fund cap of \$200,000, a major change from prior years; Don VanHassent had seen the cap exceeded with a single large forested land sale before, so it was unclear whether SFC efforts to remedy payment irregularities or an unusual land sale caused the change.

Kim Finch adjourned the meeting at 3:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hairston-Strang
Maryland Forest Service