



**WASHINGTON
HARDWOODS
COMMISSION**

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2007
Natural Resources Bldg #432
Olympia, Washington

Next Meetings: March 20, 2008
Natural Resources Bldg, room 432
Olympia, WA

June 4, 2008 Annual Meeting
Olympia, WA

Commissioners Present:

Steve Pottle
Brian Stanton
Tal Edman
Del Fisher
Steve Pedersen
Steve Sabalaska

Attendees:

Jim Freed, Jed Herman, Richard Shuren, Susan Childers, Dave Sweitzer

Chairman Pottle called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and made introductions.

It was MSP to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2007 meeting as mailed.

FINANCE REPORT

Childers presented the financial report dated November 30, 2007 showing cash and CD's of \$35,939.84 with no accounts payable. The cash flow spreadsheet shows a projected estimated reserve of \$25,073.84 and a projected estimated available reserve of \$11,073.84 both through November 30, 2007. (copy enclosed) The Commission asked for a species composition of export logs. The Logs Processed Summary, Dollar Summary, and Volume Summary were also presented. (copy enclosed) It was MSP to approve the finance report.

DNR

Herman reported that DNR is assessing the December 3rd storm damage, including road damage and blowdown. Initial estimates are 75 million board feet on 2,000 - 2,500 acres. There could be significant hardwood in these numbers. DNR is working on a salvage plan to include an emergency plan to expedite FPAs. He estimates 12 million board feet of hardwood harvest for the remainder of the fiscal year. WHC should communicate with the Small Landowner Office regarding hardwood blowdown, and Petersen will communicate this to WFFA on Friday and the need to salvage quickly. He also



mentioned that there are not enough people to chase the blowdown in the RMZs. The Commission suggested that we talk to Jed about why we are not implementing the riparian plan.

OTHER HARDWOOD SPECIES

Freed discussed a variety of markets for specialty hardwoods. These included Christmas trees, turnings (bowls), restoration (crown mouldings), musical instruments, landscape construction, and floral. He commented that in order to receive organic certification, no insecticides or pesticides could be used for three years. The Commission identified two opportunities. The first is to work with Freed on tracking the volume of this specialty business and second, to educate the private landowners of the uses and species being marketed. This education would need to first start with Freed providing a synopsis of his presentation and then sending information on a periodic basis to newspapers and radio stations, and also using management information at field days.

GROWTH AND YIELD

The Growth and Yield model has been sent to Weyerhaeuser, USFS, and Hardwood Silviculture Coop for evaluation. We are waiting to hear back from Dave Marshall, Connie Harrington, and Andy Bluhm. Stanton asked that we send him a copy as well. The growing volume update was put on hold until the next meeting. It was suggested that we try to get blowdown stats on alder plantations from Weyerhaeuser and HSC.

SMALL LANDOWNER OFFICE

Mary McDonald sent a report, as she was unable to attend the meeting. (copy enclosed) The Commission suggested that we write a letter to Lands Commissioner Doug Sutherland to see if we can get a statistical report on Alternate Plans. Sweitzer will draft a letter and send it to the Commissioners for editing. It was suggested that we approach Lenny Young first so see if we can get any quick answers, then possibly running the letter by Sherry Fox as well. The Commission suggested that Sweitzer approach McDonald to see if he could be a member of the Small Landowner Advisory Committee.

RESEARCH

Stanton reported that he would have a draft position paper for forest crops on ag land that would include advantages of 20-year crop rotation, and tax, economic, environmental, and forest issues. He will circulate this draft prior to the next meeting. Also for the next meeting, he will lead a discussion on a mechanism for tracking hardwood planting stock, demand, and supply.

EDUCATION

Pedersen will have a draft of a short brochure on silviculture and hardwood management for the next meeting. Pedersen, Stanton, and Sweitzer will meet with Lori Razor to discuss an article in her magazine that would be distributed to professional foresters. Sweitzer will contact Bob Dick regarding the meeting of Association Executives to determine areas of mutual concern. Sweitzer will report on website activity and website design revision. Pedersen will confirm that all seedling suppliers of which he is aware are listed on the website.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Sweitzer reported that he met with management of Region 6 USFS and received assurance that the Forest Service will communicate with the regional foresters about the importance of alder and other hardwoods as they affect soil quality and economic opportunities. Subsequent to the meeting it was reported that a communiqué was directed to regional foresters to involve hardwoods in their management regime where appropriate. He reported that the Hardwood Federation, the only Hardwood Industry lobbying force on Capitol Hill, is working hard for passage of H.R. 1497, the Legal Timber Protection Act as well as S. 1930, which also amends the Lacey Act to address illegal logging.



The HF has also worked diligently to permanently repeal the estate tax and set capital gains for all timber at the 14% level. He also reported on the DOE study that tries to show the effects of riparian buffer width on riparian stream temperature. The conclusions and recommendations were highly suspect because the minimal downstream temperature change for all buffer widths was greater than .3 degrees Celsius. Sweitzer will continue to question DOE's study.

2008 ANNUAL MEETING

It was decided that the annual meeting will be held on June 4th in the Olympia area. Suggested topics were blowdown, critical issues, and policy from DNR; specialty products or other hardwoods from Jim Freed; marketing of major products (Sabalaske to talk to Cascade); pulp and chips from Del Fisher; silviculture from Leslie Brodie and/or Connie Harrington; international hardwood trade from Mike Snow, AHEC; Growth & Yield demo from Erin Smith-Mateja; federal forests from Linda Goodman or Peggy Kain; plus a field trip that might include salvage operations, Holmberg plantation, or a secondary manufacturer. Sweitzer will put together a draft agenda to include at least three points to cover for each topic and distribute to the Commissioners.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sweitzer displayed a solid alder plaque that will be given to Howard Thronson for his many years of serving the industry. The Commission made recommendations for a person to fill the unexpired term of Merlin Smith on the Commission. Sweitzer will follow up.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dave Sweitzer