



**WASHINGTON
HARDWOODS
COMMISSION**

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 16, 2009

Natural Resources Bldg #452

Olympia, Washington

Next Meetings: *March 10, 2010*
Natural Resources Bldg #452
Olympia, Washington

Commissioners Present:

Brian Stanton, Chairman
Jeff Madsen, Vice Chairman
Tal Edman
Del Fisher
Tom Fox
Erik Metcalf

Commissioners Absent:

Attendees:

Jed Herman, Diann Lewallen, Gretchen Nicholas, Luke Rogers, Steve Stinson, Yolanda Wilson, and Dave Sweitzer.

The meeting was called to order and introductions made at 10:00 a.m.

It was MSP to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2009 meeting as mailed.

FINANCE REPORT

Lewallen presented the financial report dated November 30, 2009 showing cash and CD's of \$16,502.27 with no accounts payable. The cash flow spreadsheet shows a projected estimated reserve of \$21,900.27 and a projected estimated available reserve of \$14,900.27, both through November 30, 2009. (copy enclosed) The Commission discussed trends for the next few quarters and then MSP a motion to reduce income from fees to \$3,000 per month. It was determined that discussing trends was not in violation of anti-trust laws. The anti-trust notification will be included in all meeting packets. It was reported that a few companies have not reported 3rd quarter, which could increase the income, log and production totals to be approximately the same as 2nd quarter figures. Madsen and Edman will determine how we might capture fees from the biomass industry. Sweitzer will talk to AFRC regarding dues and if we can opt out a year or two and then come back in.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

PRODUCTIVITY - Fisher

Contract documents are in progress with J&M Forestry to remeasure three plots o WY at a cost of \$4,750. Additional pruning sites were added bringing the total to \$5,100, which was MSP. Andy Bluhm, with HSC, will be part of the crew. The work is expected to take place in January or early February 2010.

The ORGANON model completion has been substantially delayed by a very late end to the measurement season, family leave taken by Bluhm, and errors discovered in the basic data that affect the equation and will need to be updated.

After considerable discussion regarding the HSC dues, it was MSP that because of lack of funds, the Commission will not be paying the annual 2009-2010 dues. The office will contact Dave Hibbs and discuss the decision.

Gretchen Nicholas, DNR's Silviculturalist (who attended this meeting) intends to have more specifics on alder plantations and hardwood regeneration for the March commission meeting.

WFCA held an alder seminar, with WHC and HSC as co-sponsors, in Vancouver, WA on October 27th, "Growing Alder in the Pacific Northwest." Stanton and Sweitzer attended for WHC. Presentations were given by leaders in growing red alder: David Hibbs/Andy Bluhm (HSC), Alex Dobkowski (WY), Glenn Ahrens (OSU), Chris Rasor/Florian Deisenhofer (DNR).

RESOURCE VALUES – Madsen

Angus Brodie, Weikko Jaross, and Chris Snyder at DNR were contacted, and Snyder, who is a GIS manager at DNR was very helpful. The 2006 Landsat data has been analyzed and is available in thw GNN data set from the LEMMA group in Oregon. That group is apparently comprised of OSU and USFS PNW Experimental Station personnel in Corvallis. The GNN data has everything we need it appears, but we need someone to sort it out by owner, parcel size, take out buffers, etc. The DNR or RTI at UW may be able to do this without too much trouble. For the DNR to do it, he will speak with Angus Brodie. Madsen will speak with RTI as well. If these options fail, a private contractor could be contacted, but that would be more costly.

<http://www.fsl.orst.edu/lemma/gnnpac/>

Nothing done on Survey of Producers

Madsen participated in a December 3rd presentation to the Senate House Natural Resources Committee along with Stanton, Fox, and Sweitzer.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS – Fox

The Washington Hardwood Commission (WHC) was created by the State Legislature in 1991 to, in part, ensure the sustained management of Washington's Alder and other hardwood species using practices based on sound forest science. A key component of the Commission's work is to stay informed of pertinent legislation as well as to provide information to legislators working in the area of hardwood-forest rules and regulations.

One of the main purposes of the government affairs sub-committee is to promote an awareness of the WHC as an advocate of the State's stakeholders in effective hardwood management and to be a source of expert advice to the Legislature.

On 10/2/2009 WHC Chair Brian Stanton, Governmental Affairs lead Tom Fox, and WHC Executive Director Dave Sweitzer met with the Washington House Natural Resource Committee Chair Brian Blake in his office to give him an update of the WHC status. Chairman Stanton explained the WHC new committee structure. WHC Executive Director Dave Sweitzer talked

about the WHC purpose and Governmental Affairs sub-committee lead Tom Fox spoke about the social aspects of the Hardwood Industry. Tom Fox offered his singular expertise and resources of the WHC to Chairman Blake and the legislature when needed. Chairman Blake commented in no detail that one area that will likely be of concern to the WHC is the State budget crisis that exists and potential cuts to programs important to the forest industry.

On 12/3/2009 Commission Chair Stanton, Government Affairs sub-committee lead Tom Fox, Resource Value sub-committee lead Jeff Madsen, and Executive Director Dave Sweitzer presented a 25 minute update of the WHC to the Senate Natural Resource Committee (SNRC). Present were Chairman Senator Ken Jacobsen, Senator Dan Swecker, Senator Jim Hargrove, Senator Brian Hatfield, Senator Bob Morton, and Senator Karen Fraser of the SNRC committee. Chairman Stanton explained the WHC new committee structure; Executive Director Dave Sweitzer explained the WHC purpose; Resource Value sub-committee lead Jeff Madsen spoke about the Value of Washington States Hardwood resource; and Governmental Affairs sub-committee lead Tom Fox spoke about the social aspect of the Hardwood industry in Washington State. Fox offered his singular expertise and resources of the WHC to Chairman Jacobsen and the SNRC when needed. Questions were asked by Senator Hargrove about the effects of the Forest and Fish Agreement on the supply of hardwood in Washington State, and he noted that much of Washington's hardwood supply grows best, and is located in the riparian zones along streams where harvest is restricted. It was also discussed that hopefully a workable Conifer Restoration Template would be proposed to the Washington Forest Practice Board in the near future for approval. Also, Senator Fraser was interested in the Hardwood inventory that the WHC will be doing in 2010, and how that would be funded.

The Government Affairs Sub-committee lead has started to send out pertinent timber/hardwood industry information on current and upcoming Federal and State legislation to the WHC members as it develops to help keep them informed.

GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMS – Stanton

A proposal titled "A Hardwood Resource-Enhancement Proposal for the Pacific Northwest" was prepared. The proposal seeks \$162,405 to update Washington's hardwood inventory as well as to provide support for the completion of a red alder growth and yield model. The proposal includes a project bid from Marshall and Associates to develop a statewide hardwood database utilizing various sources of information available from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The proposal also seeks funds to maintain the Commission's membership in the Hardwood Silviculture Cooperative at Oregon State University; this involves ongoing support for the alder stand growth and yield model

A breakdown of the proposal's budget is:

1. Hardwood Resource Inventory: \$95,405 (Marshall and Associates)
2. Hardwood Silviculture Cooperative:
 - o Measurement of growth and yield plots through 2012- \$13,000
 - o Growth and yield model - \$15,000
 - o Technology transfer - \$5,000
 - o Membership dues through 2012 - \$34,000

The funding proposal was submitted as an unsolicited grant request to Erin Everett, DNR coordinator of Washington's stimulus program, Olympia, Carlotta Donisi, USDA Rural Development Agency, Olympia, and Charley Peterson, US Forest Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland. All requests have been denied. The subcommittee will continue seeking appropriate outlets for the proposal including the organization of an industrial consortium for the inventory component. New subcommittee goals are to determine the eligibility of grants prepared by the Commission in response to USDA and DOE RFPs, as well as to monitor

forthcoming solicitations from these and other federal and state agencies. The office will see if WHC can be a 501(c)(3).

EDUCATION – Metcalf

Metcalf outlined several goals for the Subcommittee.

Goal #1-Work closely with Government Affairs subcommittee to get WHC on natural resource committee's agendas.

1. Work with Fox to identify potential topics/concerns that WHC wants to present to the natural resource committee.
2. Attend committee meetings.

Goal #2-Coordinate educational/outreach activities with WFFPA, WFFA, and Extension service.

1. Contact these organizations and let them know that WHC is willing to participate in educational meetings, seminars, tours, field days, etc.
2. Provide educational materials to these groups on hardwood management.
3. Recommend that we include organizations such as the Society of American Foresters, WA SFI SIC committee, Association of Consulting Foresters, Northwest Natural Resource Group, etc.

Goal #3-Monitor next-generation landowner attitudes; work with *American Tree Farm System* to refine program to keep land in forestry via hardwood management.

1. Identify issues affecting ownership changes in Washington.
2. Help landowners understand the importance and significance of hardwood management on the landscape.
3. Provide ATFS members with educational materials and outreach.

Goal #4-Develop list of 2010 county fairs, etc. where promotional materials could be distributed.

1. Make a list of county fairs with dates and locations.
2. Possibly coordinate with SAF, county conservation districts, DNR, WA DFW, etc. to see if WHC can distribute through one of these types of organizations.
3. Provide the WHC brochure on hardwood to the general public at the county fairs.

Goal #5-Write article on how to make money growing hardwoods.

1. Given his level of experience, he recommended WHC consult with professionals that have been published in journals, magazines or in newspapers that are fully qualified to be giving such advice.
2. There has been a lot of this type of information written and presented that we (Metcalf) would be trying to put a new twist on something that's been done time and again.

The first goal that Metcalf thinks is attainable and worthwhile is #2. WHC would have the best opportunity getting involved in various organization's meetings and tours where we could spread the word about the commission and the importance of hardwood in Washington's forests.

The next goal that seems reasonable is #4. Again, we have an opportunity here to reach the general public and it seems relatively easy to accomplish without attending every county fair or seminar to get the word out.

Goal #1 is the pick for the 3rd priority, followed by goal #3 and finally goal #5.

MARKETS – Edman

Having a formal structure is good as it should give each member of the Commission "a reason for being" on the Commission. Because of the uncertainty of hardwood markets, perhaps it might make sense to put a little more emphasis on alternative uses such as paper and energy to encourage planting.

HARDWOOD INVENTORY – Rogers explained the Family Forest Foundation database. This extensive database showed forest ownership, waterways, etc. Discussion centered around how this database could be used in assessing hardwood inventory. Rogers will have a proposal to the WHC office by the end of February, which is prior to our next meeting.

2010 ANNUAL MEETING – The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held June 16th at the USFS Forest Supervisor's Office in Olympia. Fisher will check with HSC for the closest 17-year plantation. Sweitzer will draft an agenda from numerous subjects and speakers discussed. It was decided to charge a registration fee from \$30-\$45. Our target audience would be small landowners (access through WFFA), large land managers (access through WFFA), consulting foresters (access through Society of American Foresters), and extension agents (access through universities). We will apply to SAF for CE credit.

JULY 2010 ORGANON GROWTH & YIELD MODEL and FIELD DEMO – Meeting cancelled because ORGANON will probably not be ready.

WFFA ANNUAL MEETING – Fox has secured a 15-20 minute slot in the April 25-26, 2010 WFFA Annual Meeting at Alderbrook. He will cover who we are, handout flyers for the WHC annual meeting, and promote ORGANON as coming soon. Commissioners were asked to send bullet points for the presentation to Fox.

DNR UPDATE

Herman reported that DNR is probably on track to sell 600-700 mmbf, of which 10% would be alder. The only bills coming before the legislature at this time that would affect the forest products industry would be an authorization to enter into a long-term commitment for the biomass industry. When questioned about what we can do to help DNR, Herman said 1) show a market for black cottonwood and 2) let him know about industry opportunities and how to disseminate the information. The office will send him the WHC subcommittee structure and objectives.

Nicholas introduced herself as the silviculturalist, replacing Pete Holmberg. She was advised of the importance of increasing the planting and managing of hardwoods on DNR lands.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sweitzer and Stanton reported on the outstanding alder seminar, sponsored in part by WHA and attended by professional foresters. The scope of the technical topics ranged from site selection, site preparation, spacing, thinning, pruning, and marketing.

Sweitzer and Madsen reported on the WFFA annual meeting. It was well attended. The atmosphere was a little gloomy, but the forecast shows a slow but steady improvement.

Stanton announced that Steve Pottle has left Boise, and therefore resigned from the Commission. He will be sorely missed, from his leadership to his industry knowledge. Several people were discussed as his replacement and will be contacted.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dave Sweitzer