



**WASHINGTON
HARDWOODS
COMMISSION**

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 2008
Teleconference meeting

Next Meetings: *March 12, 2008*
DNR Bldg, #461, Olympia, WA

Commissioners Present:

Steve Pottle, Chairman
Brian Stanton, Vice Chairman
Tal Edman
Del Fisher
Jeff Madsen
Erik Metcalf
Steve Pedersen

Commissioners Absent:

Attendees:

Bob Dick, Jed Herman, Diann Lewallen, and Dave Sweitzer,

Chairman Pottle called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

It was MSP to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2008 meeting as mailed.

FINANCE REPORT

Lewallen presented the financial report dated November 30, 2008 showing cash and CD's of \$21,879.57 with no accounts payable. The cash flow spreadsheet shows a projected estimated reserve of \$18,827.57 and a projected estimated available reserve of \$4,827.57, both through November 30, 2008. (copy enclosed) Sweitzer reported that a few companies have not yet paid and should bring in additional monies and increase the volume figures. An audit was made of all volumes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters. Corrections were made to the report and are captured in the November 30th report. Sweitzer suggested that his monthly stipend be reduced to \$2,500 to enable a positive cash flow. It was MSP to approve the financial report, approve Sweitzer's stipend of \$2,500 per month for 12 months, to earmark the staff coordination associated with grant applications to make up the difference in the reduction to Sweitzer's stipend, to not renew the February CD and deposit it into the general fund, and to email monthly financial reports to the Commissioners

AFRC REPORT

Dick reported that he is hoping for a smooth transition in the DNR with the new Commissioner of Public Lands as well as in the Forest Practices Board and the Board of Natural Resources. The fiscal year '09 DNR cut is planned for 700 mmbf, with 650 mmbf in FY '10.

GRANT APPLICATION DRAFTS

Stanton reported that he is preparing a grant application that will be available at the next meeting to answer the question of the need for better science. Included in the grant request will be funding for the remeasurements, study of alder growing stock, and completion of the Growth & Yield model, which will include hands-on, live workshops.

Sweitzer briefly outlined a draft application for providing up-to-date management prescriptions for Northwest US Hardwoods. Included in his proposal was an information transfer blitz designed to increase the timber supply. Specific items discussed were a widely distributed brochure, workshops, annual meeting and website. The Commissioners agreed to give him feedback by Christmas.

RESEARCH

No report.

EDUCATION

Stanton reported that the April issue of Western Forester and the March or June issue of NW Woodlands featuring Western Hardwoods (mainly alder), are currently on schedule. He thanked all participants for their support in writing portions of the dedicated issues on silviculture, management, marketing, etc.

Pedersen will send out a revised brochure that covers silviculture and management after the first of the year and request a deadline for each Commissioner to make recommendations.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Federal Lands – Mary Wagner is the new Region 6 forester. She has the credentials to be a strong administrator.

Small Landowner Advisory Committee – Each Commissioner was supplied with the field survey results of 19 Alternate Plans for Conifer Restoration in the RMZs (formerly known as Hardwood Conversion) that were approved in 2003. Pedersen was on the survey team and reported that there were mixed results in the reforestation. Forty-two percent were failing or likely to fail. Most of the sites have adequate or better function measurements and appearances. Pedersen said that we must have stream temperature monitoring. The equipment should be placed by May and funding could come from CMER through RSAG (field survey will be reported on January 14th to RSAG). Stanton will include stream temperature monitoring in his grant preparation. Sweitzer will check with CMER on the NP Water Study and with RSAG on the seven year stream monitoring project.

Report to DNR & Legislators – Sweitzer reported that we should prepare a report for the Senate and House Natural Resources Committees, BNR, and FPB. Pottle and Sweitzer will work on a draft and distribute to Commissioners by the end of January.

DNR UPDATE

Herman reported that harvesting is on target. A few of the sales had no bids and will be reappraised and put up again in the spring. He said that we will have a tough legislative session with many cuts throughout the state to solve a projected \$5 billion biennial deficit. Representative Van De Wege is sponsoring a bill that will limit the liability to utility companies when harvesting trees. We will follow this carefully to make sure that compensation to the landowner is included in the bill.

2008 ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2009 in the area between Olympia and Castle Rock. It was recommended that we have a one day meeting without a field trip and include workshops. Each presenter will be asked to have handouts of his presentation. The business portion of the Annual Meeting will be cut to a minimum, to include elections and other requirements outlined in the RCW and WAC codes. A theme was suggested, "The Future of Hardwoods During These Difficult Times". Past

annual meeting themes were: 2008, Open Door of Opportunity; 2007, I Can Do That; 2006, The Need For Increasing Hardwood Supply; 2005, Hardwoods Growing Stronger. Topics suggested were Marketing, Silviculture, Growth & Yield, New RMZ Data, Western Forestry Conservation Association workshop cooperation, Alternate Plans, Panel - including UW, WSU, WFFA, WFFPA, and WHA, and Sudden Oak Death Pathogen. A draft outline will be distributed to Commissioners by the end of January.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next meeting is March 12, 2009, DNR building. Annual meeting June 10, 2009, location TBD. September 2009 meeting date TBD, DNR building. December 2009 meeting date TBD, teleconference.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dave Sweitzer