



**WASHINGTON  
HARDWOODS  
COMMISSION**

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

December 18, 2013  
DNR Building  
Olympia, Washington

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**Next Meetings:** *March 12, 2014 (location tbd); June 12, 2014 Annual Meeting (Veterans Memorial Museum, Chehalis, WA); September 10, 2014 (location tbd); December 10, 2014 (location tbd)*

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**Commissioners Present**

Michael Johnson, Chairman  
Randy Bartelt  
Tom Fox  
Joe Monks  
Ed Orcutt  
Steve Witherspoon

**Commissioners Absent**

Nick Wheeler, Vice Chairman

**Attendees:**

Paul Bialkowski, Angus Brodie, Matt Comisky, Shiba Kar, Diann Lewallen, Gwen McClanahan, Dave Sweitzer.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael Johnson at 10:00 a.m. Introductions were made and the Commission was reminded of the legal limitations of the anti-trust laws in Commission meetings.

It was MSP to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2013 meeting as emailed.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Lewallen presented the financial report dated November 30, 2013 showing cash and CD's of \$37,725.19 with no accounts payable. The cash flow spreadsheet shows a projected estimated reserve and estimated available reserve of \$43,634.35, through June 2014. She also reported that approximately \$2,400 in revenue is still outstanding and that this would also increase the tons and logs processed. Sweitzer presented the Logs Process Summary, Dollar and Volume reports. It was suggested that a footnote to the spreadsheet explain the income and expense related to the hardwood inventory project. It was MSP to approve the financial report. (copy attached). Lewallen answered a question about the existence of a contract with Sweitzer. She said years ago their was one but not currently. She explained that Sweitzer proposed a 35% reduction in his monthly stipend effective January 2009 in order to maintain a positive cash flow. The reduction was approved for 12 months. The contract will be researched. In the future, Sweitzer's contract will be reviewed each December, reflected in the March draft budget, and voted on at the annual meeting in June. The WHC operates on a fiscal budget from July 1 to June 31.

ANNUAL MEETING – June 12, 2014, Veterans Memorial Museum, Chehalis, WA

Bartelt and Monks presented a draft agenda with all but one speaker confirmed. Sweitzer will contact Mike Snow to speak to “Hardwood Markets – Future Trends”. There is still some discussion to determine an appropriate field tour in the vicinity of Chehalis for an afternoon tour. The office will handle all logistics of food, meeting notices, registration, handout materials, etc.

## DNR

Hardwood assessment – Brodie will quantify DNRs numbers and compare to the UW hardwood inventory report.

Hardwood Conversion by WAU – A WAC rule states that DNR and WHC work together to monitor hardwood conversion by WAU. Important data would include “how much hardwood was converted, potential for hardwood conversion, tracking to determine efficacy of hardwood conversion”? Brodie will talk with Aaron Everett in Forest Practices about the WAC rule and how to implement it.

Regional use of site selection tools – A part of this discussion for hardwoods in western Washington was “how much could DNR affect the use of the tools as well as encourage goals by region to increase alder management”?

## LANDS COMMISSIONER GOLDMARK FUTURE MEETING AGENDA

The theme for this meeting will be “the need for more alder and why more harvesting is beneficial to the trust”. Sweitzer will organize the following suggestions for a smooth agenda discussion. 1. WAC rule monitoring by WAU. 2. Increase hardwood harvest. 3. Include more hardwoods in sales. 4. Importance of 50+ year alder being harvested. 5. Hardwood Internal Rate of Return. 6. Markets for hardwoods. 7. Planting alder after harvesting alder. 8. Managing for root rot and Swiss needle cast. 9. DNR analysis of hardwood inventory report. 10. Tax incentives. Meeting has not been set. After meeting with the Commissioner in August, 2013, he encouraged WHA to meet on a periodic basis. Twice a year might be appropriate.

## REVIEW OF WHC PURPOSE AND ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

Johnson said this meeting has a full agenda, but he will encourage future commission discussion on what more can we do to have a positive affect on the hardwood industry in Washington. We will look at other agriculture commissions to view their WAC and how they are implementing it.

## SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stand Management – Johnson will continue to pursue a matrix whereby various scenarios could be accessible to land owners, thus simplifying the use the growth and yield model. He will present a draft at the March 12, 2014 meeting.

Resource Values – Monks presented the revised executive summary from UW on the hardwood inventory study. Some thought it was too long and suggested a single page summary that showed growing stock and available inventory to harvest today, and compare it to 10 and 20 years in the future. The chairman concluded that UW’s involvement in the executive summary was complete. However, the commissioners were asked to suggest 10 questions that UW could develop from the study and briefly summarize and use as factoids for interested persons. Suggestions from commissioners should be submitted to the WHA office and/or Monks by mid January.

Education & Outreach – Bartelt will continue to schedule mill tours for WFFA chapters and members, find additional ways to distribute hardwood information to small landowners and forestry consultants who may be interested in growing and managing red alder and other hardwoods. The above

mentioned factoids would be published and distributed through this committee.

Policy and Government Affairs – Fox reported that the state legislature has not been in session since his last report. He said the WHC would participate in the 2014 WA Forest Products Legislative Reception on January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Hands On Children’s Museum in Olympia. WHC will partner with the WA State Society of American Foresters. The concept of the reception is for the Forest Products community to enhance their presence with our legislators and their staff and get to know one another on a personal basis. On the federal legislative level, the Farm Bill will be discussed in the 2014 legislative session negotiations. The current bill expired in September of 2013.

Markets – No report.

Research and Grant-funded Programs – No report.

Farm to Timberlands – Orcutt will draft a brochure for land owners that would, among other pertinent points, include why it’s easier to maintain open space with forests over agriculture.

## BIOFUELS

Kar, WSU extension, gave us a two-year update of the Advanced Hardwood Biofuels Northwest project that began as a USDA NIFA funded initiative in September 2011 to lay the foundation for a hardwood biofuels industry in the Northwest. The AHB research includes all the following aspects of creating sustainable poplar-based biofuels. Feedstock: Providing a renewable resource; Conversion: Creating sustainable transportation fuels; Sustainability: Supporting the environment, people, and the economy; Education: Building a prepared work force; Extension: Reaching future feedstock growers, policy makers, and citizens. Wheeler will ask for another follow up in two years.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Monks said that DNR has on its website a discussion of templates including overstocked stands and riparian buffers. Also, the 2005 streaming video of the alder symposium cannot be accessed through the WHC website. WHC website is undergoing a makeover.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dave Sweitzer