



**WASHINGTON
HARDWOODS
COMMISSION**

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2011
Natural Resources Bldg #432
Olympia, Washington

Next Meetings: *April 26, 2011* - Teleconference
 June 15, 2011 - Annual Meeting
 Veterans Memorial Museum
 Chehalis, Washington

Commissioners Present:

Brian Stanton, Chairman
Jeff Madsen, Vice Chairman
Del Fisher
Tom Fox
Erik Metcalf
Steve Witherspoon

Commissioners Absent:

Tim Halme

Attendees:

Jed Herman, Diann Lewallen, and Dave Sweitzer.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Stanton 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 December 17, 2010 meeting as mailed.

FINANCE REPORT

Lewallen presented the financial report dated February 28, 2011 showing cash and CD's of \$21,958.62 with no accounts payable. The cash flow spreadsheet shows a projected estimated reserve and estimated available reserve of \$21,949.21, through June, 2011. (copy enclosed) There are a few who have not sent in processor reports for the 4th quarter. The office has contacted each and will continue to follow up. Sweitzer reported the logs processed summary. Lewallen and Sweitzer will check the CY 2010 green hardwood totals. It was MSP to approve the financial report.

2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Sweitzer opened the discussion indicating that almost all speakers slots have been confirmed. The few exceptions include Panel A, conservation panelist; Panel C, lumber/plywood/veneer panelist; Panel C, biomass/energy panelist; and wrap up speaker. Several speaker suggestions were made and they will be contacted. An additional speaker was added on Hardwood Promotion - "American

Hardwoods/Hardwood Check-Off.” Fox will contact Mossyrock Tree Farm to arrange a field trip on the second day.

Promotion of the annual meeting will include mailers to the WHC contact list; emails to organization lists, the WSU Forest and Wildlife Extension subscription list; flyer/registration insert in WFFA annual meeting materials; contact with approximately nine regional colleges and universities.

Cost will be \$50 per person/\$35 students.

DNR UPDATE

Herman reported alder seedlings from Webster Nursery 2010 were 200,000 shipped, 2011- 205,000 shipped, 2012 – 360,000 requested. Most of the 2010-2011 were for DNR lands, but the increase in 2012 will be for the general public. Harvest for 2010 was 804,000 mmbf, with 741,000 mmbf sold. He expects to offer 650,000 mmbf in 2011. The average for alder sales is 30-40 mmbf. Herman reported that inventory on trust lands conducted in 2004 and 2007 were for the decadal sustainable harvest calculations. He believes that the current biomass inventory being conducted by UW is for all lands. DNR forest management staffing is down, but will require additional people for PCT and data collection. At this point he reports very little redundancy in staff. It is expected that DNR will retain ownership of slash for biomass/energy. Madsen will check with UW on the biomass study to see if those figures for harvest and/or growing stock will be species specific.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANTATION MANAGEMENT - Fisher

David Hibbs, HSC, has release RAP-ORGANON for public use. We are encouraging all landowners managing RA to use the model and provide feedback to either HSC or WHC prior to WHC annual meeting. As you know the model review is on the agenda and hopefully we'll get some meaningful feedback prior to the meeting. The link to the model is <http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/fr/research/organon/> (a little tricky to find as it is embedded with the other ORGANON models).

HSC had a remeasurement party on January 18th for an orphan plot near Clatskanie, a 15 yr plantation (#3210). The work included measuring and marking trees, thinning and pruning. Unfortunately no Commissioners were able to attend. There are no WHC plot activities scheduled for 2011.

RESOURCE VALUES – Madsen

Objectives for 2010-11:

- Update to 2002 Washington State hardwood inventory (westside)
- Canvass producers on their perceived value of the Commission and its work
- Provide input to Forest Practices Board, Puget Sound Partnership, etc. regarding the ecological values of hardwood management

No news to report on funding for a new western Washington hardwood inventory.

Objective 2 was completed earlier this spring.

Objective 3 was partially covered in a presentation to the Senate-House Natural Resources Committee last December, 2009. I just gave a presentation on the WHC to the Pierce County Farm Forestry Chapter (on 3/2/11). The talk went well I thought. They seemed interested in our annual meeting so we need to send them the agenda and invite when that's ready.

ORGANON Red Alder (version 9.0): I have spent a fair amount of time running the new ORGANON alder model and comparing to Douglas-fir plantations. I can bring some of that

information to the next meeting and discuss it if time allows.

EDUCATION – Metcalf

- Metcalf will be presenting at the Clackamas County Extension Tree School on the current market for Pacific NW hardwoods on Sat. March 19th. This will be a panel discussion with several sawmill and export companies represented. Target audience is small forest landowners. He had planned to bring brochures for those who are interested in more information on growing/managing hardwoods.
- Chris Razor, silviculturist, with the WA DNR will be the guest speaker at the Cowlitz County Farm Forestry annual meeting on March 16th. His topic will include the establishment and management of red alder. Brochures from the Hardwoods Commission will be available to all attendees of this meeting. The target audience is small forest landowners.
- At the time of this report, Metcalf is also the scheduled panel member on the Timber Markets panel for the April 16th annual meeting of the Washington Farm Forestry Association. Again, this will be a presentation that includes current markets for Pacific NW hardwoods. He will have brochures available at this event as well.

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.

The 2011 Washington State legislative sessions has been in session for two months so far. All bills that have been presented this year are either dead or have moved out of the House or Senate to the other chamber for consideration. At one time I counted over 50 bills that were forestry/natural resource related. It's a bad budget year again so there seems to be quite a few bills that are proposing fee increases for permits like Hydraulic permits and Forest Practice Applications to mention a couple.

If you're interested in national legislative issues The American Forest Foundation (AFF) has a great web site that you may find interesting.

<http://www.familyforestation.org/forestfoundation/issues/>

You can surf around easy and find lots of good info like current legislation legislative alert, and see how your Representative voted on legislation. Give it a try and let me know if you find it helpful. If you go to current legislation it even has all state legislative bills that AFF is monitoring.

If you are interested in looking up a bill of interest for Washington State you can go to the Washington Votes web site at <http://www.washingtonvotes.org/>

Below is a description of some of the 2011 forestry related bills:

- [2011 House Bill 1610 \(Regarding the management of water resources\)](#) requires the Department of Ecology to consider mitigation measures proposed, or already in place, when considering an application for a water right or transfer of such rights. This act modifies requirements the Department may impose in consideration of applications. This act allows the Department to establish rules related to quantity and acreage limits for new water users. This act sets forth new procedural requirements for the approval process of applications. This act modifies provisions related to the relinquishment of a water right that take into consideration beneficial uses. (Companion: SB 5536).

- [2011 House Bill 1509 \(Concerning the forestry riparian easement program\)](#) modifies current law regarding the forestry riparian easement program. This act clarifies certain definitions of parties subject to the program. This act allows the small forest landowner office to make final determinations on applications to the easement program and the appropriate compensation due to the landowner based on volume and value of the timber being set aside. This act makes any use of the program subject to available funding. This act also provides for a review of the program and investigation into new, long-term funding sources for the program. (Companion: SB 5551). **Passed** 97 to 0 in the House on March 4, 2011.
- [2011 House Bill 1387 \(Increasing revenue to the State Wildlife Account\)](#) modifies current law to include all sales of licenses, permits, tags, stamps, application fees, and donations collected by the Department of Fish and Wildlife as monies to be deposited into the State Wildlife Account. This act also removes from current law language requiring monies from razor clam and shellfish licenses to be deposited into the general fund. This act also clarifies current law regarding commercial fishing licenses and license dealers, and waives the application fee for all commercial license documents that are issued through the automated licensing system. This act creates application fees and license transfer fees, and increases other permit and license fees. (Companion: SB 5385).
- [2011 House Bill 1282 \(Modifying department of fish and wildlife provisions\)](#) to modify department of fish and wildlife provisions relating to issues such as starting fires on department-owned lands that are not forest lands; use or purchase of a license in this state while holding a resident license from another state; charter boat operation and licensing; unlawful discharge of a firearm; increased penalties for unlawful taking of protected fish and wildlife; and fish and wildlife officers serving as general authority Washington peace officers. (Companion: SB 5201).
- [2011 House Bill 1210 \(Regarding gill net and purse seine fishermen in Puget Sound\)](#) allocates an equal amount of time among commercial fishermen using gill nets and purse seines. This act directs the Fish and Wildlife Commission to create a fishing schedule for Puget Sound giving equal access time to the gill net and purse seine fishermen, alternating between the two for the first day of each week. Commercial fishing is generally not allowed on weekends.
- [2011 House Bill 1192 \(Concerning small forest landowners\)](#) changes current forest practices law to encourage small forest landowners operate small, low-impact harvests thereby reducing state payments under the Forestry Riparian Easement Program. This act modifies the definition of a small forest landowner from those who own eighty acres of forest land or less to those who operate in harvest land units of twenty contiguous acres or less. These landowners are not required to leave riparian buffers adjacent to streams and do not qualify for reimbursement through the Forestry Riparian Easement Program. By July 1, 2012, the Forest Practices Board must amend current rules to modify buffer requirements subject to the Program. (Companion: SB 5783).
- [2011 House Bill 1137 \(Concerning body-gripping traps\)](#) allows the use of body-gripping animal traps only by those who have been properly trained in their use. This act allows the Fish and Wildlife Commission to approve the use of traps for specific, problematic animals, and allows the Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue permits for trapping if an animal is a threat to human health or safety. This act also places conditions on when and where traps may be used.
- [2011 House Bill 1138 \(Concerning animal trapping\)](#) modifies definitions in current law regarding animal trapping. This act gives the Fish and Wildlife Commission regulatory authority over animal trapping. Trappers must get specific training, purchase a license from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and mark their traps for identification purposes. This act also sets out specific conditions for the use of animal traps.
- [2011 House Bill 1102 \(Concerning landowner liability associated with forest roads\)](#) relieves private landowners of liability for physical constructions used to block access to certain areas on forest roads.

- [2011 House Bill 1124 \(Establishing seasons for hunting cougars with the aid of dogs\)](#) directs the Fish and Wildlife Commission to establish rules and a season for hunting cougars with the aid of dogs. This act also removes conditions on the use of dogs in cougar hunting only as a last resort and solely for the purpose of protecting livestock, although the Commission may impose conditions in its rules. (Companion: SB 5356).

Below is how some of the bills fared the House vote:

- [2011 House Bill 1885 \(Providing streamlining improvements in the administration of programs affecting the natural environment\)](#)
Passed 98 to 0 in the House on March 1, 2011, to amend certain programs administered by the various natural resources agencies to remove prescriptive direction in the administration of the programs. [Who Voted "Yes" and Who Voted "No"](#)
- [2011 House Bill 1803 \(Modifying the Columbia river basin management program\)](#)
Passed 97 to 0 in the House on March 4, 2011. [Who Voted "Yes" and Who Voted "No"](#)
- [2011 House Bill 1698 \(Improving recreational fishing in Puget Sound and Lake Washington\)](#)
Passed 88 to 9 in the House on February 28, 2011, to change requirements and administration of the Puget Sound Recreational Salmon and Marine Fish Enhancement Program with the stated intent to improve recreational fishing opportunities. [Who Voted "Yes" and Who Voted "No"](#)
- [2011 House Bill 1582 \(Modifying forest practices rules on conversion of land for development\)](#)
Passed 97 to 0 in the House on February 28, 2011, to change the description of forest land that the state assumes will convert to a non-forestry use from lands platted before 1960 to parcels that are 2.5 acres or smaller in size. [Who Voted "Yes" and Who Voted "No"](#)
- [2011 House Bill 1509 \(Concerning the forestry riparian easement program\)](#)
Passed 97 to 0 in the House on March 4, 2011. [Who Voted "Yes" and Who Voted "No"](#)
- [2011 House Bill 1381 \(Regarding sufficient cause for the nonuse of water\)](#)
Passed 97 to 0 in the House on March 4, 2011. [Who Voted "Yes" and Who Voted "No"](#)
- [2011 House Bill 1421 \(Authorizing the creation of a community forest trust\)](#)
Passed 55 to 43 in the House on March 5, 2011. [Who Voted "Yes" and Who Voted "No"](#)
- [2011 House Bill 1422 \(Authorizing a forest biomass to aviation fuel demonstration project\)](#)
Passed 93 to 1 in the House on February 22, 2011, to authorize the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop and implement a forest biomass to aviation fuel demonstration project. Authorizes the DNR to form forest biomass aviation fuel partnerships to develop and implement a forest biomass to aviation fuel demonstration project. Directs the DNR to create a strategy for developing a broad forest biomass to aviation biofuel sector in Washington. [Who Voted "Yes" and Who Voted "No"](#)
- [2011 House Bill 1254 \(Regarding the Institute of Forest Resources\)](#)
Passed 97 to 0 in the House on February 28, 2011, to amend the authorizing statutes for the University of Washington's Institute of Forest Resources (IFR) both technically and substantively to modernize the language. Enlarges the scope of the IFR's mission to reflect modern forestry issues. Provides additional fundraising tools and accounting autonomy to the IFR. Provides the authority to create an advisory committee to aid the IFR. [Who Voted "Yes" and Who Voted "No"](#)
- [2011 House Bill 1222 \(Authorizing limited expansions of certain urban growth areas\)](#)
Passed 68 to 29 in the House on March 1, 2011, to create an exception to provisions prohibiting the expansion of urban growth areas into the 100-year floodplain of any qualifying western Washington river or river segment. Specifies that the exception may only be authorized by a county meeting specific geographic and population requirements, and that exception must be limited to areas of seven or fewer acres that are adjacent to an urban growth area and entirely surrounded by a freeway interchange right-of-way. [Who Voted "Yes" and Who Voted "No"](#)
- [2011 House Bill 1009 \(Modifying the authority of certain state agencies to enter into agreements with the federal government under the Endangered Species Act\)](#)

Passed 91 to 6 in the House on March 4, 2011. [Who Voted "Yes" and Who Voted "No"](#)

MARKETS – Witherspoon

BCAP

Applications to qualify as a Biomass Conversion Facility are currently being accepted.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

The DNR is currently conducting a statewide assessment of Washington's forest biomass resources. The assessment is being conducted by the University of Washington, School of Forest Resources, and TSS Consultants. An outline of the project is attached to this report.

Sudden Oak Death (SOD)

Witherspoon attended a meeting of the SOD Core Group at the Oregon Department of Forestry on February 18th. The group discussed numerous current issues related to SOD, and recommendations on how to move forward. SOD is not currently having a direct effect on Washington hardwoods, but it is an issue that the commission might find interesting.

FARM TO FOREST – Halme

The objective of the Farm to Forest Committee is to advocate the afforestation of non-productive or under-utilized farmlands in Western Washington particularly by planting hardwoods where best suited.

Goal 1 : Research and report on the numerous State and Federal Governments programs to provide cost share benefits for afforestation projects.

Assisted a small farmland owner near Battle Ground, WA in applying for grant money under the EQIP program with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service for the establishment of a forest plantation on former farmland. Made contact with Anitra Gorham of NRCS at the Brush Prairie Office, to complete application as a Technical Service Provider for the NRCS to provide expertise and management plans to qualified applicants.

Goal 2: Research and report on the afforestation techniques as published by others and as experience by applicators.

Completed the establishment of a plantation on a 4-acre pasture site utilizing soil mounding techniques in hydric soils near Battle Ground, WA. Cedar was established, not hardwoods, but the techniques would be the same for other hardwood species such as alder that will not tolerate saturated soils. These cedar seedlings may be harvested in the future as landscaping plants or left to grow for a timber crop, (or a combination thereof) but it doesn't lessen the experience gained no matter the end use.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next meeting dates – April 26, Teleconference, 10:30 a.m. PDT

Finalize 2011-2012 budget

Speaker payment question

Annual report content for annual meeting

Commission nominations

June 15th, Annual Meeting, Veterans Memorial Museum, Chehalis, WA

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

Minutes prepared by Dave Sweitzer



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources



STATE OF WASHINGTON FOREST BIOMASS SUPPLY ASSESSMENT PROJECT OVERVIEW

Introduction

The University of Washington, School of Forest Resources (UW) and TSS Consultants (TSS) have been selected by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to conduct a statewide assessment of Washington's forest biomass resources. UW is the prime contractor and lead this effort, with TSS as a contractor working directly for UW. TSS is providing technical and economic expertise in support of this assessment.

Assessment Objectives

The primary objective of this assessment is to develop detailed estimates of suitable forest biomass volume available for energy production on a long-term, sustainable basis, within the state of Washington. The assessment will fully explain and justify metrics related to environmental, operational and economic assumptions, within logical supply areas (fuel sourcing areas or fuelsheds), as well as statewide estimates, utilizing multiple landownership classes and forest ecosystems. The results of the analysis will form the building blocks used in the development of a woody biomass volume calculator.

It is anticipated that assessment results will provide forest resource managers with data and tools (e.g., biomass calculator) to generate reasonable estimates of woody biomass material available for energy production. In addition, this assessment will provide potential bioenergy project developers with a regional overview regarding biomass feedstock availability within the state of Washington. The results of this assessment are not intended to meet due diligence grade requirements to secure private sector financing, but are intended to provide indicative estimates that can be utilized by a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties.

Implementation Schedule

The assessment will be completed by September 2011. As key findings are generated, public workshops will be held to share initial results. Once the final report document is generated it will be available through the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

Key Contacts

University of Washington – John Perez-Garcia perjohm@u.washington.edu

TSS Consultants – Todd Hansen thansen@tssconsultants.com

Washington DNR – Jeff Linquist jeff.linquist@dnr.wa.gov

Project website link:

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/OtherConservationInformation/Pages/cc_forest_biomass_assessment.aspx