



**WASHINGTON
HARDWOODS
COMMISSION**

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 2011
Veterans Memorial Museum
Chehalis, Washington

Next Meetings: *TBD*

Commissioners Present:

Brian Stanton, Chairman
Jeff Madsen, Vice Chairman
Del Fisher
Tom Fox
Tim Halme
Michael Johnson
Erik Metcalf
Nick Wheeler
Steve Witherspoon

Commissioners Absent:

Attendees:

Diann Lewallen, and Dave Sweitzer.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Stanton at 4:30 p.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 March 16, 2011 meeting as mailed.

ELECTIONS

Lewallen announced the results of the Commissioner elections. Metcalf, Wheeler, and Johnson were unanimously elected by the affected processors for four year terms. It was MSP that Fox be elected Chairman and Metcalf elected Vice Chairman. Stanton and Madsen, who retired from the Commission, were presented plaques for their commitment and service to the Commission earlier in the day at the speaker program.

FINANCE REPORT

Lewallen presented the financial report dated May 31, 2011 showing cash and CD's of \$24,382.03 with no accounts payable. The cash flow spreadsheet shows a projected estimated available reserve of \$25,780.62, through June, 2011. (copy enclosed) It was MSP to approve the financial report. It was MSP to approve the 2011-12 FY budget.

2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Annual meeting speaker PowerPoint presentations will be posted to the Commission website, www.wahardwoodscomm.com. We are also contemplating placing the video presentations on the website. A survey will be sent to attendees.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANTATION MANAGEMENT - Fisher

No report.

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. Jeff Lindquist was identified as a contact that might be of assistance in utilizing the data from the Washington State Biomass Assessment for our hardwood inventory but he apparently no longer works for the DNR.

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 made a presentation on the WHC to the Pierce County Farm Forestry Chapter on 3/2/11.

Recommendations for this subcommittee in 2011-2012:

Objectives for 2011-12:

- Update 2002 Washington State hardwood inventory (westside). Same objective as last year. Luke Rogers (wrogers@u.washington.edu) from UW Forestry gave the commission a proposal on how they could do the assessment on 3/3/2010. A rough estimate is that it would cost us \$10M. I will leave my notes, reports, and Rogers' proposal with Dave.
- Provide input to Forest Practices Board, Puget Sound Partnership, etc. regarding the ecological values of hardwood management.
- Prepare an annual report on the quantity of red alder and other hardwood seedlings planted in Washington.

EDUCATION – Metcalf

No report

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.

I have not received any requests from any Legislators for assistance or comments on any pending or proposed legislation.

In the past year the Government Affairs Sub-committee lead sent 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.

The Government Affairs Sub-committee lead spent many hours working with WFFA and the Small Forest Land Owners Advisory Committee (SFLOAC) landowner caucus on the Conifer Restoration Template (CRT). The current revised landowner draft was presented to the full SFLOAC on March 9 2010 and was rejected by the State Agencies at that meeting. The feeling of the small forest land owners on the SFLOAC is that if after almost 8 years of working on a CRT it is time to move the template forward and either get approval or to give up trying to work the CRT.

The Government Affairs Sub-committee lead additionally authored a WHC CRT position paper. Drafts were distributed of the CRT position paper to the entire WHC board for comments and suggested changes were incorporated into the current draft. The WHC board unanimously approved the WHC CRT position paper at their March 10, 2010 board meeting.

The 2011 Washington State legislative sessions convened on January 12 ,2011 and the 2011 Regular Session adjourned on April 22, 2011. The Special Session of 2011 adjourned May 25, 2011.

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/> and can search by bill number, subject ECT.

At one time during the 2011 session I counted over 50 bills that were forestry/natural resource related. Because of the multi billion dollar budget deficit that Washington state Legislature faced in the 2011 session there were quite a few bills that were proposing fee increases for permits like Hydraulic permits and Forest Practice Applications to mention a couple.

Below are some of the forestry related natural resources bills that either passed or did not pass in the 2011 session.

2011 Senate Bill 5485 (Maximizing the use of our state's natural resources)

- Introduced by Sen. Jim Hargrove, (D-Hoquiam) (D) on January 26, 2011, to adopt, by reference, the international green construction code to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts at earlier stages in the building and construction design process. The state building code council is required to review the state building code and adopt changes as necessary to promote the greater use of wood and wood products.
- **Passed** 44 to 5 in the Senate on March 7, 2011, requires the University of Washington to: review, in consultation with the state building code council (SBCC) and other states' codes, international standards and literature on life-cycle assessment and embodied energy in building materials; recommend methodologies to assess embodied energy in building materials; and, make suggestions for streamlining energy conservation, life-cycle cost analysis and high performance codes for public buildings.
- Received in the House on March 8, 2011.
- **Passed** 91 to 1 in the House on April 7, 2011.
- Received in the Senate on April 18, 2011. **Passed** 47 to 0 in the Senate on April 18, 2011.
- **Signed** by Gov. Christine Gregoire on May 12, 2011.

2011 House Bill 1509 (Concerning the forestry riparian easement program)

- Introduced by Rep. Brian Blake, (D-Aberdeen) (D) on January 24, 2011, 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, to expand compensation for certain unharvested trees in the Forest Riparian Easement Program (FREP). Limits participation in the FREP to non-governmental, for-profit legal entities. Requires a recipient of funding from the FREP to repay the total amount received if the recipient sells his or her land within 10 years to someone who would not qualify for participation in the FREP.
- Received in the Senate on March 7, 2011.
- **Passed** 47 to 0 in the Senate on April 7, 2011, expand compensation for certain unharvested trees in the Forest Riparian Easement Program (FREP). Limits participation in the FREP to non-governmental, for-profit legal entities. Requires a recipient of funding from the FREP to repay the total amount received if the recipient sells his or her land within 10 years to someone who would not qualify for participation in the FREP. This bill requires DNR, by November 1 of each even-numbered year, to submit a list of all FREP applications to the Governor and the Legislature for funding in the capital budget. Changes the date from October 31, 2011, to May 31, 2012, for when DNR must report the findings and recommendations to the Legislature on potential long-term funding sources for FREP. Adds an emergency clause with an effective date of July 1, 2011, to coincide with the biennial capital budget.
- Received in the House on April 13, 2011.
- **Passed** 96 to 0 in the House on April 13, 2011, House concurred with Senate amendments. This bill expands compensation for certain unharvested trees in the Forest Riparian Easement Program (FREP). Limits participation in the FREP to non-governmental, for-profit legal entities. Requires a recipient of funding from the FREP to repay the total amount received if the recipient sells his or her land within 10 years to someone who would not qualify for participation in the FREP. This bill requires DNR, by November 1 of each even-numbered year, to submit a list of all FREP applications to the Governor and the Legislature for funding in the capital budget. Changes the date from October 31, 2011, to May 31, 2012, for when DNR must report the findings and recommendations to the Legislature on potential long-term funding sources for FREP. Adds an emergency clause with an effective date of July 1, 2011, to coincide with the biennial capital budget.
- **Signed with partial veto** by Gov. Christine Gregoire on April 29, 2011.

2011 Senate Bill 5385 (Increasing revenue to the State Wildlife Account)

- Introduced by Sen. Debbie Regala, (D-Tacoma) (D) on January 24, 2011, 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: HB 1387).
- **Passed** 38 to 8 in the Senate on April 20, 2011.
- Received in the House on April 20, 2011.
- **Passed** 55 to 42 in the House on April 21, 2011, to increase the license fee for certain recreational licenses issued by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Establishes an application fee for certain commercial licenses issued by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- **Signed** by Gov. Christine Gregoire on May 12, 2011.

2011 Senate Bill 5359 (Concerning contiguous land under current use open space property tax programs)

- Introduced by Sen. Bob Morton, (R - Kettle Falls) (R) on January 21, 2011, to clarify the definitions of "same ownership" and "immediate family" for purposes of current use and conservation futures for open space and agricultural, timber lands, and to clarify the term "contiguous" for purposes of timber and forest land provisions.
- **Passed** 49 to 0 in the Senate on March 4, 2011, clarifies the definitions of "same ownership" and "family" for purposes of current use and conservation futures for open space and agricultural, timber lands, and to clarify the term "contiguous" for purposes of timber and forest land provisions. The bill modifies the definition of family in current law to include adopted child, cousin, and domestic partner.
- Received in the House on March 7, 2011.
- **Passed** 91 to 0 in the House on April 7, 2011, to define the term "same ownership" to include multiple contiguous parcels that are managed as part of a single operation and (a) owned by members of the same family, (b) legal entities wholly owned by members of the same family, or (c) a combination of individuals and entities that are wholly owned by members of the family.
- **Signed** by Gov. Christine Gregoire on April 18, 2011, to define the term "same ownership" to include multiple contiguous parcels that are managed as part of a single operation and (a) owned by members of the same family, (b) legal entities wholly owned by members of the same family, or (c) a combination of individuals and entities that are wholly owned by members of the family.

2011 House Bill 1422 (Authorizing a forest biomass to aviation fuel demonstration project)

- Introduced by Rep. Derek Stanford, (D-Bothell) (D) on January 20, 2011, to authorize the department of natural resources to develop a forest biomass to aviation fuel demonstration project to demonstrate opportunities for state lands to generate trust income; create green jobs; and comply with the state's existing energy efficiency goals. (Companion: SB 5273).
- **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.
- Received in the Senate on February 23, 2011.
- **Passed** 47 to 0 in the Senate on April 4, 2011, authorizes DNR and the Department of Commerce to cooperate and consult with the University of Washington and Washington State University in their development of forest biomass to aviation fuel by identifying opportunities for state lands to generate trust income; identifying the most cost effective, efficient, and ecologically sound techniques to deliver forest biomass from the forest to the production site; exploring linkages with other biofuel efforts; entering into partnerships with research universities and the private sector to conduct a pilot project; and identifying and applying for funding sources.
- Received in the House on April 13, 2011.
- **Passed** 96 to 0 in the House on April 13, 2011, House concurred with Senate amendments. This bill authorizes DNR and the Department of Commerce to cooperate and consult with the University of Washington and Washington State University in their development of forest biomass to aviation fuel by identifying opportunities for state lands to generate trust income; identifying the most cost effective, efficient, and ecologically sound techniques to deliver forest biomass from the forest to the production site; exploring linkages with other biofuel efforts; entering into partnerships with research universities and the private sector to conduct a pilot project; and identifying and applying for funding sources.
- **Signed** by Gov. Christine Gregoire on April 29, 2011.

2011 House Bill 1421 (Authorizing the creation of a community forest trust)

- Introduced by Rep. Christine Rolfes, (D-Bainbridge Island) (D) on January 20, 2011, to authorize the department of natural resources, if deemed practicable by the commissioner of public lands, to create and manage lands suitable for forest management as a separate category of natural resource lands in a nonfiduciary community forest land trust. (Companion: SB 5272).
- **Passed** 55 to 43 in the House on March 5, 2011, to authorize the Department of Natural Resources to create and manage the Community Forest Trust as a discrete category of non-fiduciary trust lands actively managed to sustain working forest conservation objectives.
- Received in the Senate on March 8, 2011.
- **Passed** 39 to 10 in the Senate on April 9, 2011, authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to create and manage the Community Forest Trust as a discrete category of non-fiduciary trust lands actively managed to sustain working forest conservation objectives.
- **Signed** by Gov. Christine Gregoire on April 29, 2011.

2011 Senate Bill 5300 (Enhancing the use of Washington natural resources in public buildings)

- Introduced by Sen. Jim Hargrove, (D-Hoquiam) (D) on January 20, 2011, to establish a priority to and emphasize the use of state-based resources, wood and wood products, building materials, products, industries, manufacturers, and other businesses to enhance economic development in the state.
- **Passed** 46 to 2 in the Senate on March 3, 2011, establishes a priority to and emphasis on the use of state-based resources, wood and wood products, building materials, products, industries, manufacturers, and other businesses to enhance economic development in the state. This bill requires the Department of General Administration and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to credit one additional point for a project that uses wood products with a third party forest certification or from forests regulated under Washington's Forest Practices Act, when determining compliance with the requirement for a project to be designed, constructed, and certified to at least the LEED™ Silver standard.
- Received in the House on March 5, 2011.
- **Passed** 95 to 2 in the House on April 6, 2011, to provide that when determining compliance with the requirement for a project to be designed, constructed, and certified to at least the LEED™ Silver standard, the Department of General Administration and the Superintendent of Public Instruction must credit one additional point for a project that uses wood products with a third party certification or from forests regulated under Washington's Forest Practices Act.
- **Signed** by Gov. Christine Gregoire on April 18, 2011, to provide that when determining compliance with the requirement for a project to be designed, constructed, and certified to at least the LEED™ Silver standard, the Department of General Administration and the Superintendent of Public Instruction must credit one additional point for a project that uses wood products with a third party certification or from forests regulated under Washington's Forest Practices Act.

2011 House Bill 1254 (Regarding the Institute of Forest Resources)

- Introduced by Rep. Kristine Lytton, (D-Anacortes) (D) on January 18, 2011, requires greater coordination between the Institute of Forest Resources at the University of Washington and stakeholders, policymakers, and other interested parties. This act provides a framework for coordinating resources, contracts, support, and other funding in the Institute's efforts. This act also requires the Director at the School of Forest Resources at the University of Washington to appoint and maintain an eleven-member advisory council. The Institute must provide progress reports to the Legislature on July 1, 2012, and July 1, 2013, after which the reports must be delivered biennially.
- **Passed** 97 to 0 in the House on February 28, 2011, to amend the authorizing statues 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.

- Received in the Senate on March 2, 2011.
- **Passed** 46 to 0 in the Senate on April 11, 2011, amends the authorizing statues 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.
- Received in the House on April 13, 2011.
- **Passed** 96 to 0 in the House on April 13, 2011, House concurred with Senate amendments. This bill amends the authorizing statues 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.
- **Signed** by Gov. Christine Gregoire on April 29, 2011.

HB 2008 was introduced by Rep. Hans Dunshee, (D-Snohomish) (D) on March 3, 2011, to establish hydraulic project approval fees. Integrates hydraulic project approvals for forestry activities into the associated forest practices application. Increases forest practices application fees. Makes other changes to the hydraulic project approval and forest practices application processes. Companion: SB 5862 was introduced by Sen. Jim Hargrove D-Hoquiam.

Fortunately HB 2008 and companion SB 5862 bill that would have increased fees on the Hydraulic permits and Forest Practice Applications failed to pass because of resistance to increasing costs by an already struggling forest landowners due to the weak forest economic market conditions, and the commitment and investment that the forest industry has made in the last decade by implementing the Forest and Fish agreement. Unfortunately the portion of the bill that would have integrated hydraulic project approvals for forestry activities into the associated forest practices application making the FPA/HPA process work more efficiently for forest land owner died also.

2011 House Bill 1192 (Concerning small forest landowners)

- Introduced by Rep. Brian Blake, (D-Aberdeen) (D) on January 14, 2011, 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).
- Referred to the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee on January 14, 2011. Substitute offered in the House on February 16, 2011, directs the Forest Practices Board to explore alternative, low impact harvest restrictions for small forest landowners.
- Referred to the House Rules Committee on February 17, 2011.

HB 1192 died in the House rules committee by failing to get "called to the floor" for a vote. And that is just part of the story. HB1192 was previously amended without input from the WFFA. The amended or substitute SHB1192 changed our original bill's intent of legislating smaller buffers on smaller streams for smaller harvests.

Although not a legislative action the current ruling by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit's decision to deny rehearing *en banc* in the case of *NEDC v. Brown*. Last August, a three-judge panel overturned an Oregon court's ruling that stormwater control systems for forest roads do not need point source permits in addition to meeting existing Clean Water Act requirements. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulations define forestry

activities as nonpoint sources that are regulated by states and do not need permits similar to confined industrial sites.

David P. Tenny, President and CEO of NAFO, "Since the promulgation of the Clean Water Act regulations in 1976, the EPA has contended that the most effective way to regulate forestry activities under the statute is to treat them as nonpoint sources of water pollution. EPA was right – forestry is a minor contributor to water quality decline that three decades of experience has demonstrated is best covered by state regulations and guidelines. Unfortunately, the Ninth Circuit has tossed aside this science-based record of successful forest policy through an unprecedented reinterpretation of established law.

"Heaping new and unnecessary permit requirements on top of forests that already lead the world in environmental quality will add job-killing costs and litigation to rural areas hardest hit by the economic downturn. Instead of improving the environment, this action will cause forest owners to struggle even more against the economic forces that drive forestland into other uses that threaten water quality. The resulting loss of jobs and forests undermines the goal of preserving working landscapes that support rural families, wildlife habitat, clean water and recreation opportunities across the country.

If you're interested in family forestry national legislative issues, The American Forest Foundation (AFF) has a great web site at (<http://www.familyforestaction.org/forestfoundation/issues/>) you may find interesting. You can surf around easy and find lots of good info like current legislation legislative alert, and see how your Representative voted of 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.

The goals and objectives for next year for the Government Affairs Sub-committee lead will be to continue to seek any opportunity to advise and or testify to the legislature on pertinent hardwood related legislation. Also to work with the WHC to find ways to further the commission's purpose by informing the legislature and the general public of the WHC position on policy matters that will affect the Hardwood industry health and growth into the future

MARKETS – Witherspoon

BCAP

Applications to qualify as a Biomass Conversion Facility are currently being accepted. It is expected that activity in the "matching payment" component of the program will begin to take place in mid-summer 2011. Funding for the program for biomass fuel suppliers is uncertain beyond the end of 2011's fiscal year, which ends in September.

There are currently three BCAP Biomass Conversion Facilities (BCF) listed on the FSA website.

2010 Market Subcommittee Goals

1. Highlight alternative uses for hardwood
 - a) bio-energy
 - b) emerging markets
2. Facilitate interaction between hardwood consumers and producers
 - a) invite hardwood consumers to WHC meetings
 - b) invite hardwood producers to WHC meetings
3. Increase awareness of green building standards
 - a) Invite representatives from green certification groups to WHC meetings
 - b) Invite representative from Washington Department of Ecology to WHC meeting

Bio-energy dominated 2011. The BCAP program's impact was felt early in 2010, but funding for the program ended in April. There were eight biomass facilities proposed in the northwest in 2010, but only one was successfully built. The Seneca Sawmill in Eugene, Oregon recently started operating its 18 MW facility.

2011 Market Subcommittee Goals

1. Explore non-traditional markets for hardwoods.
The bio-fuel topic will continue to be an area of intense interest. There is uncertainty surrounding the federal government's BCAP program. The Washington State DNR is still assessing the state's biomass inventory. The viability of bio-energy plants and biomass crop production is being debated.
2. Monitor changes in traditional hardwood markets.
Expectation on when the construction industry will recover is uncertain. Trade groups or government certification agencies may be a source for information on how to maximize the state's hardwood resources.

RESEARCH AND GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMS – Stanton

The mission of the Washington Hardwoods Commission is to promote the welfare of the State by providing for the development of its hardwood industry. A key component of this industry is the development of the State's hardwood forests through the application of sound science. The purpose of the grant-funded subcommittee is to identify key research units in the region and to promote those research activities that benefit the Commission's goals in growth and yield modeling, inventory, utilization, and silviculture. Moreover, a portion of the fees paid by processors in the State to the Commission is dedicated to regional hardwood research projects. However, as revenues are subject to the vagaries of the economy, planning for sustainable programmatic support is problematic. Therefore, this subcommittee is also charged with surveying available grant opportunities and encouraging applications from well-matched academic institutions.

The following recaps subcommittee highlights during the past year

1. Regional Approaches to Sustainable Bio-Energy Production – Separate grant applications were prepared and submitted to USDA/NIFA's AFRI CAP solicitation by Washington universities to develop renewable energy crop systems for drop-in fuel production capacity in the Pacific Northwest. Applications were submitted by the University of Washington (Dr. Rick Gustafson) and by Washington State University (Dr. Norman Lewis). Feedstock development is one of the proposal's five core areas (i.e. feedstock development, biomass conversion, sustainability, extension, education). An announcement from USDA is expected in July 2011.
2. Department of Energy – The DOE released a solicitation for grant applications through its Plant Feedstock Genome Program. Applications involving Pacific Northwest hardwood industries were prepared and submitted by Oregon State University, University of California, Davis, and the United States Forest Service. All three are similar to the extent that they propose to develop molecular breeding techniques to improve hardwood planting stock quality. A decision on successful awards is expected in June 2011.
3. USDA/DOE Joint Biomass Research and Development Initiative – In April the USDA and DOE jointly announced up to \$30 million of grant funding to support research and development over three to four years in advanced biofuels and biobased products. Crop development support will be provided for research, development, and demonstration activities for improving biomass feedstock quality and harvest, transport, and storage logistics and equipment. Solicitations for pre-applications closed the end of May with requests for full applications scheduled for early August.

Suggested goals for the upcoming year are as follows:

1. *Continue to identify pertinent grant funding opportunities in advance of solicitation announcement dates and alert likely candidates who can respond with applications that are tailored to hardwoods and WHC goals.*

2. *Promote a research agenda that benefits the Commission's work in growth and yield modeling, inventory, utilization, and silviculture, etc. with regional universities and government agencies.*
3. *Meet with pertinent Deans at UW (Hartmann - Environment) and WSU (Bernardo - CAHNRS) to coordinate University research agendas with that of the Commission.*
4. *Provide for co-representation to HSC; advocate for complimentary program at Washington's land grant colleges.*

OTHER BUSINESS

Retiring Commissioners Stanton and Madsen will meet with Wheeler and Johnson to discuss their respective subcommittee assignments.

Next meeting dates – TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dave Sweitzer