



**WASHINGTON
HARDWOODS
COMMISSION**

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 2007

DNR Pacific Cascade Regional Office
Castle Rock, Washington

Next Meeting: September 2007
Date, Time and Place TBD

Commissioners Present:

Steve Pottle
Steve Pedersen
Tal Edman
Del Fisher
Steve Sabalaska
Merlin Smith
Brian Stanton

Attendees:

Nearly 60 attended. Roster in the WHC office.

Chairman Pottle called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and made introductions.

It was MSP to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2007 meeting as mailed.

FINANCE REPORT

Sweitzer presented the financial report dated May 31, 2007 showing cash and CD's of \$39,724.85 with no accounts payable. The cash flow spreadsheet shows a projected estimated reserve of \$45,800.85 and a projected estimated available reserve of \$31,800.85 both through June 30, 2007. (copy enclosed) The Logs Processed Summary, Dollar Summary, and Volume Summary were also presented. (copy enclosed) It was MSP to approve the finance report.

It was further MSP to approve the FY 2007-2008 budget. (copy enclosed)

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Pottle presented the State of the Commission. (copy enclosed)

ELECTIONS

Pottle was reelected chairman for the coming year with Brian Stanton as vice chairman.

OTHER BUSINESS

Merlin Smith announced that he needs to resign from the Commission for personal reasons after the next meeting. Pottle accepted the resignation with regrets and said that Smith's contribution since the

inception of the Commission will be sorely missed. Pottle asked if anyone was interested in serving as a Commissioner, that they would contact the office.

It was suggested that the next Commission meeting be held at the Olympic Experimental State Forest near Forks, WA.

SPEAKER PROGRAM

Commissioner Doug Sutherland: Washington Forest Forum

Sutherland said that he is "looking to a pretty fair future" for Washington forests. He spoke to the report given to the Washington State Legislature from the Saving Washington's Working Forest Land Base Forum in 2006 and the Summary of Actions taken by the 2007 legislature. (copy enclosed) DNR is expecting to sell 550-600 mmbf over the 70 years of the HCP, with hardwoods being about 10-15 percent of the volume. The two problems that concern him are the price of energy and waste wood to fuel technology. DNR will be diligent in keeping the working forests working and not default to development. This can be a challenge in many ways, not the least of which is that the average age of the small landowner is greater than 65 and the heirs are not stepping up to forestry. He discussed the mutual advantage of having FSC and SFI certification on DNR trust lands. They will be able to compliment each other under different circumstances.

Alex Dobkowski: Site Selection for Plantation Grown Red Alder

Dobkowski explained that a good site for alder is usually a good site for conifer. Seed selection should be matched to the zones and the planting window is after the first frost and before the first heat. This all sounds simple enough to adhere to, but he emphasized that alder needs tender loving care. He led a field trip to several plantations on Weyerhaeuser land, which emphasized the cautions mentioned above as well as initial spacing and spacing after PCT and CT. The plantations also displayed the importance of pruning to crown height ratios.

Jed Herman: Hardwood Conversion Template, Hardwood Harvest, and Riparian Hardwood Reduction

Herman said that the Hardwood Conversion Template that would ease the cost and time of an Alternate Plan will probably not be approved any time soon. There is still the question of harvesting length along a stream. He pointed out that DNR is very interested in putting up more hardwood sales mainly because of the excellent price. Currently alder represents 10 to 15 percent of the sales. Referencing the Riparian Harvest Plan, it may not happen because of the HCP and other restrictions. The audience recommended that the Forest Practices Board be cognizant of the research that shows that alder is as good for the habitat as conifer in the riparian zone.

Erin Smith-Mateja: Alder Growth Equations for FVS

Smith-Mateja presented the long awaited alder growth equations and demonstrated the model that will be available from FVS by the end of the summer. She was able to show how the user friendly model will work for small landowners as well as large landowners in projecting the growth and yield on land with many variables.

Pete Holmberg: Red Alder Silviculture in DNR

Holmberg said that DNR is in the alder business to stay. DNR is committing more and more resources to growing and planting alder. They are committed to the success of the species in our regime. DNR will triple its production of seedlings next year over two years ago from a few thousand to over 200,000.

The annual meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dave Sweitzer