



**WASHINGTON
HARDWOODS
COMMISSION**

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2007
DNR Regional Office for OESF
Forks, Washington

Next Meeting: December 13, 2007
Natural Resources Bldg, room 432
Olympia, WA

Commissioners Present:

Steve Pottle
Tal Edman
Del Fisher
Merlin Smith
Brian Stanton

Attendees:

Mike Ardington, Andy Bluhm, Bob Dick, Rod Fisch, Carolyn Henri, Dave Sweitzer

Chairman Pottle called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and made introductions.

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

FINANCE REPORT

Sweitzer presented the financial report dated August 31, 2007 showing cash and CD's of \$38,994.34 with no accounts payable. The cash flow spreadsheet shows a projected estimated reserve of \$48,131.58 and a projected estimated available reserve of \$34,131.58 both through August 31, 2007. (copy enclosed) The Commission asked for a reconciliation of the balance forward of \$45,000 to the \$39,000. The Logs Processed Summary, Dollar Summary, and Volume Summary were also presented. (copy enclosed) It was MSP to approve the finance report.

2007 ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Sweitzer presented the results of those answering the questionnaire. More than half of the attendees responded with most of the presenters scoring very well on the material presented. Many suggestions were written in regarding topics for next year. The Commission will review the report again at the December meeting when discussing specific annual meeting topics and speakers. (copy enclosed)

It was also suggested that the December meeting include Mary McDonald, Small Landowner Office, to discuss templates, get an update on the riparian studies from DOE and RSAG, research agenda for OESF from ONRC, and a one on one discussion with Mark Tapley on the hardwood component for OESF.

HARDWOOD SILVICULTURE COOP

Bluhm discussed the goals and activities of the HSC, which included how to manage red alder as a timber crop, teach others how to manage red alder, and develop tools to aid alder management. Its current budget of \$48,000 spendable dollars, allows for maintenance of research sites, data and entry, and organization of twice yearly meetings. There are 40 HSC stands, 10-18 years old, including 26 plantations, 4 natural stands, and others with a combination of alder and fir. It was suggested that we link to the HSC on the WHC website.

GROWTH AND YIELD

Bluhm reported that he was working with FVS in further cleaning the data and as of 2 weeks ago, he felt the data was standardized. It was reported that the model would be completed by the end of September. Technical assistance for landowners and land managers using the model could come from FVS, HSC, and RTI. Each would have to be formally approved.

DNR UPDATE

Dick discussed 2 issues, including the lawsuit re: Blanchard Mountain, which would rescind the agreement to use this timberland under the trust mandate to produce revenue and provide recreation. The next issue was Skagit County vs. State of Washington, which would effectively support the Skamania County decision of 1983 to mandate that trust lands be managed to produce revenue. He reported that DNR is working hard to increase the timber harvest from 550 mmbf during '06-'07 to 678 mmbf for '07-'08. He also discussed a 2nd meeting of association executives, in which an agreement to work together on issues was made. The next meeting, to be scheduled, will discuss and identify issues of common concern.

WSU OUTREACH PROGRAM

Henri outlined a 2-year grant to produce a handbook by January 2009 directed at landowners interested in growing and managing alder. The Commissioners were most interested in this publication and how it could be disseminated to the tens of thousands of small landowners. The Commission offered its assistance to her and her project.

3-YEAR PLAN

Pottle led an active discussion of the proposed 3-year plan and budgets. It was MSP to approve the 3-year plan, but it will be discussed again at the next meeting. (copy enclosed)

OTHER BUSINESS

Merlin Smith was recognized with a certificate for his outstanding contribution as a Commissioner and to the industry, since the inception of the Commission in 1991. Chairman Pottle said that Merlin will be sorely missed.

OESF TOUR

John Viada, Al Vaughn, Dave Christensen, Brian Brosnitski, and Jim Hotvedt joined the meeting to discuss the purpose of OESF and to describe the field tour. The group visited 2 sites that showed various prescriptions for managing softwoods.

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

Minutes prepared by Dave Sweitzer