



**WASHINGTON
HARDWOODS
COMMISSION**

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2013
WFFA Office
Olympia, Washington

Next Meetings: *December 18, 2013, DNR Room 452, Olympia, WA*

Commissioners Present:

Michael Johnson, Chairman
Nick Wheeler, Vice Chairman
Randy Bartelt
Tom Fox
Joe Monks

Commissioners Absent:

Ed Orcutt
Steve Witherspoon

Attendees:

Matt Comisky, Diann Lewallen, 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 June 19, 2013 meeting as emailed.

FINANCE REPORT

Lewallen presented the financial report dated August 31, 2013 showing cash and CD's of \$52,505.30 with no accounts payable. The cash flow spreadsheet shows a projected estimated reserve and estimated available reserve of \$39,009.46, through June 2014. She also reported that approximately \$3,000 in revenue from the 2nd quarter 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 MSP to approve the financial report. (copy attached). It was also MSP to approve the final payment of \$20,000 to UW for the Western Washington Hardwood Assessment.

UW INSTITUTE OF FOREST RESOURCES

The Western Washington Hardwood Assessment final report was discussed. It was agreed that the Executive Summary was confusing and needed to be rewritten. Monks will discuss WHC's request for a rewrite with UW with specifics outlined and approved by the Commissioners. In addition, WHC will ask someone not affiliated with UW to analyze the data and its presentation in the report. Access to the report on the UWIFR website must be made easily accessible, as well as available on the WHC website. A letter of thank you to financial contributors will be drafted and forwarded to those Commissioners who will personally present the report.

LANDS COMMISSIONER GOLDMARK MEETING FOLLOWUP

Wheeler will research the availability of data to show the residual effect of nitrogen from a stand of alder and the results of planting alder after alder vs. alder/conifer rotation.

We will invite DNR's Kyle Blum and Julie Hackett to the December 18th Commission meeting where we will discuss the joint task of looking at hardwood conversions on a WAU basis, highlight major parts of the hardwood assessment report, and the regional use of tools available for site/micro site selection.

REVIEW OF WHC PURPOSE AND ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

Johnson led the discussion of the stated purpose of the Commission as outlined in Chapter 244-12 WAC (copy enclosed). Many of the eight ways to accomplish the purpose are currently a part of the sub-committee structure of the WHC. Each Commissioner was asked to review them and be prepared to recommend additional projects at the December 18th meeting.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stand Management – Johnson will discuss the ORGANON model with Andy Bluhm (OSU) and how we can make the Alder Growth & Yield Model more useful. It was MSP to offer up to \$5,000 on a contractual basis to do 15 to 20 scenarios that would involve different variables and be useful to the majority of the landowners and land managers. He will talk to Luke Rogers (UW) regarding an online reporting tool.

Resource Values – Monks will work with UW to revise certain areas of the hardwood assessment as mentioned above, determine the optimum intervals to update the assessment, prepare model scenarios that help demonstrate the potential power of the new inventory, and work on the development of a user-friendly, web-based application that allows public access to portions of the inventory results.

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.

Policy and Government Affairs – Fox has continued to monitor pertinent proposed bills that would affect the forest products industry. He will work with Orcutt to designate a legislative work session to present information relevant to the hardwood industry. WHC will again participate in the Forest Products meeting attracting legislators.

Markets – No report.

Research and Grant-funded Programs – Wheeler reported that the federal sequester might affect future funding of the biofuels projects at UW and WSU. He further reported that there is genetic research being developed to grow a better hardwood tree. The application of genetics for red alder was discussed and a draft proposal will be written.

Farm to Timberlands – No report.

2014 ANNUAL MEETING

The location has been confirmed for the June 12, 2014 annual meeting at the Veteran's Memorial Museum in Chehalis, WA. Bartelt and Monks presented a draft agenda that would include a case study on riparian hardwood conversion, ORGANON update on the hardwood growth & yield model, how to successfully grow alder on your site, future trends for hardwood markets, and a tour of a hardwood plantation or hardwood conversion site. Speakers were proposed and the annual meeting co-chairs will get confirmations by the next meeting on December 18th.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next meeting is December 18, 2013. On the agenda:

Discuss agenda for meeting with Commissioner Goldmark

Biofuels

Stephen Harmon - FPARS

Blum & Sackett - WHC will discuss with them hardwood conversions on WAU basis, hardwood inventory report, tools available for site/microsite selection

Hardwood assessment

WHC purpose and additional projects

Annual meeting

Sub-committee reports of progress

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dave Sweitzer