



**WASHINGTON
HARDWOODS
COMMISSION**

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2014
DNR Pacific Cascade Office
Castle Rock, WA

Next Meetings: *October 22, 2014 (teleconference)*
December 9, 2014 (DNR building, Room 461, Olympia, WA)

Commissioners Present

Michael Johnson, Chairman
Nick Wheeler, Vice Chairman
Randy Bartelt
Tom Fox
Joe Monks
Ed Orcutt
Steve Witherspoon

Commissioners Absent

Attendees:

Ann Forest Burns, Brian Morris, Brian Norris, Jake Moriniti, 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 12, 2014 and July 23, 2014 meetings as emailed.

FINANCE REPORT

Lewallen presented the financial report dated August 31, 2014 showing cash and CD's of \$40,244.03 with no accounts payable. The cash flow spreadsheet shows a projected estimated reserve and estimated available reserve of \$37,819.04, through June 2015. Sweitzer presented the Logs Process Summary, Dollar and Volume reports and noted that the log export figures were corrected. It was MSP to approve the financial report. (copies attached).

2015 ANNUAL MEETING

Tentatively scheduled for June 9th at a location north of Seattle. Monks will search out an alder site that is ready for harvesting in order to show grade on the stump as well as log grades. He will then recommend a venue to have the meeting. Target audience will be small landowners. Topics might include silviculture and management of alder, Growth & Yield model, site selection tool, market trends, regional issues, and seedling availability. Johnson and Bartelt will email a draft agenda.

DNR REPORT

Brodie gave updates on

- Sustainable Harvest Calculation – in July, BNR gave direction that a new SHC and EIS be developed. DNR is now in the planning process and should make a presentation to the BNR in November or December. He estimates a two-year process to completion.
- Marbled Murrelet – he is suggesting that this might be linked timewise with the SHC. They are

now negotiating with Fish & Wildlife to develop alternatives which will be presented to BNR, followed by a draft EIS, and then on to a public comment period.

- Arrearage – he suggested that this would also be linked to the SHC. He said there are three broad areas affecting arrearage deferral, Marbled Murrelet, Riparian Management Zone, and owl habitat. The Commission strongly suggested that the arrearage resulting from the prior SHC, which expired June 30th, 2014, be harvested in the two-year interim prior to the adoption of the next SHC. He said BNR would need to make a decision to harvest the arrearage now, rather than roll it into the next SHC.
- Site Selection Tool – he is recommending that a classroom orientation be conducted on the site selection tool for all DNR managers and field personnel. He also wants to establish a webinar on the use of the SST. He asked that WHC participate in this educational process to DNR personnel to answer the question of “why plant alder?”. The Commission recommended that DNR consider a regional performance goal for managing alder.

AFRC REPORT

Burns also recommended that BNR harvest the arrearage before the next decadal SHC. She is suggesting that DNR complete within the next two years, 1) the Marbled Murrelet long term conservation strategy, 2) the Sustainable Harvest Calculation, and 3) the forest plan for the Olympic Experimental State Forest. AFRC is very concerned about the reduction in manageable trust land acres by DNR.

SUB-COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

Stand Management – Johnson described the latest iteration of the Growth & Yield website. He is still working on it and should have a test site ready shortly. He discussed Hardwood Conversion by WAU with Luke Rogers of UW. He is planning to meet with Rogers to further outline WHC’s request. Johnson reported that Bruce Bare said that a periodic inventory update of just hardwoods might be too costly for the WHC. His suggestion includes a macro approach to the forest inventory to include hardwood and softwood and that WHC serve as a catalyst for involving many more groups for funding. We are still trying to coordinate with DNR on tracking FPAs in the RMZs.

Resource Values – Monks will follow up with Bruce Bare on making available the information of hardwood stands by county.

Education & Outreach – Bartelt and Sweitzer will meet with WSU Extension that includes Tatum Weed, James Freed, and Andy Perleberg, to develop a strategy to disseminate silviculture and management information on alder.

Policy and Government Affairs – Fox led a discussion on tax incentives for growing alder. It would be difficult to accomplish in the economy we have today. However, he will check with Natural Resource Conservation Service to see what is available through the Farm Bill including EQIP. He will consider inviting them to our next meeting. The first rough draft of the WFFA template for conifer restoration (Hardwood Conversion) was discussed and the consensus was that the template needs to be simpler and clearer. Fox will speak with Elaine Oneil of WFFA.

Markets – Witherspoon suggested that markets, and not marketing, be a concern for WHC. He and Sweitzer will meet to discuss an approach.

Research & Grant-Funded Programs – Wheeler reported that the alder genomics project has been fully funded, Greenwood Resources and Penn State University have defined a more precise research plan, and the study is proceeding at or faster than scheduled. Sweitzer reported that the improved seedlings project at WSU Puyallup is in jeopardy if a proposal by Norman Lewis of Ealasad is not accepted. That is, the 3,000 improved alder seedlings could be destroyed and not propagated to 25,000 seedlings available in 2016 and 250,000 available for 2017 planting season. Other nurseries will be contacted by Lewis.

Farm-to-Timberlands – Orcutt discussed the brochure for landowners and consulting foresters. Such a

brochure would need to have the latest information on site selection, silviculture, and management and be available in printed form as well as downloadable. Fox will talk to WFFA about getting their list of small landowners. Sweitzer will talk to Zabel at Western Forestry & Conservation Association and Lori Razor at SAF for obtaining mailing lists. Orcutt will work with Washington and Oregon chapters of ACF for mailing lists.

WHC PURPOSE AND ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

Tabled until next meeting.

FUTURE GOLDMARK MEETING DATE AND TOPICS

It was agreed that we would try to meet with Commissioner Goldmark on December 9th prior to, during, or immediately after the Commission meeting. (Subsequent to the Commission meeting, an appointment has been secured for 8:00 AM on December 9th with Commissioner Goldmark.) Topics of discussion might include alder genomics update, improved seedlings availability, Sustained Harvest Calculations arrearage, progress with future SHC, and forest inventory update.

POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 22ND TELECONFERENCE

1. Finalize agenda for Goldmark meeting.
2. Committee project progress.
3. Annual meeting.
4. WHC purpose and additional projects.

OTHER BUSINESS

It was MSP that any funds remaining from the remeasurement project budget be allocated to the Hardwood Silviculture Coop.

Norman Lewis will speak on improved seedlings at the PNW Reforestation Council meeting in Vancouver, WA on October 16th.

Sweitzer reported that he and Fox attended the Forestry Field Day in Salkum. About 150 attended and we were able to discuss alder with at least 25 people. WHC had a table with handouts and Andy Bluhm of Hardwood Silviculture Coop gave two presentations on alder management.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dave Sweitzer