

**COOPERATING FORESTER SUB-TEAM**  
**Thursday January 15, 2015**  
**Schmeekle Reserve**  
**Stevens Point, WI**

**MEETING AGENDA:**

ATTENDANCE:    Ryan Medo            Bill Buckley            Dave Dhaseleer            Aaron Young  
                      Ron Gropp            Peter Anderson            Bethany Polchowski            Carol Nielsen  
                      Chris Martin            Marcia Vahradian            Jon Lieth.

**1. Welcome / Housekeeping / Agenda Repair**

**2. Old Business**

- a. DNR Forester Guidance – Update & Next Steps  
Being prepared for 21-day public comment, and subsequently inserted into Chapter 10 of the Private Forestry Handbook
- b. Consulting Forester Contract  
PLMT is working on developing a sample consultant contract for landowners, similar to the Sample Timber Sale Contract (WVOA / UW-Extension / DNR)  
Wisconsin Consulting Forester (WCF) is also working on developing something similar; Peter will convey this message to Fred Hengst on PLMT
- c. PLMT Meeting Minutes (November 2014)  
No follow-up questions on the minutes from the November PLMT meeting



Nov 11 2014  
minutes.docx

**3. New Business**

- a. 2015 Annual CF Statewide Meeting – Update  
Chris reviewed the agenda and gave a brief update on current planning efforts; no comments received from the team
- b. **Issue Brief** – Cooperating Forester Renewal Process (Proposed); includes discussion with embedded attachments re: proposed revisions to the Dispute Resolution Process (clarification statement) and process for terminating the CF Agreement (DNR)

Discussion:

- Introduce topic at Cooperating Forester Meeting
- Add a summary to the evaluation at the meeting to receive feedback
- Can we introduce topic in email the week prior to the meeting so people can look at it before hand?

- This will add efficiencies, correct?
- Confirm with Forest Tax that stumpage rate deadline will not change

#### Conclusions:

- Will mention during Coop Forester Meeting conference call on 1/20 to add 5 minutes to discuss proposal, answer questions at a booth. Result: Five minutes added to agenda.
- Email will go out the cooperators week before the meeting.

#### Discussion

- How do we hold cooperators accountable for missing deadlines? What is the process for terminating the agreement apart from dispute resolution process?
- These are separate issue between disputes (cutting notices, etc.) and missing filing deadlines.

#### Discussion

- Under 1. Add 'CPW status could be revoked'
- Affects CPW status – being flexible and consistent
- Make it as black and white as possible: if deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup> then that should be the deadline
- Very difficult to kick someone out for this (not as serious as a breach of ethics, etc.)
- If agreement terminated the ability to reapply would be suspended for a year.
- Make sure numerous contacts are made during renewal period (multiple emails). DNR contacts Cooperators plenty ahead of time. Include "Action Needed" in email.
- Need to build an 'out' to be flexible
- Concern about hours – what if you're short? Additional comments: Cooperators should be on top of CE needs beforehand and work with DNR to determine hours of CE session throughout the year.
- Contact by the cooperator to DNR prior to the deadline is important to allow any flexibility (either by phone or email or mail). Build in language for department discretion on allowing grace period for Cooperators that are late filing. Consensus that no more than 30 days grace period for either late paperwork or lack of hours.
- Recommended action: start with announcing proposed deadline to Cooperators feedback; introduce proposed termination procedure later.

**Ron and Chris will draft proposed language in consideration of the feedback received by the team today, and send to the team for recommendation to move the issue forward to PLMT; a message to Cooperating Foresters will also be drafted and sent to receive additional feedback on the proposed process.**

c. Forestry Industry Accountability Committee – Action Items

From the 2013 Governors Forest Economic Summit. One of the committees pursuing action items related to issues that were identified at the Economic Summit.

Discussion

Concerns about punitive measures (certification audits-time consuming, expensive) to landowners (non-MFL)

DNR not allowed on non-MFL w/out permission; however, permission to enter non-MFL private lands is not needed until the audit is scheduled.

Add legal description to annual accomplishment reporting to ID non-MFL land

DNR already contact DNR about NHI

Don't develop a whole new auditing system

d. Other Items?

Cutting Notice- not accessible via PDF on certain PCs; would like a word version of the cutting notice.

**4. Schedule Next Meeting – All**

**Next meeting scheduled in July 2015; Ron will follow-up with sending out a Doodle Poll to determine a date that works best for the team**

**Break @ 10:45 a.m.**

**Lunch @ 12:00 p.m.**

**Adjournment @ 3:00 p.m. (ish)**