

WISCONSIN PRIVATE FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WPFAC)**Date:** November 30, 2017**Location:** Portage County Public Library, Stevens Point, WI**Attendance:** Nancy Bozek, Bill Buckley, Ann Calhoun, Ron Gropp, Shawn Hagan, Joe Hovel, Buddy Huffaker, Bill Klase, Kristin Lambert, Trent Marty, Dennis McDougall, Al Murray, Brandon Soldner, Amanda Swearingen, Steve Swenson, Scott Walter, Jim Warren, R.J. Wickham, Darrell Zastrow**Absent:** Aaron Burmeister, Earl Gustafson, Andy Hart, David Solin

Time	Agenda Item Presenter <i>Type (info/discuss/recommend)</i>	Decisions <i>(include why)</i>	Assignments/Follow-Up <i>(include deadlines)</i>
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome/Introductions/Review Agenda Jim Warren <i>Informational</i>		
9:15 - 9:45	Updates from Committee Members Jim Warren <i>Informational</i> • Committee members shared brief updates about their organizations.		
9:45 - 12:45	Supporting Outreach to Private Woodland Owners Bill Klase & Steve Swenson <i>Discussion/Recommendation</i> <i>(continued on next page)</i>		

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9:45 - 12:45 (with 15 min and lunch break s)	• Bill Klase provided an introduction and overview of the report/recommendations drafted by the WPFAC adhoc committee • Adhoc committee members: Bill Klase (Chair), Ann Calhoun, Rob Gropp, Buddy Huffaker (ALF), Kristin Lambert, Carol Nielsen (WWOA), Jen Simoni (ALF), Steve Swenson (ALF), Scott Walter, Darrell Zastrow (UWEX) • Comments: – What about community based planning instead of starting from the top?; build off of county land use plans so landowners see themselves as part of the forestry community; tool kit at each county for landowners – The outcome map does not show the steps of getting people engaged – DNR has shifted roughly 12 FTE worth of time to private forestry (integrated foresters) – The involvement of WPFAC allows WPFAC to hold DNR accountable – e.g. “what did we get for that additional investment in private forestry?” – Will take work to figure out how to measure the non DNR investment toward the million acres, but can get data from Tree Farm, NRCS, Cooperating Foresters, etc. – Conservation outcomes (e.g. fragmentation) need to be emphasized – 50K acres/year spread amongst ALL partners is a reasonable goal to accomplish – It’s important to have a stretch goal and look at this as though we all have a stake in the game – It’s a unifying goal – We will continue to evaluate the data as we move along – Dennis has seen similar initiatives in MN, MO – Who is the audience for this, especially the diagram? – This report will guide the DNR’s efforts and we want your input in what you think our role should be	• WPFAC members will have additional time to review report, share with constituents and provide feedback. • Conference call will be scheduled in mid-January for further discussion.	✓ Bill will update document based on today’s discussion and share with WPFAC on Tuesday (12/5). ✓ WPFAC members provide feedback before the holidays. ✓ Bill will schedule conference call for mid-January.
12:10 - 12:45	Lunch		
1:00 -	Forest Tax Law – Updating WI Administrative Code Amanda Swearingen		

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2:30	Informational/Discussion • Access: – Can't we grandfather old MFLs? – Work off of complaints would be acceptable, but could be a liability issue for CPWs – Could there be a checkbox on the application where the landowner certifies they have access? – Could we require something be recorded at the Register of Deeds? – It should be the landowner's responsibility if they are getting the additional tax break – it should be on the MFL map, scanned and uploaded into WisFIRS, and should be signed on the land. – The adjoining landowner should have to sign an access agreement/document – "on foot" shouldn't be affected by distance/terrain – If access to a public body of water is public then there is access • Hunting blinds: – Anything used for active hunting hasn't been working – Don't make this so complicated like the 8 building criteria	• Recommendation for hunting blinds: – Will not use concrete/asphalt to construct supports – May be installed on support posts using hand tools – May be on the ground – Does not include houses, mobile homes, hunting/fishing lodges, cabins, fishing huts – Does not include permanent utilities	
2:30 - 3:10	DNR Updates Ron Gropp RJ Wickham <i>Discussion</i> • 25 foresters, 5 technicians hired into Integrated Forester roles • Tax Law Section fully staffed except for one position (WisFIRS specialist) • Roles/responsibilities for Integrated vs. Tax Law Foresters • Ron Gropp shared information about a new Cooperating Forester Complaint Process – Comments/questions include: interview with the Cooperating Forester is important; is everything documented in writing?; will the investigation information be shared with SFI? • Private Forestry Training for new DNR Foresters	• Nancy and Joe would like an article about roles of Tax Law vs. Integrated Foresters.	• Kristin will send information about Tax Law vs. Integrated Forester roles to WPFAC.

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	– Topics will include service forester roles, building relationships, setting expectations, communicating with landowners, core programs (stewardship, easements, CPW, FSA, NRCS, WWOA, Tree Farm, etc.) – Fall timeframe – Forest/wildlife should be included (landowners are interested in wildlife, DMap, etc.) – Could foresters get time in logging machinery?		
3:10 - 3:25	Open Forum – Questions for DNR Jim Warren <i>Discussion</i> • What is the status of non-MFL Stewardship plans in WisFIRS? – Not ready yet. • Can MFL plans be updated by Cooperating Foresters? – Not available yet, but our intention to provide more access. • How will Fred be integrated into the adhoc report/outreach strategy? – Fred will be briefed shortly – Fred wants to bring this to Council on Forestry in March/April – Then we need to start thinking about tactics for implementation		
3:25 - 3:30	Wrap-up Kristin Lambert • Next Committee meeting will be conference call to discuss adhoc report. • No in-person committee meeting scheduled. • Committee members can always share suggested agenda items • DNR welcomes feedback on how things are going with the Committee.		
3:15	Adjourn		