



Policy & Legislative Committee
SAF Executive Committee
September 29, 2010

The Wisconsin Legislature has been out of session since June but will start again in January 2011.

The Governor will be releasing the State 2011-2013 budget bill in February 2011.

Legislation – MFL Legislative Study

The study of the MFL was authorized in late June 2010. The first Legislative Study Committee meeting was on August 18th. A second meeting was held on September 9th. The Committee's third meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2010 in the State Capitol. The meetings are also recorded on Wisconsin Eye so you can watch them from your computer and all the prepared reports are being posted in the web.

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/committees/study/2010/MFL/>

The committee is scheduled to complete its work by the end of 2010. The Legislative Council will typically have legislation drafted to address the Committee's suggested changes early in 2011 for introduction.

Special Committee on Review of the Managed Forest Land Program Membership

LEGISLATOR MEMBERS (6)

Sen. Jim Holperin

Sen. Neal Kedzie

Sen. Dale Schultz

Rep. Fred Clark, Chair

Rep. Donald Friske, Vice-Chair

Rep. Mary Hubler

PUBLIC MEMBERS (10)

Mark Abeles-Alison, Washburn, Administrator-Bayfield County

Mike Carlson, Madison, Government Relations Director-Gathering Waters Conservancy

Bill Horvath, Stevens Point, Citizen Member
E. G. Nadeau, Madison, WI Forest Owner Cooperation Project
Dean Pelkey, Tomahawk, Region Forester-Packaging Corporation of America
Charly Ray, Ashland, General Manager-Living Forest Cooperative
Mark Rickenbach, Madison, Associate Professor & Ext. Specialist-UW-Madison
Eugene Roark, Madison, Board Member-WI Woodland Owners Association
Fred Souba, Jr., Wisconsin Rapids, Member-Governor's Council on Forestry
Richard Stadelman, Shawano, Executive Director-WI Towns Association

DNR Division of Forestry Strategic Direction - Adapting to New Realities (ANR)

Following the completion of Statewide Forestry Assessment & Strategy (June 2010), the next phases of work the DNR will do is to aim to operationalize the Division's strategic direction by determining the Division's niche or role, analyze gaps between current and projected systems and resources, and finally culminate in a resource alignment discussion for the Division. The ultimate purpose of the ANR process is to help better position the Division within the forestry sector so that it remains a valued and trusted partner in the management of Wisconsin's forests in the 21st century. Forestry partners are being asked to provide input all along the way to help shape the future of the services and products the DNR Division of Forestry provides to the citizens and business of Wisconsin.

On September 9, 2010 Paul DeLong sent the following request.

Dear Colleague/Partner,

I am writing to request your review of the DNR Division of Forestry's draft Strategic Direction. The working draft is attached to this e-mail, along with a form that you can use to provide us feedback. You can also find both on-line at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/assessment/strategy/strategicDir.htm>



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This first draft of the DNR Division of Forestry's Strategic Direction is a list of possible actions the Division could take to address the goals and strategies in the Statewide Forest Strategy. This first working draft does not state exactly what the Division will do, and at what level, over the next five years; it is not a statement of commitment. It does, however, describe where we think the Division has a role.

We appreciate those of you who took us up on our request to provide feedback about DNR's role in implementing strategies contained in the recently approved Statewide Forest Strategy. That feedback, along with internal discussions, has resulted in the document being shared with you now.

Partner and public input on this initial draft will help inform the Division's decisions about how to best invest resources to protect and sustainably manage Wisconsin's forests for the next five or more years.

Please send us your comments by October 1. Both your comments and questions should be submitted to Rebecca Gass at rebecca.gass@wi.gov.

Thanks for taking the time to provide us with your perspective about the DNR's role in protecting and sustainably managing Wisconsin's forests.

Paul

Paul DeLong

Administrator, Division of Forestry
Chief State Forester
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

DNR Hayward Tree Nursery

The DNR has proposed to stop growing tree seedlings at the Hayward Nursery facility beginning in 2013. The remaining two facilities would continue seedling production. State nurseries are required to cover the entire costs of their operations with seedling sales revenues. This action is in response to decreased seedling sales over the last number of years. The nursery program continues to implement cost saving measures but are sized to grow 10 to 12 million bare root seedlings per year. Recent sales figures have been around 7 million per year.

The DNR will be developing a draft business plan for Hayward and actively engaging forestry partners this winter to finalize the reduction plan. The Hayward Nursery infrastructure will not be sold as it will be utilized for other nursery related business needs including continued spring seedling distribution to the northern part of the state.

Submitted by Bob Mather
Policy & Legislation Chair
September 21, 2010