

Wisconsin Council on Forestry Report

January 5, 2012

A meeting was held on December 13, 2011 in Minocqua in conjunction with the Northern Wisconsin Economic Development Summit. This was the first meeting called under Governor Walker's administration. After introduction the first order addressed the operational guidelines for the council and all were asked to review the guidelines and recommend changes if needed.

The next agenda item was to review the status of Council initiatives:

- Changes to the list of soil map units limited by Biomass Harvesting Guidelines were reviewed and explained by Carmen Wagner. The BHG implementation plan calls for review of BHGs in spring 2012.
- In 2005, the Council created a report on forestry research in Wisconsin. It is time to review the report and consider what research topics should have higher priorities.
- The Council had previously identified a short list of actions from the Statewide Forest Strategy that the Council was could potentially implement. We will now review the list and select the highest priority actions to complete.

Paul DeLong gave a report on the Division of Forestry's administration priorities, Strategic Direction - Operations Plan, development of a business plan and the update on the northwest storm recovery plan.

The final topic of the meeting was to start the Council members thinking about issues the Council should spend time on in the upcoming year. Some of the issues mentioned include deer population and management, forestry education and outreach, timber industry, and forestry research. **Let me know if the executive committee has any topics the Council should consider.**

A date for the next meeting has not been set but we are looking at late January or early February.

Jim Kerkman