
Wisconsin Forestry Notes

February 2012

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

New leader convenes Council on February 15 in Madison.

Council on Forestry convenes under new leader

Governor Walker has appointed Henry Schienebeck as the Chair of the Council on Forestry, an advisory group that provides direction on forestry issues to the Governor and the DNR Division of Forestry. Schienebeck, Executive Director of the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, has assumed leadership from past chair Fred Souba. The Council will convene on February 15 at the State Capitol. See the membership list, past meeting minutes and information about Council projects at <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/>.

Friend of Forestry awards presented to Jerry Greenberg and Tim Gary.

Division thanks friends

Every year the Division of Forestry recognizes exceptional achievements by staff and partners. This year, the Division presented “Friend of Forestry” awards to two external partners – Jerry Greenberg and Tim Gary. Greenberg, Senior Vice President for Conservation at the American Forest Foundation, has national responsibilities to help private forest owners manage their lands sustainably but has provided valuable leadership in Wisconsin with a variety of programs. Tim Gary, who serves as Rep. Mursau’s Chief of Staff, Legislative Research Assistant and Assembly Forestry Committee Clerk, has for more than 10 years worked on forestry issues in the State Assembly. He is a champion of sustainable forestry in the legislature and a go-to person on forest issues for legislators and staff of both parties. The Division also recognized two internal DNR staff as “Friends of Forestry” – Northern Region Director John Gozdziński and Karl Martin, Section Chief for Wildlife and Forestry Research.

Check out the revised forest industry database online.

Industry directories updated online

Wisconsin’s forest products industry directory, maintained by the University of Wisconsin-Extension and DNR Forestry, has now been updated online (an update of the printed version will not be done due to lack of funding). The updated online version of the directory combines the primary and secondary industry into one searchable database. Just select the search parameters you want to use (county, annual production, type of facility, materials purchased, species purchased or products sold) and hit the search button. This new database even offers an option to search by certification type. It will also save your search results as a PDF document if you’d like. Find the database via the DNR at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestBusinesses/> or go directly to the database at <http://www.woodindustry.forest.wisc.edu/>. If you have questions or comments about the directory, contact Terry Mace (terry.mace@wisconsin.gov) at DNR (608-231-9333) or Scott Bowe (sbowe@wisc.edu) with UW-Madison (608) 265-5849.

Legislation prompts changes in the Managed Forest Law.

Changes to Managed Forest Law implemented

Managed Forest Law (MFL) changes recently approved by the legislature took effect on January 1, 2012. Three of these changes are: 1) Recording fees at local register of deeds offices increased to \$30/document, thereby increasing the MFL application fee from \$20 to \$30 per county for each application; 2) Owners buying land from large ownerships - as defined in NR 46.18(4) – must provide a management plan within one year of the transfer date; and 3) Owners who no longer meet the qualifications of a large ownership must provide a management plan within one year of losing large ownership status. For details on these and all of the other recent MFL changes, visit http://legis.wisconsin.gov/cr_final/11-013.pdf or contact Forest Tax Program Policy Chief Kathy Nelson at Kathryn.Nelson@Wisconsin.gov or 608-266-3545.

Fifteen new foresters will help the Division provide better service.

Division hires new foresters

The Division of Forestry will be able to provide better service to our customers and the forest resource after hiring fifteen new foresters. The new hires are located in Friendship, LaCrosse, Necedah, Oconto Falls (2), Peshtigo, Merrill, Trout Lake, Barnes, Ladysmith, Park Falls, Hayward, Spooner and Webster (2). Even with these new hires, the Division continues to hold more than 70 positions vacant.

Grants will help communities prepare for the emerald ash borer, inventory their forests and more.

Urban forest grants awarded to communities

The DNR Urban Forestry Grant program awarded \$527,706 to 48 Wisconsin communities, nonprofit organizations, and a county for 2012 community urban forestry projects. Wisconsin has approximately 5.2 million ash trees in cities, villages and urban towns and communities were encouraged to apply for grants to bolster their preparedness for the emerald ash borer. Further information is available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/UrbanForests/>, or contact State Urban Forestry Coordinator Dick Rideout at Richard.Rideout@wisconsin.gov or (608) 267-0843.

Plan will guide Division's operations for next five years.

Division operations plan finalized

Following completion of a five-year strategic direction document last year, the Division of Forestry began developing the operations plan that allocates staff and fiscal resources to implement the strategic direction. The operations plan, finalized last month, describes “where” and “how” changes described in the strategic direction will take place and is the blueprint for internal workings of the Division. Changes in the supervisory structure of the Division will take place with the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1. See details online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/assessment/strategy/opPlan.htm>.

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