

Forest Practices Advisory Board
January 13, 2010
Draft meeting minutes

Attendees as members: Joan Nichols, Tom Trowbridge, Chris Martin, Steve Broderick
Attendees: DEP Staff: Doug Emmerthal, Jennifer Hockla, Judd White, Sheila Hoefle
Guests: Eric Hammerling

1. Meeting called to order at 9:05 am by Doug Emmerthal. Doug noted that there was not enough members present to achieve a quorum.
2. Minutes of 9/17/09 meeting reviewed. Minutes amended to correct spelling of Coverts on page 3. Motion to accept minutes as amended by Joan Nichols, seconded Tom Trowbridge, unanimous vote.
3. Update on the progress made toward completion of the State Forest Resource Assessment. The USDA Forest Service is requiring all states to compile a Forest Resource Assessment & Strategy. The CT effort will be made easier due to the work done by Helene Flounders-Hochholzer in 2004 when she completed the Connecticut Statewide Forest Resource Plan. CT DEP Forestry will be utilizing the CT Statewide Forest Resource Plan as a building block and working from that document. Joel Stocker from UCONN is assisting with completion of the mapping layers. The completion of the Forest Resource Assessment & Strategy will help to ensure continued funding from the USDA Forest Service for the Division of Forestry. Roundtable meetings will be held with DEP Forestry staff, other stake holders and the public to ensure that all interested parties are able to participate/contribute to the new plan. There was a trial meeting with CTSAF at their January meeting. Public roundtables are scheduled for February and March. There will be a fee for individuals who will attend the roundtables. DEP Forestry is providing staff facilitation of the roundtables. A memo from Bill Bentley was distributed that included 11 draft forest visions for the January 9, 2010 CT SAF Meeting. A PDF brochure is almost complete at this time to give information about the upcoming roundtables. Attendance at the roundtables is not necessary for submission of information/opinion to the plan. CEU's for certified forest practitioners will be available for attending the round tables. Joan Nichols will post information on the TIMPRO website.
4. Municipal Inland Wetland Commissioner Training took place in the fall of 2009. Two were held one in eastern Connecticut and one in western Connecticut. Eighty-five individuals were signed up to attend at Great Mountain & Marlborough. Many individuals that signed up were inland wetland agents, some representing more than one town. It was a good sign that many agents were advocating for forest practices. The session that was held in Marlborough was curtailed due to heavy rain for the afternoon field session, but many individuals attempted to attend and participate in the field session. There is a planned effort to hold training in a few years. The Nichols', Great Mountain Forest are both thanked for equipment and location. In the future TIMPRO would like to collaborate on the trainings. Discussion about the new notification form to commissioners and agents was discussed. It was recommended to Eric Hammerling that the form be sent to municipal agents and chairs of inland wetlands commissions. Eric Hammerling to send Doug Emmerthal the most up to date version of the form. The CT SAF chapter and TIMPRO have both signed off on the letter and will allow use of their logo on the letter. Steve Broderick to forward a JPEG of CTSAF logo to Eric Hammerling. At this time there are no contributions to the copying and distribution of the letter. Joan Nichols will check with the board of TIMPRO to determine if they want to contribute financially to the effort.
5. Discussion of opportunities to improve on the certification regulations. Late this past summer a letter was received at DEP from TIMPRO regarding removing the work "certified" from the regulations to enable practitioners/applicants to pay their fees with a personal check. Discussion was held that if regulations were going to be opened to remove the word "certified" any other changes should also be made at that time. Suggested changes included modification of the CEU requirements and removal of the annual fee increase. Tom Trowbridge and Joan Nichols are going to draft suggestions in writing to submit for discussion at the next meeting. Thoughts were to limit the lifetime number of CEU's

required for an individual and going to a category system rather than just a total value needed. It was discussed again if Master Logger Certification should warrant any CEU's. At this time Forest Practitioner CEU's are based on professional education not performance, which is how Master Logger is awarded. It was noted that there seems to be two issues relative to CEU's. The first was the capacity to deliver workshops. The second issue was how many CEU's should be required of each certification level. Additional CEU opportunities are available from webinars. A Bucking for Profit training will be held in March at Hinman's Mill with the help of Harry Gunderlach and Paul Szvedo. Sara Smith will also be helping. In the afternoon there will be a pig roast and the annual business meeting of TIMPRO. TIMPRO trainings average 30 participants. Tom Trowbridge noted that if Supervisors attended the EXPO they would have enough CEU's for the year, every year. One notification is sent out approximately one year prior to renewal reminding certified individuals of their accrual up to that point and reminding them how many additional CEU's are needed.

6. Legislative updates. Certification fee increases: The fee for Certified Practitioners doubled July 1, and will continue to go up 3% annually July 1. The Environment Committee is going to review all fee increases.
7. Steve Broderick noted that now may be the time to let UCONN know that an extension forester is needed. CT SAF, CFPA, Eastern CT Landowners Assoc., TIMPRO and private landowners should express the need to UCONN.
8. 10-MIL: 10 MIL properties are slated to be coming due for reevaluation beginning 2011. Chris Martin gave a presentation to the Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers last spring. Over the coming years 14,000 acres will be reevaluated. The first properties will be in Kent, Ledyard and North Stonington. In the 1970's the Legislature passed an opportunity for individuals to convert their land from 10 MIL to PA490. The penalty to convert from 10 MIL to 490 is 5 MILS per years since the land was originally classified. Connecticut has 34 towns that have 10-mil land. Doug Emmerthal to email Eric Hammerling a listing of the towns that have 10-mil land. Joan Nichols stated that the Farm Bureau is in the process of rewriting the 490 Guide; it should be completed this spring.
9. Certification Program updates: There is an exam scheduled for 1/14/2010. Twenty people have applied to take that exam. Currently there are approximately 550 certified individuals and the number seems to be holding steady.
10. Biomass: Growers Direct in Somers has completed the installation of a biomass heating unit. It is estimated that 2 tractor trailer loads will be needed per day in the summer and 4 in the winter. They plan to take dirty chips.
11. Next meeting scheduled for 5/26/2010 at 9am at CFPA.
12. Motion to adjourn: Made by Steve Broderick, seconded by Eric Hammerling. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Hoefle