

Forest Practices Advisory Board

October 29, 2020

Present: Patrick Comins, Chris Martin, Joan Nichols, Dr. Mark Ashton (10:30 departure), Tom Degnan (arrived late)

Absent: Ian Branson, Joe Theroux, Bruce Spaman, Peter Nieman

Guests: Doug Emmerthal (DEEP), Nick Zito (DEEP), Eric Hammerling (CFPA), Peggy Diaz (DEEP), Brennan Sheahan (CT Mulch), Sheila Hoefle (DEEP-Recorder),

Circulated Materials:

[Advisory Board Minutes 6/18/2020](#)

[Governor's Council on Climate Change](#)

2020 PA490 Recommended Land Use Values

Meeting called to order at 9:03am. Quorum not established.

2021 Legislative Session – the proposed updates to the Forest Practices Act were not included on the agency's proposals for the session. Timpro will work with legislators to introduce the updates. Chris will share proposed bills with Board members that could affect forestry activities in Connecticut. He also requested that Board members forward any information to him that they have. There is some concern that the overall budget for DEEP may be reduced.

[Governor's Council on Climate Change](#) (GC3) – Working and Natural Lands Working Group Forests Subgroup Update – The Working Group anticipates completing the draft report by November 6. The Working and Natural Lands Working Group Forests Subgroup received a large number of comments. The engagement from the academic, forestry, wildlife conservation, land trust members and other key stakeholders that had thoughtful well prepared comments was welcomed and appreciated. If such engagement did not happen the report would not have been as robust. Chris thanked Eric for his leadership of the group as well as Mark and Patrick for their participation on the sub group. It is important to note that proforestation recommendations (minimal forest management activities) have largely been removed from the Forests Subgroup mostly due to outcry of many concerning comments from forestry, conservation, academia and climate research scientists communities questioning its validity as an effective climate change mitigation/adaptation strategy. Proforestation removes the option to respond to outside influences on the forest with silvicultural prescriptions.

Chris will distribute information on a December 17 webinar that will include participants from New Jersey and Maryland where no net loss of forest programs currently exist. No net forest loss is the primary recommendation from the Forests Subgroup.

Forest Action Plan Update – internal DEEP review of draft report is completed. Deputy Commissioner Mason Trumbull plans to use his marketing skills to promote the Forest Action Plan. The final draft will be ready for public review by November and is then due to the USDA Forest Service by the end of December.

Public Act 490 Forest Land Recommended Value five year update – Andrea Urbano, Service Forester, took the lead on this project. The value has increased since the 2015 reevaluation from \$240/acre to \$390/acre. The amount is influenced by the rate of tree growth versus the removal rate. The Farm Bureau will be publishing and update PA490 Guide thanks to a generous donation from several private donors.

COVID-19 updates – Impacts to the Forest Practices Program and CT Forest Practitioners – Executive orders extending the expiration dates for occupational licenses have expired. The extensions created a backlog of certifications that needed to be renewed. Practitioners were directed to contact Nick Zito on an individual basis if they are at risk of losing their license due to COVID-19 restrictions. Between April 1 and November 1 there were 171 certifications that were up for renewal. Forty-two practitioners did not renew their certification.

FPA Examinations and CEU's, future training opportunities – online exams have been conducted for all portions of the Forest Products Harvester and Supervising Forest Product Harvester certification levels and the first three sections of the Forester exam. The forest management section continues to be conducted in-person. Staff are hoping to move to an online submission option for all certification levels for annual reports as well as CEUs. Will need to determine how to administer verbal exams when requested.

Other forestry and forest products business impacts – an unpredicted real estate surge coupled with supply chain disruptions resulted in a lumber shortage. That seems to have resolved.

Proposed municipal regulations – Commissioner Dykes is currently reviewing the final version of Willington's proposed forest practice regulations. Haddam has started working on proposed regulations and has been directed to review the adopted regulations for Stafford and the proposed regulations for Willington.

FPA Enforcement Actions – Riendeaus and Person have maintained compliance with their consent orders; as is Guy Pelletier.

DoF Operations; Retirements and New Hires – Chris Donnelly has retired but continues to be engaged in the forestry community in Connecticut. His is actively involved with Yankee Division, SAF as well as working as an adjunct professor in the Arboriculture Program at UConn. Approval was given for refill of the urban forester position. The announcement was posted and has closed. The position was distributed widely anticipating a diverse applicant pool. Application review has started. David Beers has been hired as the western district Service Forester. Pre-harvest tours have been offered to the general public for timber sales before they are sent out to bid.

Nominations for Forest Practices Advisory Board Vacancies – two vacancies exist on the Board. Chris asked the board for nominations to refill positions. Board recommends Brennan Sheahan as the representative from the forest products industry. Recommendations for a representative from the general public are: Bob Askins, retired professor from Connecticut College; Chris Donnelly, retired DEEP

Urban Forestry Coordinator; or Colleen Murphy-Dunning, Urban Resources Initiative. Chris to distribute a list of current board members with their appointment expiration date.

Other outstanding items –

No Markets No Management Grant included \$20,000 for practitioner training. DEEP Forestry staff to work with Timpro staff to develop training.

Meeting adjourned 10:52am.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
Intergovernmental Policy and Planning Division

2020 RECOMMENDED LAND USE VALUES Effective October 1, 2020

CATEGORY	STATE-WIDE	RIVER VALLEY
Tillable A	\$1,880	\$2,530
Tillable B	\$1,280	\$1,810
Tillable C	\$1,110	\$1,690
Tillable D	\$850	\$1,170
Orchard E	\$990	\$990
Pasture F	\$280	\$280
Swamp, Ledge Scrub G	\$40	\$40
Woodland/Forest Land	\$390	\$390

	River Valley Municipalities	
Bloomfield	Glastonbury	South Windsor
Cromwell	Granby	Suffield
East Granby	Manchester	Vernon
East Hartford	Portland	West Hartford
East Windsor	Rocky Hill	Wethersfield
Ellington	Simsbury	Windsor
Enfield	Somers	Windsor Locks

CONNECTICUT LAND CLASSIFICATIONS

Land Class Number	Land Class Type	Land Description	Soils and Limitations
1	Tillable A	Excellent. Shade tobacco, ball and burlap nursery, crop land.	Light, well drained, sandy loams, typically flat or level, no stones.
2	Tillable B	Very Good. Binder tobacco, vegetables, potatoes, crop land.	Light, well drained, sandy loams, typically level to slightly rolling, may have stones.
3	Tillable C	Very Good to Good. Quite level. Corn silage, hay, vegetables, potatoes, crop land.	Moderate heavier soils, level to rolling, may have stones.
4	Tillable D	Good to Fair. Moderate to considerable slope. Hay, corn silage, rotation pasture, crop land.	Heavier soils, may be sloped and hilly, stones and seasonal wetness may be limiting factors. Christmas trees.
5	Orchard	Fruit Orchard. Well-maintained trees for the purpose of bearing fruit.	May include grapes and berries.
6	Pasture	Permanent Pasture, not tilled, grazing for livestock and horses.	May be heavier soils that are too wet or stony to till for crops, may be wooded area. Christmas trees.
7	Swamp, Ledge, Scrub Lands	Wasteland. Wetlands, ledge outcroppings.	Non-farmable areas that also make up the farm unit.
8	Woodland, Forest	Woodland associated with the farm unit	Non-farmable areas that also make up the farm unit.

Connecticut Forest Practices Advisory Board Per CGS 23-65g

As of September 2020

Expiring*	Qualifications	Appointing Authority	Current Board Member	Address	Phone #	Email
Dec. 31, 2015	professional forester in private practice	Senate President Pro Tempore	Ian Branson	PO Box 83 Kent, CT 06757	860-806-2874	iwbranson@hotmail.com
	Forest Products Industry Representative	House Majority Leader	VACANT			
Jun. 30, 2017	Officer of an environmental organization headquartered in the state which is concerned primarily with forests	Governor	Thomas J. Degnan, Jr.	10 Hamburg Road, East Haddam, CT 06423	203-949-2408	tdegnan@burnsmcd.com
Dec. 31, 2005	Professor of forestry or natural resources from a college or university in the state	Senate Majority Leader	Dr. Mark Ashton	Yale University, School of Forestry and Environmental Science, 360 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511	203-432-9835	Mark.Ashton@yale.edu
Jun. 30, 2018	Representative of an environmental organization not primarily concerned with forests	Governor	Patrick M. Comins	Connecticut Audubon Society State Headquarters Birdcraft Sanctuary & Museum 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06824	203-264-5098 x308	pcomins@ctaudubon.org
Dec. 31, 2005	Member of an Inland Wetlands agency	Governor	Joseph Theroux	426 Shetucket Turnpike Voluntown, CT. 06384	860-376-6842	joetheroux426@comcast.net
Dec. 31, 2013	Owner of 10-250 acres of forest land	Speaker of the House	Joan Nichols	151 Exeter Road, Lebanon, CT 06249	860 642-4292	nicholsforestry@comcast.net
Jun. 30, 2006	General Public	Senate Minority Leader	Bruce Spaman	Hampton, CT		forestct@me.com
December 31, 2019	General Public	House Minority Leader	VACANT			
Perm.	State Forester	Statutory Desig. As Chairman	Christopher Martin		860-424-3630	Christopher.Martin@ct.gov

*terms are for four years or until the members successor is appointed
board meets at least three times annually or upon written request of the majority of the members

December 31, 2019	Senate Majority Leader	Peter Nieman	1230 Worthington Rdg Berlin, CT 06037-3224	860-828-5576	peternieman@comcast.net
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