

Forest Practices Advisory Board
September 17, 2009
Draft meeting minutes

Attendees as members: Joan Nichols, Tom Trowbridge, Mike Bartlett, Chris Martin, Ian Branson, Joe Theroux

Attendees: DEP Staff: Doug Emmerthal
Guests: Eric Hammerling

1. Meeting brought to order at 10:30 am by Doug Emmerthal.
2. The minutes of the 3/25/09 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Motion by Joan Nichols, second by Tom Trowbridge, 6 votes for accepting minutes, one abstention.
3. Chris Martin announced to the Board that Doug Emmerthal passed the Forester Exam and thanked the Board for their work compiling the questions for his exam.
4. Connecticut Land Cover handout
 - a. Land Cover card copies were distributed. The US Forest Service FIA (Brett Butler) forwarded the cards to DEP Forestry. The USFS is seeking input from Connecticut as to what information should be amended or added to the card. CT needs to notify USFS how many copies are being requested, 10,000. Suggestions included:
 - i. Define the ** under CT Wood Consumption, per person identifier.
 - ii. Clarify the Minor Forest Ingredients, White/red/jack pine and Oak/gum/cypress forest type designations.
 - iii. More clearly identify what the boxes designate under the Age of Timberland section.
 - iv. Clarify the Growth to removal ratio as 10.4 to 1.
 - v. Change the ft³ to board foot. Possibly add in a clarifying factor of how much wood typically goes into the building of an average home. This change may make the figure more meaningful to residents.
 - vi. Note on card the dollars of revenue generated by the Forest Products Industry and the number of people employed by the industry.
 - vii. Note of front of card also that CT Forests are good for you, reiterate message that was printed on back.
 - b. Brett Butler will be attending the CT Forestlands Council in November.
5. Legislative Update
 - a. The general assembly has doubled all fees under \$150, raised fees 25% between \$150-\$1000, and added \$250 to fees over \$1000. Camping fees may be debatable at this time because DEP sets those fees. OPM & DEP will need to come to a decision about camping fees. Forest Practices Act fees will be doubling.
6. Notification & Guidelines Form:
 - a. Eric Hammerling and Bill Bentley met with Steve Tessitore and Darcy Winther of DEP's Division of Inland Water Resources concerning the notification of forest practices form they have been working on. Doug Emmerthal was also in attendance. As a result of the conversation a few refinements were made to the form and the guidelines were dropped completely. The form will list endorsing organizations such as CFPA, Timpro and SAF

and will refer readers to the Agricultural Forestry and Wetlands Protection in Connecticut brochure that was published by the DEP.

- i. The CT Farm Bureau is working with DEP Wetlands to produce Segment 3 of the Municipal Officials Inland Wetlands Training program in October and November. Joan mentioned that Segment 3 would be a great opportunity to introduce the document. Joan will need to talk to Darcy to make sure that it is ok. Doug mentioned that it needs to be clear that this is a document from Timpro and other organizations, not DEP. Eric will get something out to the group in the next two weeks. The trainings will take place at Great Mountain Forest and Salmon River State Forest. The board thanked the Nichols for their great cooperation in bringing their temporary bridges and skidder to the demonstration. A suggestion was made to write a story about this and pass it on to organizations such as CACIWC and also to present at the Annual Meeting in November. Timpro could provide PowerPoint presentation and possibly post on their webpage.

7. Certification Regulations

- a. It was noted that a letter from Timpro was sent to DEP Commissioner Marrella suggesting the removal of the words “certified” check or money order from the certification regulations to allow payment for certification application’s and exam’s to be made with a personal or business check. There was some discussion on the process and Doug indicated that research has begun to determine the merits of the requirement and the consequences, if any, of making an amended as suggested.
- b. Other suggested changes/amendments and discussion on the certification regulations:
 - i. CEU’s
 1. Make CEU’s required for four years, not biannually for a four year license.
 2. Change CEU requirements to allow practitioners who have been certified for many years the opportunity to “graduate” so they no longer have to continue acquiring as many CEU’s.
 3. Maryland requires forest practitioners to attend a one day training where they are taught laws and BMP’s. There is a test at the end of the program. It was suggested that CT should look into this type of program and what other states are doing.
 4. Place a cap on the number of CEU’s required. Once the cap is reached the practitioner would only take CPR & First Aid.
 5. Reduce the number of required CEU’s.
 6. Developing a program of core courses which after practitioners have satisfactorily completed the number of CEU’s required would be reduced. It was noted that such a program would ensure that all practitioners will be developing a well round CEU portfolio.
 7. Provide CEU’s credit for individuals who hold national certification such as Master Logger. Master Logger is a program that recognizes performance instead of emphasizing classroom work.
 8. Doug discussed developing a subcommittee to address CEU changes. Joan Nichols and Tom Trowbridge volunteered to be on the committee.

- ii. Exam Results
 - 1. It was suggested that when results of exam are given, notify examinees what questions they got wrong so they can make note of it and determine the correct answers. There should be a mechanism to accomplish this.
 - 2. Doug stated that 90% of the failures on the Harvester and Supervisor exams are in the law portions of the exam and compliance might improve if practitioners knew where they were wrong. He expressed concern over how this could be worked into the exam process and whether staffing was available to perform this.
 - 3. Doug noted that in the past that upon request he has reviewed examinations with those who failed to pass but only with respect to the category of questions the applicant performed poorly in not specific questions. He has not been asked in a long time and is not sure he can continue that practice due to time constraints.
 - iii. Allow practitioners to file their applications and make payments online. Doug is currently exploring this option.
 - iv. Recognize Master Logger Certification. It is the job of the certifier to ensure that recognition is made.
8. Committee membership
- a. Damen Hearn is no longer employed by CFPA. A new appointment will need to be made. Mike Bartlett asked what steps he needs to take to become officially reappointed.
9. Timpro is cosponsoring a Log A Load for Kids Fundraiser to take place on September 26 at the Woodstock Fairgrounds. All proceeds will be donated to the Children's Miracle Network Hospital. In CT the CMN affiliated is CT Children's Medical Center. They are hoping to raise \$10,000.
10. Next meeting scheduled for 1/13/2010 at 9am at CFPA.
11. Motion to adjourn: Made by Mike Bartlett, Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Hoefle