

## Forest Practices Advisory Board

May 30, 2012

Members in attendance: Ian Branson, Steve Broderick, Chris Martin, Joan Nichols, Mike Bartlett

Guests: Eric Hammerling

DEEP Staff: Doug Emmerthal, Jennifer Hockla, Sheila Hoefle (recorder)

Meeting called to order at 9:15 am.

Minutes of the September 2011 meeting reviewed. Motion to accept Steve Broderick. Mike Bartlett seconded. Joan Nichols abstains. Minutes of the September 2011 meeting approved as written.

Welcome back Joan Nichols to the FPAB.

### ***Legislative Updates: (see handout)***

Chris Martin distributed a document reviewing the most recent legislative session. Much of the session that involved the Division of Forestry dealt with attempted legislative fixes that addressed the two storms from last fall. The Statewide Vegetative Management Task Force will be making recommendations on some items.

SB23 – Eric Hammerling stated that the bill was supposed to contain language that specifically references the SVMTF. What the bill does, is sets up a docket at PURA . By November 1 PURA is supposed to make recommendations to the legislative committee about tree trimming.

### ***Emerald Ash Borer***

DEEP in conjunction with APHIS and the State of NY DEC distributed a press release last month noting the presence of EAB east of the Hudson River. In addition to several western NY counties, three eastern counties on the west side of the Hudson River are now quarantined; Albany, Greene, Ulster, and Orange. In Rhinebeck, NY, stressed ash trees were created and monitored. Larvae had been found and were eradicated. A survey was done and found no other infested ash trees. This instance is the first time eradication has successfully occurred. *UPDATE: Please note EAB was found on July 16, 2012 in Prospect, CT. More information can be found at:*

[http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&q=464598&depNav\\_GID=1631](http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&q=464598&depNav_GID=1631)

The APHIS budget of \$10-\$15 million for quarantine of EAB will be reduced to under \$5 million. Focus is going to be directed to the fringe of the known area where EAB is present. The goal for EAB is to control the spread. APHIS support is falling but USDA Forest Service support is picking up.

### ***Asian Longhorned Beetle***

The quarantine area in the greater Worcester, MA, is currently 110 square miles and extends northward to include all of West Boylston and Boylston, all of Worcester and Shrewsbury and has a southern terminus just below the Mass Pike in Auburn between Route 20 and Millbury Street. Ohio has a new infestation. Officials are asking for continued public awareness. The National Association of State Foresters is actively lobbying Washington DC for greater funding dedicated to ALB outreach and eradication efforts.

The State of Connecticut is considering a ban on out of state firewood in state campgrounds.

### ***State Lands Management (SLM) Contractual language***

Approximately a year ago a new clause was added to the SLM Timber Sale Contracts. This clause alerts the buyer that if a quarantine is placed on the area where the timber harvest is being conducted the movement of regulated materials will be strictly enforced and the SLM forester will review the contract and make adjustments.

### ***State Vegetative Management Task Force***

On April 24, 2012, the State Vegetation Management Task Force and consultant held its inaugural meeting. The Task Force will develop recommendations and standards regarding the planting, removal and maintenance of roadside trees. This Task Force has been formed by the Commissioner of DEEP, as called for in the report of the Governor's [Two Storm Panel](#). The Two Storm Panel was formed in response to the two highly damaging storms of the second half of 2011, Tropical Storm Irene and the October Nor'easter.

The purpose of the Task Force is to ensure necessary perspectives are represented by members who can commit the time and work effectively together, each bringing to the table the necessary knowledge and resources to inform discussion. The goal is to develop consensus recommendations to DEEP within the stated mission. It is anticipated that Task Force will meet approximately 9-10 times in order to complete its recommendations by August 31, 2012.

The Mission of the Task Force is to develop standards for road side tree care in Connecticut, vegetation management practices and schedules for utility rights of way, right tree/right place standards, standards for tree wardens, municipal tree inventories and pruning schedules.

Meetings of the Task Force are open the public. However, participation by visitors in discussions will be at the discretion of the Chair. .For more information see:

<http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&q=503040>

### ***CT Grown***

Doug Emmerthal stated things are moving along with CT Grown. DEEP Forestry continues to receive applications for the program. DEEP is working on the graphics for a forest products logo, nothing finalized yet. Soon there will be a website listing of who is in the program and what products they have.

*UPDATE: A listing is now available at:*

[http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/forestry/ct\\_grown/ct\\_grown\\_forest\\_products.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/forestry/ct_grown/ct_grown_forest_products.pdf). Other states are looking into similar programs. Ontario Canada has done some market research and might be willing to share the results. The New England Society of American Foresters (NESAF) Winter Meeting included presentations on locally grown and sustainably harvested forest products. Joan Nichols distributed CT Grown bumper stickers, pamphlets and signs produced by TIMPRO. TIMPRO was the recipient of a joint venture grant from DOAG for \$2,000 and matched with \$2,000 of their own. With those funds, they purchased 4000 brochures, 1000 bumper stickers and 125-32 gauge aluminum signs. TIMPRO publically thanked Doug Emmerthal and Ron Olsen from DOAG for their assistance. If those two departments were not involved this program would have never gotten off the ground.

### ***Status Update on proposed changes to RCSA Section 23-65h Certification of Forest Practitioners Administrative Regulations***

Chris Martin stated that there are two items driving the proposed change 1) elimination of annual fee increase. 2) elimination of requirement to have a certified check Jennifer prepared the packet of information on June 1 that is being reviewed by Bill Hyatt, Susan Whalen, DEEP legal counsel, and the Attorney General's Office. TIMPRO was instrumental in getting the process of changing regulations started. The Division of Forestry hasn't had a regulations change in many years so staff is learning about the amended regulation review process.

### ***Certification Program Update***

There are currently two cases in AG's office. There are a number of complaints that are currently in the process of investigation due to lack of certification. Applicant numbers for the March and May exam are down. Renewal packets have gone out for September and October 2012 renewals and will go out by August 1 for November renewals. There are one hundred and seventy five individuals renewing between September and November. There are approximately 530 certified practitioners now.

### ***Other Business***

The town of East Hampton sought and responded accordingly to Jennifer Hockla's advice and has removed forest practice regulations from planning and zoning regulations. Forest practitioners previously had to go to inland wetlands and P&Z. Town of Willington has also removed their requirement with P&Z to secure permission to conduct forest practices. Neither town is one of the twenty that can regulate forest practices.

FPAB member appointment termination dates were reviewed at the February 2011. Chris Martin asked each Board member to be aware when their appointments expired and please give indication to their appointing authority if they wanted to stay on the Board or suggest a qualified replacement. Members were asked to provide Jennifer Hockla updated contact information as necessary. Please make it a priority if you are on the board to attend meetings regularly.

Next meeting date to be set by Doodle Poll.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 am. Motion to adjourn Steve Broderick, Joan Nichols seconded, unanimous.