



Sustainable Forestry Council

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SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY COUNCIL

November 22, 2011

Minutes

Attendees:

Gary Allen
Eric Sprague
Don Outen
Kim Finch
Al Goetzi
Kirk Rodgers
Ken Roberts
Connie Hoge

DNR:

Don VanHassent
Steve Koehn

Called to order at 10:00AM.

Chairman Allen welcomed Council members and staff. He provided an expectation of the meeting to include a review of the comments received from the public, a discussion of reaction to the comments and an assignment of duties for the writing of the final draft. Chairman Allen said the final report would be submitted to DNR on December 2. He also indicated that other groups may be providing reports to the legislative committees.

Don VanHassent provided a list of people and organizations who provided comments.

Council members had a brief discussion on report format. Al Goetzi offered three items upon which to build a framework:

1. define forest cover goal as 40%
2. planning and zoning ideas need further refinement
3. encourage retention of forest by private landowners

Gary listed five items:

1. strategies to mitigate losses that will occur
2. not fully developed section on building on existing programs
3. look at planning and zoning issues
4. what specific legislation might be necessary
5. additional incentives for private landowners

One additional thought was that the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) has been a site by site law. Perhaps it needs to be changed to a higher level (i.e. landscape scale), perhaps focusing on high value forest.

The Council began a review of each of the comments received. The following is a summary of Council members' thoughts of the input.

Gerald Winegrad

Riparian forest buffers – while important, aren't really part of this report.

The FCA paragraph on page 3 is very useful.

Use a three part strategy – development(conversion), protection, incentives.

Raise mitigation ratios in some areas while lowering in others. Use differential mitigation to counter sprawl development.

Nathan Beeman

Nothing to change in the report. An idea for the future is preparing Forest Stewardship Plans for communities.

Karen Capiella

Misunderstanding of mitigation rates outside of urban areas.

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Concerned with potential impact to agricultural land. Complete avoidance of ag land is impossible.

Diane Butler

Need to educate counties (Planning and Zoning) regarding no-net loss effort.

Christine Conn

Need to develop incentives for counties to implement Forest Resource Element.

CJ Lammers

Consider changing terms such as Forest Conservation Area and Woodland Conservation Area – could be in conflict with terminology used in state and local ordinances.

Henry Leskinin

1. conversion of forest to agricultural land cannot be exempted from forest conservation requirements.
2. exceeding 50% forest cover does NOT exempt a county from FCA requirements.
3. provide incentives for redevelopment of parcels and for development that avoids all impact to forests.

Montgomery County Planning

Some very good points for the Council to consider.

Farm Bureau

Concerned about potential to impact agricultural land.

The Nature Conservancy

1. Point #3 is a good one. What is the relation of PPA's to the Sensitive Area Element?
Need to deal with this in Sensitive Area Guidelines.
2. Needs clarity on what "discretionary development" means.

Gary and Eric will revise the report to include these comments and the Council's discussions by December 1. The Council will have one last chance to make any final corrections before the report is submitted to DNR on December 2.

Adjourn – 2:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald VanHassent