

DRAFT Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
April 24, 2014

In attendance: Vic Musselman, Phil Hess, Terry Jackson, Mark Hicks, Tammie Perreault (by phone), Tami Miketa

Committee reviewed the SFLAC meeting notes from February 20, 2014 with no comments or edits identified.

Discussion on the authority of the SFLAC

- The single role of the SFLAC is to help SLFO develop policy, once developed the committee should help advocate to Forest Practices Board (FPB) when it mandates changes. The SFLAC takes direction from SFLO.
- Any expanding role would take directive from FPB to do specific things.
- Discussed the notion of a SFLAC strategic plan
 - First need to identify emergent issues that need to be addressed and then look at a “20 year plan” for what SFL’s need;
 - Tami will talk to SFLO staff, Marc & Chris to get ideas for long term goal for SFLAC. Suggest we build on the current and the updated DNR Strategic Plan (when it is released) to create the SFLAC strategic plan.
 - Conversion is the #1 issue - what can DNR, with help from SFLAC, do to disincentivize conversion?
 - Tami will bring the current (and if released) the new DNR Strategic Plan for the next SFLAC meeting to help with the SFLAC strategic plan.
 - *The Future of Washington Forests, 2007* report has some good language/steps to take to avoid conversion; this should be a starting place for SFLAC strategic plan goals.

New FP/HP Application and Instructions

- SFL see problems with new FP application and were never given opportunity to review and never knew it was being revised. The SFLAC did not know that the new FPA was being presented at TFW meetings.
- Tami will talk with FP operations and see if SFL representatives were given the chance to review the application and instruction form.

Note: Tami did speak with FP operations and was informed that Dick Miller reviewed and provided comment on the application and instructions from the WFFA perspective, and sent copies of his comments to WFFA President and Executive Director.

There needs to be a link between the stewardship program and helping landowners complete the forest practices application. Stewardship foresters need to help small forest landowners with forest practices rules. Need to help small forest landowners cut through red tape and simplify the process.

Tami stated that there is a strong need to keep stewardship & forest practices assistance separate. Discussion of how stewardship foresters are funded. Stewardship foresters are solely funded through federal dollars. No state dollars are allotted to the Stewardship Program. Tami will present the SFLAC with the Stewardship Program’s organization chart along with information on how the federal stewardship funds are allotted at the next SFLAC

meeting.

SFLAC Letter of recommendations to improve exempt 20-acre parcel compliance

- Letter should go to Marc Engel with a cc to commissioner, Chris, Donelle, and Tami. Should include a request that SFLAC get a response.
- Vic will write the letter, sign on behalf of committee and send electronically as attachment

Overview of Landowner Assistance Program

- Julie Sackett will attend the next SFLAC meeting and discuss her job duties.

RMAP Pilot Study

- The report is still draft and being reviewed internally
- Some results: Project centered in the Skagit and Samish River watershed administrative units. A total of 830 letters were sent out to small forest landowners asking for permission to inventory their roads. Received 69 participants.
- Results
 - 76 roads inventoried, total of 31.5 miles
 - Result's allowed generalizations: smaller ownership less they knew and had a general lack of understanding of RMAP requirements
 - Majority of the landowners own their land for enjoyment, not for harvest
 - If approached directly, landowners would be willing to enroll in FFFPP
 - Minimal sedimentation from roads was observed
 - Roads built pre-2003 either had healed from past failures or were functioning well
 - The project took 1 full time staff person one year to complete
 - Used SFL database of landowners owning from 10 to 1,000 acres
- SFLAC would like a copy of the report when completed

Update on Use of Alternate Plans

- Tami looked at 157 approved Alternate plans (dated from March 2013 to March 2014); the fixed width buffer alternate plan was most common (69%); second was the overstocked stand template (13%). A total of 17 % of the alternate plans submitted were for non-template alternate plans (hardwood conversions - 12% and RMZ thinning - 5%).
- The SFLAC would like to repeat this effort annually – next report for 1st meeting of 2015. It would be ideal to break out LTA information by region.

SFLAC would like a copy of each SFLO report to FPB.

Meeting adjourned

Next SFLAC meeting will be June 25th at the NRB in room 461 from 12:00 to 4:00.