

West Virginia Legislature
Forest Management Review Commission

Senate Members

Senator David Sypolt, Co-Chair
Senator Daniel Hall
Senator Robert Karnes
Senator Ron Miller
Senator Bob Williams

House Members

Delegate John Overington, Co-Chair
Delegate Allen Evans
Delegate Bill Hartman
Delegate Dana Lynch
Delegate William R. Romine

Citizen Members

Robert Alexander
Richard Bowlby
Betty D. Crookshanks
Thomas Hawse, III
Lannes C. Williamson

The West Virginia Legislature's Forest Management Review Commission, having been appointed pursuant to Article 24, Chapter 5 of the Code of West Virginia, met on several occasions during the 2015-2016 Legislative Interim period to receive testimony and information to accomplish the duties and responsibilities as established by code.

The Forest Management Review Commission invited the following individuals to appear before the commission to offer their expertise and testimony:

Mr. Roger Sherman, Mead-Westvaco Corporation

Mr. Sherman appeared before the commission to discuss and provide insight into the West Virginia timber severance tax.

Mr. Randy Dye, State Forester, West Virginia Division of Forestry

Mr. Dye came before the commission several times to give updates on the Division of Forestry, and provide an explanation of the Forest Health Program's attempts at controlling various invasive species.

Mr. Chris Zinkhan, CEO, the Forestland Group

Mr. Zinkhan gave a power point presentation on institutional timberland investments and management in West Virginia.

Ms. Lavonne Paden, Director, West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority

Ms. Paden provided information on West Virginia's forestry policy as it relates to farmland.

Mr. Mark Morton, General Counsel, West Virginia State Tax Department

Mr. Morton appeared before the commission to discuss the West Virginia timber severance tax.

Mr. Eric Ewing, Director, Plant Industries, West Virginia Department of Agriculture; and

Mr. Butch Sayers, Assistant Director, Department of Agriculture

Mr. Ewing and Mr. Sayers appeared jointly to present the Forest Health Protection Programs and the Department of Agriculture's role in forestry.

Mr. Dean Alanko, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Allegheny Wood Products

Mr. Alanko was asked to present information regarding the West Virginia forest products industry and its current economic status.

Mr. Michael Caryl, Attorney, Bowles Rice

Mr. Caryl appeared before the commission to present information regarding taxation issues in the forest industry.

Ms. Linda Carnell, Program Specialist, West Virginia Division of Forestry


Ms. Carnell was invited before the commission to speak about conservation and forestry education.

Mr. Nathan Taylor, Coordinator for Agriculture and Natural Resources Curriculum, West Virginia Department of Education

Mr. Taylor appeared before the commission to give an overview of Forestry career technical education opportunities and programs.

The Forest Management Review Commission considered and recommended this report be presented to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

Respectfully submitted,



Senator David Sypolt, Co-Chairman



Delegate John Overington, Co-Chairman

