

**West Virginia Legislature  
Forest Management Review Commission**

**FINAL REPORT  
to  
Joint Committee on Government and Finance  
2011 - 2012 Interims**

**Members**

**Senate**

**Senator Bob Williams, Chair  
Senator Karen L. Facemyer**

**Senator Fanning  
Senator Miller  
Senator Walt Helmick**

**House**

**Delegate Harold Michael, Chair  
Delegate William G. Hartman, Vice  
Chair  
Delegate Mike Caputo  
Delegate William R. Romine  
Delegate Larry A. Williams**

**Citizen Members**

**Robert Alexander  
Richard Bowlby  
Betty D. Crookshanks  
Thomas Hawse, III  
Ed McCoy  
Lannes C. Williamson  
James Willison**

---

Your Forest Management Review Commission, appointed pursuant to Article 24, Chapter 5 of the Code of West Virginia, and granted the power, duty and responsibility to:

- (a) Generally assist in the retention, expansion and attraction of forestry and forestry related industries by creating a climate for the development and support of the industry;
- (b) Coordinate the current efforts to enhance and promote the expansion of the forestry industry among the several state and federal agencies, commissions, boards, committees, associations and other entities;

(c) Urge the development of multiple-use sustained-yield management plans for nonindustrial timber tracts;

(d) Develop products and markets for the grade of materials that currently comprise a majority of the state's resources;

(e) Recommend a stable and predictable tax program for both new and existing firms in the state;

(f) Develop a centralized and enhanced protection program that will reduce risks from fire and pestilence;

(g) Develop financial assistance for the attraction and expansion of new and existing secondary manufacturing facilities, with special emphasis on assistance for smaller firms employing less than twenty persons;

(h) Utilize recognized research expertise of appropriate existing educational, public and industrial institutions or agencies of the state. Research shall include economic development efforts in West Virginia, including silviculture, wood land management, forest management, the development of new products as well as other products designed to aid forestry development; and

(i) Employ, if needed, and only with prior approval of the West Virginia Legislature's Joint Committee on Government and Finance, such staff as may be necessary. In the event an executive director may be necessary, such individual shall be a forestry graduate of a four-year college of forestry and shall, in addition, have administrative and research experience, preferably, but not mandatorily, with at least five years' experience in government.

During the 2011 – 2012 Legislative Interim meetings, your Commission has met with the representatives of state government and the forest industry to discuss the following topics:

### **JUNE 2011**

The FMRC met on Tuesday June 14, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the House Government Organization Room. Mr. Randy Dye, Director, Division of Forestry presented a power point with discussions regarding status of the forest products industry, the Annual Logging Sediment Control Act Report, the Annual Managed Timberland Report, the Annual Nursery Seedling Production and

Sales Report, the State Forest Timber Sales Status Report, and the Spring Fire Season Performance Report.

Topics for future meetings included the possibility of certification of state forests, an invitation for the committee to attend Cooper's Rock State Forest, consolidation of DOF code, and stewardship contracting with Monongahela National Forest.

### **JULY 2011**

The FMRC met on Monday July 11, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the House Government Organization Room. Mr. Robert Radspinner, Assistant State Forester presented a power point with discussions regarding forest certification in the state, American Forest Foundation Standards, SFI (Sustainable Forest Initiatives) and FSC (Forest Stewardship Council.)

### **AUGUST 2011**

The FMRC met on Monday, August 1, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the House Government Organization Room. Mr. Randy Dye, State Forester discussed actions regarding federal legislation that may hinder or help products of the forest industry. Urs Buehlmann, Associate Professor of Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources, then presented a power point with discussions regarding forest markets in 2011.

### **SEPTEMBER 2011**

The Forest Management Review Commission and the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Subcommittee met jointly on Monday, September 12, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. Randy Dye, State Forester, discussed the DOF's perspective on HCR 120, requesting a study of the effect of transferring supervisory and jurisdictional responsibilities of all or part of Coopers Rock State Forest to the Division of Natural Resources. Mr. Dye introduced Barbara Breshock, State Lands Manager, to answer questions of the committee.

Dr. Joe McNeel, Director, WVU Division of Forestry and Natural Resources, discussed the WVU forestry program's perspective on HCR 120.

Frank Jezioro, Director, Division of Natural Resources, presented the DNR's perspective on HCR 120.

Delegate Michael moved that the legislature pay expenses of the visitation to Coopers Rock State Forest. The motion passed.

### **OCTOBER 2011**

The FMRC met on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Robert Hannah, Urban Forestry Coordinator, West Virginia Division of Forestry discussed the Urban and Community Forestry Program. Roger Ozburn, Regional Fire Specialist, West Virginia Forestry, discussed the Firewise West Virginia Program.

### **NOVEMBER 2011**

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Greg Cook, Deputy State Forester presented group certification information for non-industrial private landowners in West Virginia. Sustainable Forestry Initiative "SFI" Forester Cinda Francis then discussed the American Tree Farm System. Paul Trianosky, Interim Vice President made a presentation on developing certification issues.

### **DECEMBER 2011**

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, December 12, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. Clyde Thompson, Supervisor, Monongahela National Forest discussed stewardship contracting and the West Virginia Division of Forestry.

Dick Way bright, WV Forestry Association and Randy Dye, Director, WV Division of Forestry discussed a draft bill extending a severance tax moratorium.

### **JANUARY 2012**

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, January 9, 2011 at 12:00 p.m. The committee will discuss and vote on draft legislation regarding extending the severance tax moratorium and forest stewardship in the Monongahela National Forest. Dr. Joe McNeel Director

WVU Division of Forestry will then make a presentation on the Hardwood Research Trust

The Forest Management Review Commission **REPORTS** as follows:

Your Commission **RECOMMENDS** that it continue to receive updates related to the forest industry.



**Senator Bob Williams**  
Chair

Respectfully Submitted,



**Delegate Harold Michael**  
Chair