

**West Virginia Legislature
Forest Management Review Commission**

**FINAL REPORT
to
Joint Committee on Government and Finance
2012 - 2013 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 2012 – 2013 Legislative Interim meetings, your Commission has met with the representatives of state government and the forest industry to discuss the following topics:

MAY 2012

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at the West Virginia Division of Forestry Office, located at 7 Players Club Drive, Charleston, West Virginia. Following a tour of the facility, the meeting was called to order. Greg Cook, Deputy Forester, presented an update of the West Virginia Division of Forestry and provided a brief update on the managed timberland issue. A request was made by Lannes C. Williamson that the Division of Forestry and/or the Division of Natural Resources study and prepare a report regarding the fire potential at Kanawha State Forest.

JUNE 2012

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. Randy Dye, State Forester, presented the West Virginia Forest Inventory and Analysis. A request was made by Senator Facemyer that the Division of Forestry study and prepare a report explaining what the Forestry Division is doing to help the timber industry.

JULY 2012

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, July 23, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. Randy Dye, State Forester, presented background information on the Managed Timberland Program and an update of the West Virginia Forestry Products Marketing and Utilization Program.

AUGUST 2012

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, August 13, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Quentin F. "Butch" Sayers, WV Department of Agriculture, Forest Health Protection Programs, presented an update on forest health in West Virginia.

SEPTEMBER 2012

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, September 10, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Daniel J. Robison, Dean and Director, WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design, presented issues and plans for the Agriculture school in regard to forestry. Joe McNiel, Director, WVU Division of Forestry and Natural Resources, discussed issues at the Appalachian Hardwoods Center.

OCTOBER 2012

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Stuart Moss, Research Assistant Professor of Forest Business, WVU School of Forestry and Natural Resources, presented "Do Foresters Matter? The Professions' Impact on Non-industrial Timber Harvests in West Virginia." Randy Dye, State Forester and Fire Assistant Emma Gibbs, made a presentation on the Division of Forestry's recent trips fighting western United States fires.

NOVEMBER 2012

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, November 26, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Dr. John Brooks, Professor of Forest Management at WVU and President of the West Virginia Board of Registration of Foresters, presented an update of the status of the Board. Greg Cook, Deputy State Forester, answered previously asked questions about employment in the West Virginia wood products manufacturing sector from 2002 through 2012, illegally sourced wood, and North Carolina furniture industry and tax breaks.

DECEMBER 2012

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Randy Dye, State Forester, presented an update on the hardwood forest industry.

JANUARY 2013

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, January 7, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. Randy Dye, State Forester, discussed recent changes in the forestry industry. Walt Jackson, Assistant State Forester, made a presentation on wildfire risk assessment.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Senator Bob Williams
Chair



Delegate Harold Michael
Chair