

*West Virginia Legislature
Forest Management Review Commission*

*FINAL REPORT
to
Joint Committee on Government and Finance
2014 - 2015 Interims*

Members

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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 2014 – 2015 Legislative Interim meetings, your Commission has met with the representatives of state government and the forest industry and **REPORTS** as follows:

MAY 2014

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, May 19, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. Randy Dye, Director, West Virginia Division of Forestry, provided a forestry division update and discussed topics of interest to the FMRC for future meetings. He also informed the Commission of the Division of Forestry's intent to amend the ten year management plans from 2006-2008 and 2007-2010 for Cooper's Rock State Forest.

JUNE 2014

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, June 16, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. Barbara Douglas, US Fish and Wildlife Service, provided a presentation of the Northern Long Eared Bat. Dr. Sheldon Owen, Wildlife Specialist, WVU Extension Service, fielded questions from members concerning this species of bat and discussed if this particular bat will be listed as either threatened or endangered. The final decision on the proposed listing would be published in October of 2014.

AUGUST 2014

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, August 25, 2014 at the Bridgeport Conference Center in Bridgeport, WV for out of town interims. A tour of Appalachian Forest Products Logs and Lumbermill took place at 10:45 a.m. -2:00 p.m. and was conducted accordingly. The tour consisted of viewing the dry kilns, sawmill and log yard where members learned of the various processes involved, as well as different grades and requirements for lumber in international markets.

SEPTEMBER 2014

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, September 8, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. Eric Ewing, Director Plant Industries Division, WV Department of Agriculture; Quentin “Butch” Sayers, Assistant Director, Forest Health Protection, WV Department of Agriculture; and Jill Rose, State Forest Pathologist, WV Department of Agriculture gave a presentation concerning forest health protection programs. Questions and discussion followed.

OCTOBER 2014

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. Rodney Bartgis, Outdoor Heritage Conservation Fund, provided members of the Commission with a presentation concerning conservation and acreage easements in West Virginia.

NOVEMBER 2014

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, November 17, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Bob Hannah, Urban Forestry Specialist, Urban Forestry Program, WV Division of Forestry discussed urban forestry. Herb Peddicord, Chesapeake Bay Forester, presented and discussed forestry practices in the Bay region of West Virginia.

DECEMBER 2014

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Tuesday, December 15, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. Dean Alanko, Vice President of Sales for Allegheny Wood Products, gave a presentation

concerning the 2014 update on the wood products industry both from domestic and international markets.

JANUARY 12, 2015

The Forest Management Review Commission will meet on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. The Final Report will be presented to the Commission.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Bob Williams
Chair

Delegate William G. Hartman
Chair