

Small Forest Landowner Office Advisory Committee Meeting
Notes
July 12, 2022
Teams Meeting

Present: John Henrikson, Tami Miketa, Phil Hess, Rich Weiss, Brandon Austin, Bill Kemp, Jeffrey Thomas, Karen Zirkle, Marc Engel

Additional attendees:

DNR: Hollis Crapo, Brent Haverkamp

Review April 19, 2022 SFLAC Meeting Notes

Accepted as written.

The Committee discussed member term limits. Most, if not all, of the WFFA member's term limits are up. Need to discuss within WFFA what next steps to take. John will discuss this issue with Elaine O'Neil.

SFLO Program Updates

Tami introduced the new Small Forest Landowner Regulation Assistance Forester and Fish and Wildlife Biologist:

Hollis Crapo, NW Region Regulation Assistance Forester

Brent Haverkamp, statewide Regulation Assistance Fish & Wildlife Biologist

Review Checklist RMAP document

Brandon Austin said there needs to more information regarding the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP). Need to have the landowner's assurance that they have been enrolled. If the landowner enrolls, there needs to be more information on what happens next. State that the FFFPP Program Manager will contact you within XX days.

Other members stated they had never seen this document before but were good with the updated version. Asked members to respond with any additional comments by July 19, 2022. No additional comments were received.

Discuss Carbon Work Group

John Henrikson discussed the role of the Carbon Work Group on which John is a member. In 2021, the Washington State legislature passed the Climate Commitment Act (SB5126), which established a cap and invest carbon emissions reductions program for the state. This program regulates the emissions of large entities in Washington by establishing an emission "cap" or limit, which will slowly decline, and creating an allowance system that enables these entities to purchase the right to emit over the cap if they are unable to reduce their emissions to comply with it. It also creates a carbon offset program, in which covered entities can invest in verified carbon projects (through the purchase of carbon credits) that prevent or reduce emissions that balance out the emissions from their operations. This offset mechanism is part of what is known as the "compliance market" for carbon credits.

Prevention of forest loss, changes to forest management practices, reforestation or afforestation areas without forest cover, and wise use of harvested wood products (HWP) are all crucial ways to enable forests to continue to play or to enhance this essential role in mitigating climate change. A known challenge with advancing successful forest carbon projects, however, is that the expertise, data, and financial resources necessary for implementation are so significant that landowners with small forest land bases are typically precluded from participating.

The legislature acknowledged this challenge and sought to address it in the Climate Commitment Act by establishing a Small Forestland Owner (SFLO) Carbon Work Group. The working group is called on to complete several specific objectives:

- Provide recommendations for the implementation and funding of a pilot program to develop an aggregator account that will pursue carbon offset projects for small forestland owners in Washington state, including recommendations based on programs established in other jurisdictions;
- Coordinate with the department (“the department” could either refer to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or Ecology (ECY). In this instance, both DNR and ECY should be consulted given the relevance of DNR to small forest landowner support, and ECY to offset protocols.) on the development of offset protocols related to landowners under section 19(4)(d) in SB 5126;
- Develop a framework and funding proposals for establishing a program to link interested small forestland owners with incentive-based carbon reducing programs that facilitate adoption of forest practices that increase carbon storage and sequestration in forests and wood products;
- Recommend policies to support the implementation of incentives for participation in carbon markets.

Discuss Potential Future SFLAC Topics - FREP Program Review

FREP Program review – the WFFA members said that some landowners are hesitant to apply because of the amount of time it takes to get compensated. Would like to see FREP as a standing topic at all SFLAC meetings where the FREP Manager gives updates on the status of easement purchases.

Tami will invite Dan Pomerenk, the FREP Manager, to the next SFLAC meeting to provide a FREP update.

Update on Relatively Low Impact Criteria – Ken Miller

There is a tentative agreement that asks the Forest Practices Board to direct DNR to create a stakeholder group to review BM 21 Alternate Plans. Should there be a section just for small forest landowners? Utilize examples. Add back in the Imminent Mortality template.

SFLAC Responsibilities

There was a discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the SFLAC. Should we create a Charter or a Mission Statement? Karen said that she will get back to the Committee regarding what the WACs and RCWs, say about the SFLAC. What are the terms and term limit of Committee members? Is there a process where Committee members can get reimbursed?

The next SFLAC meeting will be a hybrid TEAMS and in-person meeting on October 11, 2022, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am vis TEAMS and at the Natural Resources Building in room 172.

Meeting Adjourned