

## Facts of the Week

### Action Alerts

- ❖ The bills to clear up the Sales/Use Tax issues have been introduced and the numbers are Senate Bills 880 and 881. These bills close the loop-hole that Treasury thinks is in the existing law. Forestry equipment is being taxed for loading trucks in the woods from the log deck. These bills will prevent any further unjust taxation. Please contact your State Senator asking for their support on these two bills.
- ❖ Mackinaw Bridge Authority has announced two proposals to increase bridge fares. Proposal A increases the per axle fare from \$3 to \$4 and Proposal B raises it two dollars (\$3 to \$5). Three meetings are being set up for public comment and they will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 12:30pm Little Bear Arena in St Ignace, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:30pm to 7:00pm at Hamilton Inn Select in Mackinaw City, and December 6<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 3pm at MDOT Lansing TDC in Lansing. I strongly urge to again contact your local legislator and voice your opposition to this fare increase and also attend the meeting. MAT will be in attendance at all meetings.

### Week of 5 November

- ❖ The Michigan Wood Producers Coop held another meeting to finalize our incorporation documents and set a plan of direction. The seven participants purchased their Common Stock and are the first members of the coop. The Coop Board decided to initiate a fuel program that it can offer the coop members. A requirement of the Coop is that each member must be a member of MAT. We will send out more information after the fuel program is established.

Don Peterson also provided copies of the draft feasibility studies for the pellet plants for both White Cloud and Newberry. The group commented and a final draft will be coming shortly. Everything is still a go for these two projects.

- ❖ Attended a forestry meeting in Grayling pertaining to forest management on public lands, mainly DNR lands. Roughly 50 individuals participated in this meeting from landowners to loggers. The attendees were able to discuss various concerns that were brought up during the evening. Seven main concerns were discussed and they were clear-cutting, funding, ecological sustainability, economical sustainability, recreation, protecting unique area and education. The goal of the group is to provide input to the Eco Regional Plan for the Northern Lower Peninsula. This meeting was set up by the Sierra Club and many misinformed individuals were participating, showcasing the need of our industry to better educate the public.

- ❖ LP in Newberry was the site for our semi-annual industry/Hiawatha staff meeting. The Hiawatha's budget has been reduced by about \$100,000 from last year and the target volume is 33,500 MBF. The target volume for last year was 39,860 MBF and the forest sold 41,001 MBF resulting in a 103% accomplishment. This was the fourth highest accomplishment in Region 9. Other topics included Beech Bark Disease, Biomass sale implications and Staffing levels. A mill tour followed the meeting. Our next meeting is slated for 26 June 2008.
- ❖ Attended the NRC meeting in Lansing. The DNR budget of \$288,195,400 was signed into law. Many departments took financial hits the largest being General Law Enforcement of \$700,000. As a result of the reduced budget an additional 30 state forest campgrounds will be closed. All work will cease on pathways in the state forest. The license fee increase decision will be made by 15 January 2008. If it fails, additional reductions to the DNR will have to be made.

### **Week of 12 November**

- ❖ Conducted office work.
- ❖ Will be participating in my annual White-tailed deer population and harvest study. I will be out of the office from the 14<sup>th</sup>, returning on the 26<sup>th</sup>. I hope all of you have a safe deer opener and a wonderful Thanksgiving.

### **Upcoming Events**

Deer Opener Good Luck!!!	November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Statewide
Silver Bells Parade	November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Lansing, MI
Thanksgiving	November 22, 23	MAT Office Closed
Mackinac Bridge Fare Meeting	December 4 <sup>th</sup>	St Ignace, MI
Mackinac Bridge Fare Meeting	December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Mackinaw City, MI
Mackinac Bridge Fare Meeting	December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Lansing, MI
NRC Meeting	December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Lansing, MI