

Facts of the Week

Week of 10 December

- ❖ The Michigan Wood Producers Cooperative is up and running as an official cooperative. We met to discuss possible projects and the first is to establish a fuel program for coop members. You have to be a MAT member in order to be a coop member and there are a couple levels of coop membership. The membership to the coop is a onetime fee, not annual. You can participate in the coop as a member or as an investor. If you would like more information regarding the coop please contact the MAT office.
- ❖ Jim Maeder, operations manager of Maeder Bros Sawmill, Jim Churchill, general manager of Michigan Wood Carriers and I provided written and oral testimony in support of Senate Bill 981. Senate Bill 981 would provide federal funding to the Mackinac Bridge Authority for projects on the Mackinac Bridge. This bill was passed in the Senate and we ask that you contact your State Representative and urge them to support the House version, when I get that bill number I will let all of you know. I would like to thank the Jim's for taking the time and testifying and also thank all the members who contacted me and voice your concerns and needs. A decision of the bridge fare increase will take place on December 21st.
- ❖ Worked in the Newberry office.

Week of 17 December

- ❖ After speaking with several MAT members regarding diesel fuel prices I drafted a letter to Governor Granholm asking her to allow the use of off road diesel for our log haulers, if she has the authority to do so. Another alternative we provided was to suspend the state sales tax on diesel fuel. I will keep you posted as to any response I receive from the Governor's office.
- ❖ Attended the NRC meeting in Lansing. Provided Commissioner Coleman with more Forestry Education materials that he requested. No forestry issues were discussed.
- ❖ Worked in the Newberry office.

On behalf of the MAT Board of Directors and Staff we would like to wish everyone the joyous of holiday seasons for your employees and family. It is our privilege to be working such a professional group of people. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Upcoming Events

MAT Office Closed	½ Day December 24 th , December 25 th	USA
MAT Office Closed	December 31 st , January 1 st	USA