

Facts of the Week

Week of 31 March

- ❖ Family vacation to South Carolina

Week of 07 April

- ❖ The last truck safety program was held in the Soo with roughly 40 participants from Upper and Lower Michigan. Officers from the Motor Carrier Division were on hand to discuss updates on cargo securement and size and weight restrictions. Karl Suchovsky showed a DVD explaining the Central Tire Inflation system that he has installed on his logging truck. This system adjusts the air pressure for all tires on the drive axles as well as the trailer. Adjusting the tire pressure allows the truck to travel on muddy roads without the help of another piece of equipment. Another opportunity for this system is during spring break up. By adjusting the tire pressure, the impact on county roads should be less than conventional tire pressures. This could be an opportunity to conduct a study with MDOT to look at this possibility. After lunch Bob and Jan from the Michigan Center for Truck Safety talked about driver qualification files. John with MDA spoke briefly about Emerald Ash Borer and was available to create compliance agreements for those who needed one. Dan Dineen of Chevron spoke about fuels and lubricants and lastly Randy Van Portfliet spoke about the upcoming need to find different ways to help fund our road construction projects. I spoke about current legislation that MAT is working on.
- ❖ Department of Natural Resources Director Rebecca Humphries today approved a new state forest management plan that has had the forest products industry and environmentalists at odds for many months. The nearly 300-page plan, provides an overview for the department's management of forest lands, and is intended, according to the DNR, "to focus on future management and use of one large part of Michigan's forest resources: the 3.9 million acre state forest system."

A late addition to the plan were minimum wood harvest levels (53,000 acres and 720,000 cords annually) and a provision to evaluate the opportunity to increase fiber production within six months of the approved regional forest management plans that are yet to be formulated. The cord mandate was not included in the original draft. Apparently, Humphries was set to approve the original plan without the mandate, but Gov. Granholm got directly involved in the last few days which triggered the addition of the mandate.

The Sierra Club commented that they are glad the DNR is getting a long overdue plan in place - one that is in accordance with federal certification guidelines. However, they expressed concerns about the minimum mandate on wood harvest levels. The Sierra Club also expressed concerns about managing forests for bio-mass because bio-mass in their view produces the fewest number of jobs.

- ❖ Had a follow up meeting with Pat O'Shea and Bruce Anderson of Rowley's to discuss our progress with the Coop program.

Week of 07 April

- ❖ Have spent the week battling Bronchitis and have not been able to attend scheduled functions like I had hoped.

Reminder

MAT GOLFERS.....

Our annual Ray Billsby Memorial Golf Outing will be held at the Gaylord Country Club on 24 April. The outing will start at 9:30am with a shotgun start. The cost is \$30 which includes a cart and a lunch. The Country Club is located on M-32 West of Gaylord. The golf course is roughly 15 minutes from the Resort so please plan on joining us for a fun day on the links!

Upcoming Events

MI & WI Logger Conference	18 April	Escanaba MI
Senate Transportations	22 April	Lansing MI
MAT Convention	24 – 26 April	Boyne Falls MI