

## Facts of the Week

### Week of 25 August

- ❖ Participated in the Public Advisory Team (PAT) meeting. This group is working on the Biodiversity Conservation Planning Process, which will look at “Natural Communities” that occur on state owned property. This group was established back in early 2000 and since the certification of state land it was decided to get this group active again. A major focus of some of the participants of PAT is the establishment of Old Growth. I feel our role in this group is to minimize the amount of acres that will have limited timber harvesting. We are working on the selection process, once that is flushed out we will start the size delineation and management regimes. The summaries of a few “Natural Communities” that I have reviewed all have a timber management component in them. Often timber is harvested to create or maintain the community. I will keep you updated on this process.
- ❖ The Michigan Wood Energy and Wood Producers Cooperative Boards met to discuss our pellet projects. It was decided by the Board to focus on the White Cloud facility and table the Newberry project until later. Major concerns were trying to raise the capitol for two facilities at the same time during these rough economic times were are experiencing. We are now in the process of looking for investors in this pellet plant.

### Week of 01 September

- ❖ Completed our annual American Loggers Council State of the State report. If you would like to see this contact our office for a copy. This report is placed in the ALC’s annual report which is handed out during their annual meeting.
- ❖ Your MAT staff and directors attended Logging Congress. It was good to see many of you in Green Bay. I had several questions regarding the new Michigan Business Tax as well as other industry issues.

### Week of 08 September

- ❖ Warren Suchovsky and I attended the Eco Regional Plan meeting in Escanaba. This meeting was to review the proposed “Management Areas” found within the Escanaba Unit. Deer impacts on regeneration were documented on most of the Management Areas and this is viewed as a major concern, however, they do not seem to have any plans to remedy this issue. The amount of aspen on each of the Management Areas is going to decrease. A suggestion from the group was to list the pre and post management acreages for each timber type; this will make it easier to see how the forest types will be impacted.

- ❖ Attended the Non-Industrial Private Forest Landowner Coalition which is being organized by MUCC. This group is working on improving forest management activities on private lands. Three Goals have been established and they are:
  - Increase the sustainable management of non-industrial private forest lands.
  - Increase the awareness of local/state policymakers and residents of Michigan on the value of sustainable management of non-industrial private forest lands to Michigan's economy and ecosystems.
  - Create an efficient and effective statewide network for the delivery of services and education to non-industrial private forest landowners.

### **Week of 15 September**

- ❖ Our Legislators returned to Lansing to do some much needed work. We were optimistic that our bills would be scheduled. Unfortunately the political gamesmanship start to pop up and our bills were not scheduled for this week. We were told that potentially our bills would be scheduled the following week. Seeing how our Legislators are only working a couple of weeks in September we were pushing very hard to get our bills going.

The possibility of testifying was very strong so I was not able to attend the Biomass Demo in Trenary. It is my understanding that they had a successful day and a very nice demonstration. Another demo was held in Shingleton the following day.

- ❖ I conducted my annual SFE Timber Cruising program in Mio. This program goes over the principal of timber cruising, there are both classroom and field work associated with this program.
- ❖ I took Friday off to get ready for my bear hunt. I am happy to report I was successful in harvesting a bear.

### **Week of 22 September**

- ❖ Once again we were preparing to testify in support of our bills. I was not going to be able to testify, I lined up several of our members who have been adversely impacted by the bills we are working to fix to testify. Again, our bills were not scheduled so maybe we will get them scheduled after the elections. I must confess I am extremely frustrated by what is going on in Lansing. It seems it is no longer about good policy it is about what is good for the party.
- ❖ I attended ALC's annual meeting in Montgomery Alabama. I was a proxy for Brian Nelson, who is the ALC Midwest Delegate and he is our representative on the ALC Board. We toured CAT's facility in LaGrange, GA and then went to

their field demo area in Auburn to look at their forestry equipment. Friday night their action was held and just over \$17,000 was raised during this auction. Saturday evening is the passing of the gavel to the incoming President. This year's ALC President is Allen Ribelin. Allen is a logging contractor from Arizona. Much discussion was held on truck weights on highways, a motion was made to support FRA's 97,000 on all federal highways and this motion was not passed. ALC's policy is to continue to seek recognition of state legal tolerances on the Interstate Highway System.

### **Week of 29 September**

- ❖ Attending another PAT meeting, this meeting they went over the selection process for an area of the Eastern UP. Initially 55 areas were selected and once they reviewed these areas only 22 remained. Again the key factors will be how large will these areas be and what kind of management will be allowed. Also these lands can fall within the boundaries of any property owned by the State of Michigan not just state forest land.
- ❖ Meet with an Accountant of a couple of our members to discuss concerns over the MBT, which is the new business tax. I am in the process of trying to set up a meeting with people in Treasury to discuss our concerns or at least get some clarifications.

### **Week of 06 October**

- ❖ Had a meeting with Dave Wright, a Board member for Michigan Wood Energy to go over our investor strategy for the wood pellet plant.
- ❖ Attended the FMAC meeting in Lansing. Much of the discussion was how to improve the public input process. DNR staff expressed concern over the lack of participation in Open Houses, Compartment Reviews, and the Eco Regional Planning meetings. Opinions varied on what needs to be done. One suggestion is that the majority of the public is satisfied with the management of state lands so they do not attend these meetings. We were also provided with an update of the Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines.
- ❖ We have been very involved with the development of the new Water Quality Guidelines, remember the old white BMP Manual this is an updated version. I have had several meetings with the department regarding this document over the last few weeks and we have been involved for over a year. We have finally gotten our point across that we need to be involved in the development of documents like this and the Biomass Guidelines from the beginning. Typically we are asked to review the document once they have completed it and this can prolong the process.

## Legislative Action

I am asking all of you to contact your State Senator and Representative and asking, urging, insisting that they support the following bills: **Senate Bill 1241 and House Bill 6239**, these bills legalize our slasher combinations; **Senate Bill 880 and 881**, these bills clarify the Sales and Use tax exemption for your logging equipment, making all logging equipment tax exempt; and **House Bills 6320 & 6352**, these bills clarify the Sales and Use tax exemption for sawmill equipment. We need your help in letting our elected officials know that these bills are important to the livelihood of our industry. **Let our voice be heard!**

## Upcoming Events

Citizen Deer Advisory Team Meeting	14 October		Lansing MI
Grayling DNR Open House	15 October	1pm – 6pm	Grayling Field Office
Baraga DNR Compartment Review	15 October	9am -	Ford Forestry Center
Farm Bureau Forestry Meeting	16 October		St Ignace MI
Atlanta DNR Compartment Review	16 October	9am -	Lewiston Library
FRA Lake States Fall Meeting	21-22 October		Escanaba MI
Gwinn DNR Open House	23 October	3pm – 7pm	Sands Township Hall
Pheasant Hunt PAC Fund Raiser	25 October	11am	Blaney Park MI
Public Advisory Team Meeting	27 October		Grayling MI
Cadillac DNR Open House	28 October	4pm – 7pm	Baldwin Field Office
Biomass Demo	29 October		Keshena WI
Cadillac DNR Open House	29 October	4pm – 7pm	Manton VFW Hall