

Facts of the Week

Week of 13 October

- ❖ MUCC and Michigan Wildlife Division are teaming up to create a Deer Advisory Group which MAT has been asked to participate in. This group met for the first time to discuss the role of the Advisory group and how business will be conducted during each meeting. It is the hope of Wildlife Division that the group will operate similar to the Wolf Round Table and other advisory groups.

The group will play an advisory role in the development of the Whitetail Deer Management Plan that the division is drafting. It has been suggested that Regional meetings will be held to seek public input into this process. The meeting dates have not yet been determined.

There was much discussion on how decisions would be made whether by consensus, majority or super majority. A couple of groups have indicated that their participation in the group will be determined by how all actions are decided.

- ❖ I was asked to participate in Michigan Farm Bureau's Forestry Committee meeting in St. Ignace. I provided an update on biomass activities in Michigan. This included what we have been working on through Michigan Wood Energy and the Coop. We discussed the importance of defining woody biomass as broadly as possible and making sure that there are no restrictions on where biomass can be harvested, such as only from certified lands. Informed the group on the legislative activities that we are working on and asked for their support in areas where they have current policies in place. If Farm Bureau does not have a policy on a certain issue they cannot lend support for that issue; they did draft policy language to help support our cause on the slasher issue.
- ❖ I helped a member draft a letter to the District 7 Commander of the Michigan State Police. During a traffic accident on US 131 the officer at the scene directed our member's fully loaded log truck to drive on the unsupported shoulder of the highway. The driver expressed his concern for his safety; however the officer insisted he do as he was told. The driver proceeded as directed and as predicted the shoulder started to give way and the driver stopped. Two tow trucks were dispatched and one held the truck from tipping over and the other winched the truck to safety. Fortunately no one was hurt and the truck was not damaged. The member, however, was given the towing bill. The letter we drafted was seeking reimbursement from the MSP for this cost that should not have been incurred. We also pointed out the safety concerns as well. I will keep you posted on this issue.

Week of 20 October

- ❖ Tom Buckingham and I met with Todd and Dan Atwood to discuss concerns and issues they had.
- ❖ Alvin Rush, MAT VP, and I attended the State Tax Tribunal to contest the change in Alvin's land classification. His property was receiving the "Ag Land" classification and was being switched to "Residential" Needless to say the property taxes went up significantly. Forest practices are not included in the definition of "Ag Land" classification so we were not successful in keeping this classification. We were successful in getting the proper classification of "Timber Cut Over". If you own forest land that does not have any buildings on it and you have management plan and past timber harvest you should have your land classified as "Timber Cut Over". The tax liability for Timber Cut Over is less than the taxes on Residential land. So please check your tax papers and on lands that qualify please get your classification change.
- ❖ Judy Augenstein and I had lunch with Howard Ryan to discuss issues with the new Michigan Business Tax. Howard is the Tax Policy person for the Senate Republicans. The news I received from Howard was not good as it pertains to logging companies. Monies paid to sub contractors are not deductible from your company's gross receipts, like they were in the past. Judy is looking to see if there are any bills in the system dealing with the MBT and we will try and get a fix, however, I don't know if it will happen in this session, which ends this year. We had other issues that Howard was not able to answer, however he did provide some guidance on who to contact.
- ❖ The FRA held their Lakes States meeting in Escanaba and I moderated the morning session on Wednesday. The main topic of the morning was how to improve trucking efficiencies as well as estimating logging cost. The panel of speakers provided the group with a wealth of information. I will try and post the presentations on our website for your use.

In the evening a training session was held on a logging cost model that has been developed by the Wood Supply Research Institute (WSRI). Mathew Schmidt from Auburn University has oversight on this project and is looking to adopt the model to fit the lake state. He is searching logging company data and will be sending me a list of what data he needs. Once I get this information I will be contacting some of you to create a data set for Michigan.

- ❖ Saturday the 25th of October will be our first PAC Pheasant Hunt and Game Roast. We will be getting started around 11am with the hunt and then a game roast will be in later afternoon. All donations will go into our PAC fund and a suggested donation is \$50. This will be taking place in the Blaney Park area off of M 77. If you are interested in attending please contact our Newberry Office.

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. If you need the contact information of your representatives, call the Newberry office and Jan will get that for you. **Let our voice be heard!**

In less than two weeks we will be exercising our rights to elect individuals to political offices. I urge all of you go vote for those individuals who represent our interest. We have a new section on our website www.timbermen.org called "Letters to the Editor". In this section are a few letters from individuals expressing their opinions, I urge you to take a look at this section. So again get out there on November 4th and VOTE!

Upcoming Events

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
Logger Meeting (Forest Service Issues)	30 October	6:30pm -	Kenton MI
Election Day	04 November	All Day	State Wide
State Christmas Tree Harvest	06 November	All Day	Marquette Area
NRC Meeting	06 November	11am – 5pm	Lansing MI
Gwinn Compartment Review	07 November	9am – 12pm	NMU Superior Room