

## Maryland DNR Forest Service



### Chesapeake Forest Certification & Audit Review

November 17, 2008

Vision Forestry LLC, Salisbury MD

#### Attendance

**DNR:** Steve Koehn, Kip Powers, Mike Schofield, Rob Feldt, Dan Rider, Kenneth Jolly, Jack Perdue, Sam Bennett

**Vision Forestry:** Larry Walton, Neil Sampson

#### Notes

Kip Powers commented that the Vision Forestry contract is based on acreage which has increased since the most recent contract was entered. We will have to discuss the contracts revision to make adjustments. The next contract should include provisions to adjust payments based on expected acreage and payment increases so as not requiring it to be taken to the Board of Public Works.

We must check with Procurement to learn to what extent (~10%) a contract can be modified without BPW approval. We will need to bump the current contract up to \$100k to cover current situation.

We want to request auditor consistency (not new auditors every year) with the audit agencies.

Rec. 2007.2 HRA is now addressed in the Chesapeake Forest plan and policy.

Koehn stated the FSC reports make positive statements about our management accomplishments. Perdue will ask the auditors if they could (or if it is within their organizations policy) to offer specific statements about an organizations program.

Prepare FSC summary to Olivia Campbell (Communications) for press release and DNR homepage.

#### Vision Forestry Report

Market for first thinnings have been good, had 10,000 acres to catch up, have done ~5,000 acres of that so far this year.

Larry Walton gave an update of current harvesting projects. They currently are working with 6 contractors on the harvesting backlog. After that they can probably keep two working regularly.

Perdue will send the DNR HCVF policy to attendees.

Vision has done some work on Wicomico Demo Forest.

### **Vision and Chesapeake Forest staffing**

Bill Cheezman has been added to the Vision Forestry staff. Bill use to work with Chesapeake Forest Products and more recently with Smurfit Stone.

Ron Wilson does some Vision Forestry GIS and survey work. DNR's Chesapeake Forest project had a GIS position that was lost due to budget constraints. A possible joint hiring of a Chesapeake Forest seasonal and part-time Vision Forestry part-time position was discussed. It was mentioned that Alexander Clark, currently working on Agro-Ecology grant, would make a good person for this position and arrangement. Note: since this meeting, Alex has been hired and has begun work on the Chesapeake Forest and Vision Forestry programs.

### **Delmarva Fox Squirrel (DFS) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)**

Dan Rider gave an update on the DFS issue. The HCP is a license to operate. HCP eliminates the need for federal "incidental taking permits" which is untimely and expensive. HCP is still unresolved.

A new powerline is being proposed which will, as currently proposed, impact forests on the Eastern Shore. It will be 27 feet wide.

### **DNR CFL Managers Report**

Right-of-Way and boundary issues continue to develop. Hunt clubs leases will be automatically renewed to acceptable groups. Possible use of "hunt club" report records to ID good groups and possible incentives. Black Water and Lindar restortation projects are going well.

### **Next Audit**

Costs have been about \$15-17k/yr. Original audit was about \$30k. We need to get cost estimates from auditors and firm dates. We should request the same auditors as last year. If we are to include Pocomoke State Forest we will use the current management plan and include draft revisions similar to the Chesapeake Forest plan. We will need to consider Pocomoke's HCVF designation. We also should have no problem running the PSF/CF model.