



Leadership Roundtable Meeting (LRT)

January 5, 2021

State Foresters Report

Deputy State Forester Ed Zimmer narrated the meeting.

- ◆ Rob Farrell spoke on the upcoming General Assembly session
 - Senate is meeting in person and House is meeting virtually
 - Lobbying will have to be virtual, and largely done by texting or email.

Presentations

Review of Proposed Budget Amendments

Good year for VDOF for proposed budget. Received more proposed items than originally asked for.

- ◆ Hardwood position and incentive funds
- ◆ Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) positions
- ◆ Incident Management Training (IMT) positions – VDOF will train other individuals and agencies on IMT
- ◆ Nursery one time equipment funding
- ◆ Charlotte state forest purchase phase 2
- ◆ WQIF funding from DCR for logging BMPs
- ◆ WQIF funding from DCR for tree planting

Working on a way to share more information with all VDOF staff in addition to The Branch. Possibly a blog once a month.

Continue doing the great job you're doing. Stay safe and be vigilant.

Updates

None

Round Robin Updates

Eastern Region (Bryant Bays)

- ◆ Forest Action Plan has been submitted and USFS regional level has approved. The plan is available on the common drive – 2020 Forest Action Plan folder.

- ◆ Blackwater forester starting on January 11. Three forester positions still open.
- ◆ Working on a climate resilience project.

GIS (Jason Braunstein)

- ◆ Supporting regions with IFRIS.
- ◆ Maps have been updated on the common drive.
- ◆ Assisting VDACS with GIS needs.
- ◆ Completed 10-day assignment on a vaccination implementation plan for VDEM.

Forest Health (Lori Chamberlin)

- ◆ Back from Maternity leave.
- ◆ Working on a supporting white-pine research plots grant. Will send letter of support to Rob for approval.

Administration (John Colligan)

- ◆ Procurement position vacant in finance and data analyst position vacant in Information Technology
- ◆ New security system is activated in the headquarters building. Instructions and access cards will be provided for all VDOF staff.
- ◆ Will be reconciling mid-year budget, possible funding for onetime expenses.

Finance (Fernanda Crandol)

- ◆ Procurement position vacant. Hope to have interviews week of January 11.
- ◆ Please send and procurement questions or requests to Jessica Carroll and Fernanda Crandol to avoid any delays until position is filled.

Research (Jerre Creighton)

- ◆ In field measurement mode.
- ◆ Monitoring many research projects.

Forest Resource Management (Dean Cumbia)

- ◆ Hardwood program moving forward. Training on January 11.
- ◆ Request out for forest consultant to work on Lower Cowpasture project. Two interns are assisting with project.

Budget (Faye Difazio)

- ◆ Mid-year updates for performance measurements due.
- ◆ NASF updates are coming in.

Senior Area Foresters Representative (Greg Estoll)

- ◆ No updates.

Fire and Emergency Response (Dave Houttiker)

- ◆ Dave sees his role as an advocate for field operations, ensuring they have necessary equipment.
- ◆ Working on Longwood Fire Academy, will be part virtual and part in person.
- ◆ AD assignments confirmation letters will be ready in June.
- ◆ Looking at having Basic Law training in three session, one for each region.
- ◆ Working on a power saw replacement plan.

Urban and Community Forestry (Lara Johnson)

- ◆ Working on RFP for spring and fall projects.
- ◆ Roanoke workshops moving to online.
- ◆ Processing Tree City USA applications.

Assistant State Forester (Terry Lasher)

- ◆ Sara Parmelee was selected as the new Forestland Conservation Coordinator.
- ◆ Land Conservation Program Manager has been hired and will be announced soon.
- ◆ Utilization and Marketing Program Manager is being re-advertised.

Fire Emergency and Response (John Miller)

- ◆ New version of FiResponse is available, waiting for update to come out in google play store. Will let everyone know when it's available.
- ◆ Working on outstanding warden commissions.
- ◆ Two new dry hydrant contractors

Information Technology (Parik Patel)

- ◆ Annual security training is complete. There will be a new portal for training.
- ◆ Data Analyst position is open and will be advertised.
- ◆ Working on portable printers for field staff and computer replacements.

FIA (John Pemberton)

- ◆ Three FIA positions filled. Re-advertising the Abington position.

Water Quality (Matt Poirot)

- ◆ Riparian tax credit season, please get forms in.
- ◆ Best Management Practices (BMP) audits wrapped up for 2020.
- ◆ New high-visibility polo shirts will be distributed to all field staff (one each) then available on the uniform website for purchase.

Public Information (Michelle Stoll)

- ◆ Planning a 50th anniversary Reforestation Timberland (RT) event for April.

- ◆ Looking at planning an event for the new Charlotte State Forest in October.
- ◆ State Fair status is uncertain at this time.
- ◆ Camp Woods and Wildlife will be a multi-day virtual event for ages 15-17.
- ◆ Starting on next year's State of Forest. Send emails, photographs and data for next year as you get them to the publicinfo@dof.virginia.gov.

State Lands Coordinator (Ed Stoots)

- ◆ Bids due tomorrow for reforestation contracts.
- ◆ Working on several timber harvesting projects.

Central Region (Robbie Talbert)

- ◆ Jefferson Forest Technician position (Zach Long) and Meherrin Forest Technician (Chris Roux) has been filled and starts on January 11.
- ◆ Shenandoah Bay Watershed Specialist position has been filled (Erin Perry) and starts on January 25.
- ◆ Four vacancies to be posted this week.

Western Region (Chris Thomsen)

- ◆ The Program Support Technician position has been filled by Lara Wilson. She started on December 28, 2020.
- ◆ Mount Rogers Area Forester position (Daniel Hosack) starts January 11 and Piedmont Forest Technician position (Erin Perry) starts January 25.
- ◆ Brad Carico is expected to return to work on January 19.

Ed Zimmer thanked everybody for their continued hard work. Stay safe and be vigilant with COVID-19..

Minutes recorded by Mary Weaver, Executive Assistant