



Leadership Roundtable Meeting (LRT)

January 12, 2022

State Forester's Report

Rob Farrell opened the meeting.

- ◆ Re-emphasized the need to social distance due to COVID-19.
 - Meet in small groups as possible and be courteous of others.
 - Ten percent of the agency has tested positive or currently isolating.
- ◆ Currently, there's no word from the Governor Youngkin team on announcement of reappointments.
 - Matt Lohr has been appointed as the Secretary of Agricultural and Forestry.
 - Bettina Ring has accepted the position of Chief Sustainability and Diversity Officer with Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).
 - Joe Guthrie has been appointed as the Commissioner of Virginia Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services.
- ◆ General Assembly begins today with a Republican majority in the house. It's a long session this year where they work on the budget.
 - VDOF does not have any significant agency legislation.
 - Several budget amendments have been submitted for VDOF.
- ◆ First Hardwood Steering Committee meeting was held virtually on January 11.

Discussion Items

FY22 Mid-year Budget Update

John Colligan reviewed the VDOF Budget.

- ◆ Currently, we have extra funds to spend – looking to spend all the General Funds this year.
- ◆ Looking for suggestions on one-time purchase needs to use these funds.
 - Think broadly and strategically.
 - Get ideas into your respective executive leadership team member by January 26.
 - Tremendous opportunity to purchase things (training, equipment, etc.) we normally haven't had the opportunity to purchase.
- ◆ Funding needs to be spent by June 30, 2022.

- ◆ Closer to the end of the year, we will pre-pay certain bills (VITA, Workmen's Comp, etc.) to use any leftover dollars efficiently.

Presentations

None

Change Proposals

Combine Form 8.7 Wage Employment Application and 8.2 Emergency Work Disclosure

- ◆ Jeremy Falkenau presented a request from the senior area foresters to combine Form 8.7 Wage Employment Application and 8.2 Emergency Work Disclosure.
- ◆ There are several forms to fill out when hiring part-time wage employees, especially firefighters.
- ◆ This will take two forms with three pages, to one form that is two pages.

Updates

- ◆ Rob took the Round Robin off the agenda to make more efficient use of our time. Looking for suggestions on how to make the Leadership Roundtable Meetings more useful in the future.

Rob opened the floor to anyone that had something to share with the group.

- ◆ Janet Muncy reminded everyone to let her know of any changes or updates to their programs so she can keep the website current.
 - Continue to encourage people to sign up on the contractor list on the website.
 - State of the Forest will be published today.

Rob thanked everyone that assisted in the storm clean-up in Central Virginia.

- ◆ John Miller spoke about the upcoming Incident Management Team (IMT) exercise for all regions and headquarters.
 - Preparedness step for spring fire season.
 - Being ready for fires is VDOF's job number one.
- ◆ Karl Didier reminded the group of the Generation Next training in late February and early March.

Rob recognized that Michelle Stoll is leaving VDOF and returning to Arkansas. Thank you for everything you have done.

Appreciate everyone's participation. Have a great month!

Minutes recorded by Mary Weaver, executive assistant