



Senior Management Team (SMT) Meeting

September 6, 2022

State Forester's Report

Rob Farrell opened the meeting.

- ◆ Attending 2nd Monthly Management Review (MMR) Wednesday, September 7.
 - Hopefully, these will turn into quarterly meetings.
 - Meetings are all about budget.
- ◆ Busy Schedule for September
 - Forest Management Academy – East – September 13 – 15
 - White Oak Initiative Meeting in Knoxville, TN – September 13 – 15
 - Fall Fire Academy – September 13 – 16
 - National NASF Meeting in Skamania, WA – September 18 – 21
 - Board of Forestry Meeting at the State Fair – September 27
 - Forest Management Academy – West – September 27 – 29
 - Governor visiting VDOF HQ – September 30
 - 2:30 p.m. – Senior Management Meeting (SMT) in Board Room
 - Will take a picture with Governor prior to the SMT meeting.
 - Everyone is expected to be in HQ office on the 30th.
 - MAC-ISA Annual Meeting – October 2 – 4
- ◆ Forest Products Week – October 17 – 21
 - Governor is scheduled to visit different sites October 18 and 19.
 - Chips Mill at Zion Crossroads
 - Augusta Nursery
 - Blue Ridge Lumber
 - Need to find visits for the rest of Forest Products Week for Secretary Lohr.
- ◆ Chief of Administration Recruit
 - Top candidate is looking at another opportunity so waiting for the other opportunity to play out.
- ◆ Human Resources Director Position
 - Position will be vacant October 1.
 - Will get position posted quickly.
- ◆ State of the Forest

- Working on the State of the Forest.
- Greg Bilyeu will reach out to VDOF staff for articles to use.
- ◆ Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) Office Space
 - Leasing 4 or 5 cubical areas to use as a remote Richmond office space.
- ◆ ESRI Project Meeting
 - Thank you to everyone that participated.
 - Meeting with water quality staff for water quality module.
 - Should have a product to test the first of the year.
- ◆ Internal Communications Survey
 - 164 responses, majority of the agency is interested in internal communications.
 - Lots of great feedback from Robbie Talbert's special project that will be helpful with internal communications.
 - Possibly an internal strategic plan.
 - Create messaging on why we're working on more accomplishments and what we hope to accomplish.

Discussion

None

Proposals

None

Updates

Forest Resource Management (Dean Cumbia)

- ◆ Forest Management Academies East and West coming up. Both are classes are full.
- ◆ Forest Sustainability Fund was established to help offset land use revenue.
 - Survey went out to ask localities if they are interested in participating in the Forest Sustainability Fund, closes on Friday, September 9.
 - The application for localities to apply for forest sustainability funds will open in October and close in November.
 - Guidelines are due October 15.
 - Responses are due November 15.
 - The hardwood tax credit is moving forward.

Assistant State Forester (Terry Lasher)

- ◆ Caitlin Verdu has been working on the Riparian Buffer Implementation Plan.
- ◆ Amanda Scheps is returning to VDOF as of September 12 as a conservation specialist.

Deputy State Forester (Ed Zimmer)

- ◆ Facility manager interviews on September 15.
- ◆ Request for proposal on preparing a plan for New Kent Nursery is out for bid.
- ◆ Applications for the district forester positions closed on Monday, September 5.
 - Interviewing each region separately.

Eastern Region (Bryant Bays)

- ◆ Had a consulting foresters meeting with good turn out and discussion.
- ◆ Water quality engineer position is open.
- ◆ Lots of hiring and training going on.

Western Region (Brad Carico)

- ◆ Full house for the Fall Fire Academy starting September 13.
- ◆ Filled a forest technician position in the Mount Rogers work area.
- ◆ Vacant area forester position in the Piedmont work area has been extended.

Central Region (Robbie Talbert)

- ◆ Area forester position in the Heartland work area has been extended.
- ◆ Regional meeting October 6 at Camp Albemarle.
- ◆ Water quality refresher training on September 20.
- ◆ Have received all the feedback from work areas on the special project. Will gather all the information and beginning working on improvements and better focus.

Fire and Emergency Response (John Miller)

- ◆ Interviewing for the assistant director of wildfire mitigation and prevention position.
- ◆ All staff and resources are back from Texas deployment.
- ◆ Western fires season has been slow until this weekend. Starting to pick up – probably will be opportunities for late fall fire deployments.
- ◆ Working on updating the HQ IMT roster.

Finance (Lauren Sumner)

- ◆ Cardinal is going into effect on October 3. Watch your email for notifications of training deadlines.
 - Time sheets will need to be entered on a weekly basis.
- ◆ There is a new business card contract.

Minutes recorded by Mary Weaver, executive assistant