

Forest Practices Advisory Board

April 24, 2013

Members in attendance: Steve Broderick, Christopher Martin, Ian Branson

Guests: Eric Hammerling

DEEP Staff: Doug Emmerthal, Jennifer Hockla, Sheila Hoefle (recorder)

Meeting called to order at 9:20 am. Steve suggests a reminder email approximately one week prior to meeting to serve as a reminder to Board members.

Minutes of the May 2012 meeting reviewed. Edits recommended. Board could not vote to accept minutes because there was no quorum

Legislative Updates: (see handout)

Emerald Ash Borer Delimiting Survey Summary (see map)

Richard Schenk, Fire Control Officer, was the Incident Commander for the survey. The survey covered a total of 78 square miles and personnel peeled 440 ash bolts. Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, CT Agricultural Experiment Station, CT DEEP Forestry Division, and a private tree service provided assistance. The survey work located 3 additional finds of EAB in New Haven County. Nate Siegert, USDA FS, will develop an EAB density map. Sink tree sites will be based on density modeling. Letters will be sent to municipalities, land trusts and water companies requesting use of their lands for placement of sink tree sites. Information gathered in Connecticut will be shared with other New England states and New York.

Emerald Ash Borer Permanent Firewood Regulation Update

Firewood regulations are permanent now. A summary of the regulations is; Wood intended to be burned needs to stay in New Haven County unless a permit has been issued by CAES. Please see the DEEP Forestry Regulations on the Movement of Firewood webpage for detailed information.

(http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&Q=508886&deepNav_GID=1631)

State of CT DOT Highway Signage Update

In partnership with CT DOT DEEP Division of Forestry has posted signs on many roads entering Connecticut. Money was obtained from a USDA FS grant for the creation of the signs and DOT provided in-kind service to post them along thoroughfares. See attached sign detail sheets. A poster was developed by The Nature Conservancy and a QR code was added. Posters were given to DOT for placement in rest areas along state highways and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for State-owned Campgrounds.

Emergency Forest Restoration

CT DEEP Forestry Division was notified in February that all of Connecticut except one county would be eligible for the program. Twenty-three million dollars are available for impacted states to utilize for restoration. A press release will be done when all the details of the program are ironed out.

Forest Practices Act Amended Regulations Status (see handout)

On the handout the bracketed text is the old language, underlined text is the proposed language. The DEEP DOF plans to remove the requirement of a certified check and eliminate the 3% annual increase. Personal check would be accepted and the new fees would be set at \$235 for a new application or renewal and \$65 for the exam.

Certification Program Update

Number of certified practitioners is down. In Fall 2012, fewer practitioners renewed their certification. There are currently 520 certified practitioners. Numbers of applicants for FPA Exams are down. There are enforcement actions in progress and staff are investigating other complaints. There are currently two issues at the Attorney General's Office. One case will be going to trial next month, the investigation began in 2007.

Other Business

Meshomasic State Forest Proposed Gun Range

William Hochholzer, Forester 1 and James Parda EP Program Supervisor have met with the State Police in Glastonbury to identify the 30 acre proposed area for a State Police Firing Range. The proposed location affects the CFPA Blue Trail System and rattlesnake habitat. There is the possibility that the site could also impact the Meshomasic fly-way utilized by birds and Audubon CT may also get involved. Talks are just beginning, stay tuned for updates.

Division of Forestry Retirements

Ralph Scarpino, EP Program Supervisor for Forest Protection is retiring effective July 1, 2013. There is a strong possibility that this position may not be refilled as the State of Connecticut is reducing its work force. Ralph's duties will be redistributed throughout the Forest Protection and clerical staff for the division.

Next meeting date: September 4, 2013 at 9 am at CFPA.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.