

## Forest Management Plan Advisory Committee November 29, 2019 – 9:00 AM

The Forest Management Plan Advisory Committee met on the above date at the County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

Present: Councillors Brian Milne and Brian Gamble, Warden Selwyn Hicks; Jesse Henrich, Rebecca Ferguson, Donna Lacey, John Ford, Mark Mariash, Brian Goodings, Tim Lanthier, Kevin Predon and Karen Buratynski

Regrets: Jason Traynor and Rob Beirnes

### Staff

Present: Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning; Scott Taylor, Senior Planner; Sarah Johnson, Intermediate Planner/Forestry-Trails Coordinator; Lee Thurston, By-law Enforcement Officer and Forest Manager; Stephanie Lacey-Avon, Intermediate Planner/Forestry-Trails Coordinator and Monica Scribner, Recording Secretary

## Call to Order

Chair Milne called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

## Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There was none

## Grey County Forestry Videos

Committee members watched the 2014 Grey County Forestry Videos:

- [Our Forest - Video 1](#)
- [Our Forest - Video 2](#)
- [Our Forest - Video 3](#)

## Review of Comments Received

Sarah provided an overview of the comments received and the group discussed the following items:

- Applications used by other counties or user groups for tracking invasive species, and educating user groups on these 'apps'.
- The impact of invasive species on the forests.
- Keep the Forest Management Plan (FMP) as a living document to consider future amendments to the Plan e.g. adding in Climate Change Action Plan recommendations (should they impact the FMP).
- Review and update the Plan at regular intervals and update each stand information as harvests occur.
- Consider the role of forests in carbon sequestration.
- Forest harvest cycles, which are generally scheduled to be harvested every 15 years, and whether a cycle should be 'skipped' or delayed if a given forest is not ready for harvest in that cycle.
- How the forest inventories were completed, and the level of historical data the County has on the forests.
- Signage, including adding signs that explain why trees are being harvested, and possible restrictive signage to make it clear that harvest entry points are not 'new trails'.
- Make reference to the Recreational Trails Master Plan (RTMP) for some of the recreational and etiquette aspects of the County Forests.
- Consider the overall 'value' of the forests, not just based on harvests, but as natural functioning assets (including natural functions, tourism attractions, etc.) Grey Sauble Conservation Authority staff have calculated a value for their assets in this manner.

## Managing Forest Use Conflicts

- Tenders to clearly state to the contractors that staff need to be notified before cutting, such that neighbours can be notified, trails can be closed, etc. Staff acknowledge that these timeframes can be done on 'short notice'.
- When tree clearing machines go in, they can disturb neighbours. When we send out the notification letters to neighbours, we need to add a comment for them to contact us with their email if they are interested in knowing when the contractors will be arriving.
- Add a reference to tie back to Recreational Trails Master Plan (RTMP) regarding users and potential conflicts.

## Grey/Bruce Collaboration

- Grey County staff have reached out to GSCA, SVCA and Bruce County staff to talk about potential collaboration on forestry. It was agreed the formal

collaboration on yearly harvests would be very difficult, however informal collaboration is already occurring in a number of areas.

- Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority staff meet regularly with the Forest Health Collaborative who collaborate and would be open to collaborating with the two counties.
- Bruce, Grey, GSCA, SVCA all met recently with a researcher that was looking at options for Buckthorn control.
- Information is shared between all parties on a regular basis.
- In January 2020, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNRF) is removing local forestry staff which could lead to more questions and requests coming into county and conservation authority offices.
- There may be possibility collaborate on the issue of trespass e.g. illegal ATV use in the forests.

## Next Steps

- Sarah and Lee will take the suggestions provided today and incorporate them into the new FMP
- Planning staff will present the revised draft of FMP to Committee of the Whole in the New Year
- Planning staff will host a Public Meeting/Open House
- Planning staff will draft the Final FMP
- Forest Management Plan Advisory Committee meeting to review the Final FMP
- Final FMP Adoption by Council

## Other Business

There was none

## Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be following the Public Meeting/Open House at the Grey County Administration Building.

On motion by Chair Brian Milne, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Brian Milne, Chair