

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THOSE ATTENDING THE LISTENING SESSION AT HARFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE, BEL AIR, MD. JUNE 8, 2009

Over 35 leaders and stakeholders representing a cross section of forestry interests came together to voice their concerns and opinions about challenges and issues facing forestry in Maryland and what to do about them. The first section represents the first part of the meeting in that those attending were asked to write their concerns about the future of forestry and then post those concerns under key issues. The second part of this summary reflects verbal comments received from the participants suggesting ways in which these issues and concerns might be addressed.

I. Retention and Management of Private Forests: Greatest Concerns:

- There needs to be an awareness by the landowner of forest values
- Financial assistance is needed for the landowner
- Financial incentives for sustainable management and forest plans is also needed
- Markets for products and ecosystem services are needed (no markets, no management)
- Getting landowners to manage their forested lands
- The ability to maintain and manage my forest land successfully by having access to critical information and to have access to incentives in tax relief for accomplishment
- Forest land conservation
- Whenever the issue of land use is discussed outside the “forestry” community – forests almost always comes behind development and agriculture. Forests are still even looked at by some as wasteland that should be developed
- Protecting private forests from wasteful residential development through zoning, regulation, or economic incentives (large cleared lots, fragmenting)
- Keeping Maryland private forests from being reduced in acreage by increasing the incentive to not subdivide and giving landowners more tax benefits for keeping their land in managed woodland.
- Supporting private forest landowners in their quest to retain their forested land
- Especially because of increasing parcelization of forested lands, education of woodland owners related to woodland management and education of foresters and surveyors on ways to deal with smaller woodlots is crucial.
- Restrict or forbid the use of four wheelers, two wheelers etc. on private land
- Reaching private landowners and getting them to manage their woodlots. Most woodland in Maryland is privately owned. Most woodland is not being managed. Most woodland harvests are not being marked and conducted by registered professional foresters. May have an emphasis on wood products instead of their objectives for the property. May have landowners that are not in touch with their woodlots.
- Too much is in private hands and is subject to landowner’s whim. Where land is resold new property owner can over time waste what a previous responsible property owner has done.

- Managing private forest with owners and loggers
- Lack of Department of Natural Resources personnel to advise and write Sustainable Forest Stewardship Plans for less than 10 acres
- Lack of plans to serve private landowners in urban/suburban areas with less than 5 acres
- If the State of Maryland does not allow the Forest Service to have the resources and manpower to manage forests, who else will do it?

Secondary concerns:

- Less forestland to development and farming
- Viable and diverse - private forests are disappearing due to poor choices by the landowner (lack of specific knowledge of forest practices)
- Education is the key
- Deer management
- Plantings (tree) on private land have a questionable success rate – CREP tree planting contractors should be rated in some way by landowners
- Plans are processed by government agencies but they usually sit in a file cabinet.
- The aging landowner population and the coming big intergenerational transfer of forestland (and farm land).
- Lack of DNR capacity to help with marketing and utilization (Can Rider is great but he can only work at this part-time)
- Realizing the importance to the ecology, the viability of private owned forests is essential to future environmental harmony
- Lack of cost share and tax incentives similar to farm incentives

II. Retention and Management/Public Forests:

Greatest Concerns:

- Lack of Department of Natural Resources personnel to advise and write Sustainable Forest Stewardship Plans for less than 10 acres
- Lack of plans to serve private landowners in urban/suburban areas with less than 5 acres
- Income/revenue generated from timber sales on State forests should be reinvested back into the management of State forests
- If the State of Maryland does not allow the Forest Service to have resources and manpower to manage forests who else will do it?

Secondary Concerns:

- Management of public forest lands – benign neglect is not management
Deer control-to assure regeneration
Invasives, pests

Need management plans based on forest health assessments

III. Economic Viability of Maryland's Forest Products Industry:

Greatest Concerns:

- My concern is the ability to maintain an economically viable market that producers can rely on to provide a good return on their investment. This would include tax incentives for both producers and the mills in addition to the possibility of subsidies
- Informing and educating the public about proper forest management, including harvesting and thinning and invasive species control
- The continuing loss of the infrastructure for a healthy forestland and forest products industry in Maryland (especially loggers and sawmills)

Secondary Concerns:

- Forest industries need to be strong and diverse (traditional and alternate) to keep Maryland forests from being turned into houses
- Marketing with local (MD) companies.
- Keeping local loggers in local forests.
- Focusing on thinning and select cutting not clearing
- Developing local plans-county by county-to work on forestry-related issues rather than implementing State-wide plans

IV. Maintain Forest Diversity in Maryland:

Greatest Concerns:

- Creating and maintaining forest diversity (use, social, esthetic, etc.) on private forestland
- Current county regulations do not allow for oversight of landowners with regard to diversity. WE issue permits, but basically contract loggers high grade
- Education of landowners is key
- Maryland forest slash policy- shorter rotation times? Having clear cuts stripped to have earth?
- Supporting private forest landowners in their quest to retain their forested land

Secondary Concerns:

- Invasive species, particularly plants

V. Value-Added/Alternative Opportunities:

Secondary Concerns:

- A lot of information and opportunities need to be developed and promoted to expand the value-added/alternative opportunities for woodland owners. This needs to be partnered among the Department of Natural Resources and Maryland Department of Agriculture to capitalize on product development, marketing and use of various wholesale/retail outlets for such products and services
- Learning about financial opportunities in the area of biofuels and the use of forest products in a green environment
- Show the private landowners ways to enjoy and utilize the various value added products and earn income in the process
- I believe that I would like to see some sort of industry which would allow small forest owners to provide biomass to be used for power generation for utilities and industrial energy. This also applies to heating of buildings

VI. Recommended actions:

- It is critically important for MD DNR to be able to retain people and keep them focused on the right work, such as landowner support – support for DNR shows that the State takes forests seriously **
- Have managed deer hunts on public land, starting around the reservoirs **
- Provide seed money to counties to hold local listening sessions with local planning, generating locally grown ideas that are more likely to be supported than state-down ideas *
- Land set asides in conservation areas need to be managed – need appropriate treatment so the land doesn't degrade*
- Need more research into what products are viable – need new markets and options, especially for pine *
- State funds from sale of forest lands should go to the county and to DNR – not into the general fund *
- No markets = no management of forests; no cash = no conservation *
- DNR needs to have the resources to visit locally and foster cross-communication on forest issues – they recently participated in Cecil County sensitive areas planning but need to participate on an on-going basis with counties
- MD has been a trend-setter in forest management – it is now embarrassing to see the lack of support from the state
- Look at Baltimore county's sustainable forestry initiative as a resource – developed using the Montreal Process, they have many good ideas based on indicators

- Educate, educate, educate! Provide funding for counties to hold seminars and workshops for landowners, on topics such as biodiversity and harvesting
- Encourage forest owners to put lands in trusts to protect land – forever is a beautiful word; it doesn't have to mean you lose control of your property – need funds and incentives such as charitable donation credit
- Extend priority preservation areas (MALF) to forests – only addresses prime ag lands right now
- More needs to be done collaboratively between DNR and Dept of Ag – too often “agree to disagree” without working out the issues. Need to work together, not reinvent
- More emphasis on agro-forestry
- Need programs similar to MALF for DNR – Greenprint could work, but it is not funded
- Provide education and incentives to encourage landowners to manage across parcelized ownerships – manage as a single large unit
- Tax incentives should be tied to IMPLEMENTED management plans, not just written plans
- Need more personnel to work on forested lands, including funding for outreach
- Forestry plans should be like ag plans for cost-share, and provide funding for management activities such as fertilizer
- Mills are going under – state needs to help keep mills in operation
- More markets = more forests and a reduced reason for conversion to development – need alternatives to support keeping land in trees
- More choices for value-added, especially for small acreage parcels, more incentives to be active in forest management
- Encourage use of biofuels for heating schools and hospitals – need to work with local officials to help this get started – need long term contracts for landowners to supply fuel – retrofits will soon be due for many schools and public buildings – now is the time to plan for retrofits to biomass
- Promote Tree Farm for certification – other certification schemes are too expensive.
- Address/encourage State to use MD-grown certified wood in buildings – use all valid systems, not just LEED & FSC
- Make it easier for landowners to have their wood used in Maryland
- Need a plan to address smaller parcels (1 -4 acres) including tax incentives , especially for group management
- Encourage the use of native plants in developed areas – have more natural areas
- Expand forest cover in developments rather than mowing them down for houses
- Information is needed on carbon sequestration and how MD can take advantage of this – make forests part of cap and trade system

- Need an emergency contingency plan for invasives and insects – it was passed in '09 but not funded
- Manage forests by watershed management plan that includes public and private lands to include water quality – more coherent way to manage
- Create stream buffer program like in PA to protect headwaters
- Keep two-wheelers and four-wheelers from having unrestricted access to forest land (private and public) – protect forests and water; need better regulation and enforcement
- For ecosystem services, need new way to communicate why landowners want/need support for this – drive better public policy
- More needs to be done about development rights – need better long term oversight , need to follow up with landowners as forest land is sold; if second landowner does harm to land, need to have stronger enforcement and fines for damages
- Sustainable forest management should be allowed in buffer areas and for easements
- State and local land use planning issues are too often in conflict – additional input /involvement with the state is needed – at county level, lots of variance
- Make sure we relate to the public how forests tie to O'Malley's priorities – sustainability, Chesapeake Bay health, and global warming – need the public to understand and take action – not just politics
- Do more with youth education and school programs to orient young people on forest and environment issues
- Will require work with local Boards of Education to link into curriculum goals so environment becomes part of teaching to the test – need to foster creative thinking
- Use deer meat for soup kitchens
- Increase support for urban forests and urban and community programs – set urban canopy goals, big tree programs – urban is a growing aspect of forest issues in MD – opportunity to rethink definition of forest
- Everyone is disconnected from the rural forest resource – people are not managing their forest resources – find out why
- Technical forest service providers are needed but in short supply, so landowners don't know what they should do
- Pending intergenerational transfer of forest lands needs to be addressed in advance to protect forests
- Too many regulations are imposed on landowners trying to manage their lands – need to review current regulations and revisit to see if causing unintended consequences
- County regulations should not be stricter than the state
- Mitigation fees should be able to be used by counties rather than just being collected by the counties; counties need to be able to spend fees on people to provide needed services

- No net loss – if mitigation is required, negotiate with developer to have planting and maintenance done for five years – focus on buffers and steep slopes, match up developers with landowners (a la Craigslist) and have them negotiate within regulations
- Need to be able to “stack” payments so a landowner can get multiple income streams from their land, creating mildly competitive options to development
- Need state and local groups to help identify markets for local resources
- Have to use regulation to create markets sometimes – may need more regulations
- Think global and act locally – why is this so hard? Should be easy
- Make sure people know that land owner action is making a difference – one tree is important – connect message to daily issues
- Show how value of property ties to mature trees – get attention this way to start support for urban
- Watershed organizations may be a good advocate for forests because of link to water quality goals
- Look at costs to transfer forest land – may need changes
- For tax credits, need a long view not just short term budget based decisions – with more resolved, people could make better decisions
- Value of single trees and value of wooded areas are important but different – some are good for landscapes, and some for woodland health – need to appreciate and promote both
- Funds from forest transfer tax should go back to forest management

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THOSE ATTENDING THE LISTENING SESSION AT THE RAMADA INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER, SALISBURY, MD. JUNE 10, 2009

Approximately 30 leaders and stakeholders representing a cross section of forestry interests came together to voice their concerns and opinions about challenges and issues facing forestry in Maryland and what to do about them. The following is a transcription from their written as well as verbal contributions organized under each of five issues denoted as the greatest concern and secondary concern:

I. Retention and Management of Private Forests:

Greatest Concerns:

- Sprawl development taking out our forest
- Retention of forested lands in a private landowner's control. Development pressures should be offset by incentives and tax adjustments
- Private land owns bulk of forest land. Maintain or increase incentives for private landowners to manage and maintain their forests
- Must have markets for timber products
- Private forests:
 - Manage population centers for growth
 - Manage forests for forests
 - A diverse forest ownership = a forest rich in diversity. Each owner manages for their values
- Enforcement of seed tree law
- The actual following of Forest Management Plans and enforcing these management plans
- Proper forest management of State forest
- Development
- Right to farm rights are trumping the public right to clean air, water, biodiversity/natural habitat
- The retention and management of private forest land. This includes parcelization of forests and lack of services and education to landowners. Over the past decade there has been a significant decrease in professional forestry assistance to landowners (State and private industry). At the same time forest parcels are subdivided creating "new" landowners. These individuals have often never owned forestland in the past and would benefit greatly through landowner assistance programs
- Private forests have to have incentives to stay as such; other wise the other values decrease i.e. forest diversity, forest industry, water quality, jobs, recreation, wildlife habitat etc.
- The economic incentive has faltered lately and needs help. Private forest land ownership is the preferred ownership for overall benefits
- Education of future generations

Secondary Concerns:

- The sprawl of humans into forests. Resulting in destruction of the forest industry and wildlife habitat
- Forest management assistance to landowners
- Allowing landowners to manage/grow/harvest forest products
- Much of the private forest land in Maryland is located on parcels of less than 5 acres. Recently real estate tax assessments on such small parcels have skyrocketed. This encourages the small landowner to sell the less than 5 acre parcel for development and take it out of forestry. We need to take steps to retain small parcels in forestland
- Loss of our forestland base via 1) uncontrolled growth; 2) increased regulations of forest management activities
- Tax incentives/credits
- Ease of regulations for Habitat Protection Areas with more public forest ownership
- Availability of professional help in management of forest tracts and information of contractors to do forest work
- State does not know what they have (size and value) of their forest and do not manage them. Need younger foresters and retire the older ones from top to bottom. State is stuck on the older days.
- Increase the amount of forested land within the State
- Move more timber lands to sustainable forestry practices, ideally with FSC certification
- Manage forest lands to maximize native biodiversity, ideally returning forests to pre-colonial conditions where possible
- Protect forests in the Pocomoke watershed from development to ensure the retention of large un-fragmented forests in this region
- Work to reduce and resist forest fragmentation throughout the State

II. Retention and Management of Public Forests:

Greatest Concerns:

- Development
- Right to farm rights are trumping the public right to clean air, water, biodiversity/natural habitat

Secondary Concerns:

- Increase the amounts of forested land within the State
- Move more timber lands to sustainable forestry practices, ideally with FSC certification
- Manage forest lands to maximize native biodiversity, ideally returning forests to pre-colonial conditions where possible

- Protect forests in the Pocomoke watershed from development to ensure the retention of large un-fragmented forests in this region
- Work to reduce and resist forest fragmentation throughout the State

III. Economic Viability of Forestry Industry in Maryland:

Greatest Concerns:

- Sprawl development taking out our forest
- Private forests:
 - Manage population centers for growth
 - Manage forests for forests
 - A diverse forest ownership = a forest rich in diversity. Each owner manages for their values
- Must have markets for timber products
- Forest fragmentation and the loss of privately owned forestland will reach a point where industry including loggers will no longer be viable
- Maintaining a viable forest industry
- The health of the forest products industry....
- WE need a viable forest products industry in Maryland in order to make private ownership of forestland economically feasible. I am concerned about the long term health of the forest products industry (i.e. mainly local saw mills). What can be done to support the local forest products industry?
- #1 concern is development. Viable farm and forestland being connected to housing/commercial real estate. Forest Conservation Act enforcement or forest retention areas will not provide adequate forest reserve to maintain a viable industry.
- Also, without a viable forest products industry to place an economic value on forest lands, there will be little reason to be concerned over the sustainability of the forest

Secondary Concerns:

- Availability of professional help in management of forest tracts and information of contractors to do forest work
- Decline in housing market has certainly hurt stumpage process but so has the closing of sawmills which in return reduces competition for timber that is put up for sale
- Forest education to promote practices that manage forest ecosystems and not just the mass of trees is uncommon and should increase
- Keep the forest products industry viable. Management is impossible if we have no one to implement forest landowner plans

IV. Maintain Forest Diversity in Maryland:

Greatest Concerns:

- A return of a portion of Maryland forests to old growth conditions

Secondary Concerns:

- Ease of regulations for Habitat Protection Areas with more public forest ownership
- Increase the amount of forested land within the State
- Move more timber lands to sustainable forestry practices, ideally with FSC certification
- Manage forest lands to maximize native biodiversity, ideally returning forests to pre-colonial conditions where possible
- Protect forests in the Pocomoke watershed from development to ensure the retention of large un-fragmented forests in this region
- Work to reduce and resist forest fragmentation throughout the State
- Forest education to promote practices that manage forest ecosystems and not just the mass of trees is uncommon and should increase

V. Value-Added Alternative Opportunities:

Greatest Concerns:

- The lack of diversity of species of trees planted. To my knowledge only pine trees are replanted. A focus on trees that can help sustain wildlife with the increased destruction of habitat would be beneficial to all concerned

Secondary Concerns:

- Availability of professional help in management of forest tracts and information of contractors to do forest work
- The old products and opportunities from the forest are not what they were. WE need to absolutely stay on top of new opportunities, and sort them out as to viability and sustainability

VI. Other:

Greatest Concerns:

- A return of a portion of Maryland forests to old growth conditions

Secondary Concerns:

- The education of the next generation as to the importance of forested lands for industry, clean air, recreation and public use where possible and as desired
- Lumber markets
- Forest education to promote practices that manage forest ecosystems and not just the mass of trees is uncommon and should increase

VII. Recommendations:

- A viable forest products industry (ditto). Two things that will help this to happen are reduction of government regulations. Some local governments have regulations that create a moratorium on hardwoods April 15th to August 15 so that one cannot harvest (Kent Co.). In Queen Anne's the Planning Department has three layers of approval and the Department has the least knowledge as to what is best. Some of the FIDBs (forest interior dwelling bird) guidelines in the Critical Area are restrictive. The guidelines should not be blanket but rather be tailored to each situation. As to taxes, someone says that they need to derive out a certain amount of revenue from the resource. It is the resource that dictates the value. The capital gains taxes take out more than what the property owner can realize. The landowner then usually tries something else rather than pay taxes.
- Maryland has personal property tax. There is a manufacturing exemption at the state level. The local governments however do not have this. Would be good for the local governments to also maintain the exemption
- There are non-tangible economic values for the forests and so there needs to be incentives for the property owner to retain these non-tangible values
- The value of equipment is usually valued at 25% of its worth and does not go down to zero in Maryland tax assessment. Need to be able to do the same as with the Federal government.
- Has to be some way to recognize that the landowner is leaving value out there such as stream buffers, Delmarva fox squirrel habitat etc. incentives such as compensation or tax breaks are essential (DITTO)
- More people are needed to help the private landowners. This is both at the State level as well as with the industry
- Parcelization is an example, many landowners who purchase land and further the fragmentation do not know about the retention of forestlands. This is a problem. What is going to happen in the next 10 years? We need a forester pipeline...nobody young is coming in. Foresters who are left work with small mills but we also try to help the landowners but it is not in the same way that the State people can do. Believes that 20% of professional foresters that were once here have been reduced. DNR field staff has been reduced by 2/3rds. Most everything revolves around privately held lands and their management. They need assistance. If we cannot manage the land, nobody can get any assistance anywhere and that is a problem. The state needs to prioritize what they are doing to help change this.
- Fragmentation is a big issue. Recently real estate assessments on less than 5 acres have skyrocketed and this encourages landowners to dump the forest on these lands and to develop it. The assessment of this size of acreage needs to be addressed
- You see things about how to address your yard but you do not hear anything on how to address small parcels of forests. Perhaps these small parcels could yield forest products and better yield and water quality and habitat. Maybe in years to come foresters will be able to make economic value created by small harvests.

- As far as taxes go, Wicomico, they reduce taxes to help in one situation but raise it in another situation. Hard to figure out what to do about this because it costs the county government more each year to run the county.
- As to forest diversity, forests have gone from quite a bit of hardwood to very little hardwood and a lot of pine. Has been told that pine produces more money for the landowner in a short period of time. We need to think about how other people make a living in this part of the state and hardwood (oak and hickory) such as hunting. More food for the animals is needed.
- Deer problem in the State – there are several sets of families of deer that come out in the daytime and during the evening. The deer families that come out in the daylight are the ones that are harvested. The ones that come out in the evening are thriving. We need to consider nighttime hunting of white tailed deer to reduce the population.
- Implement the wildlife action plan that stresses biodiversity and tie it with sustainable actions
- A jurisdiction should rank its priority forest areas so that some forests do not have as many restrictions as perhaps other properties. That is, some forests should be identified as better for hunting, others habitat diversity and that regulation apply appropriately. Perhaps the State could set the overall standards.
- If a family has held onto forests for a long period of time and they are then not allowed to cut it, there should be compensation for not being able to do so. Make sure the compensation matches the value taken.
- When there is a pest invasion and the regulations prevent a silvacultural operation, that is when the regulations become over burdensome and do not make sense
- Green movement – what things could be related to the green movement that could provide economic opportunity. What could the State do to increase that? (DITTO)
- The Forest Conservation Act sounds good but it does not do a lot for wildlife species, birds, trees, bushes. There needs to be connectivity of green areas. Only supports corridors that may not be connective.
- Very little old growth forest on the Eastern Shore and the intent to manage it for the Eastern Shore. Should identify core areas for FIDBs (forest interior dwelling birds) and take those areas out of harvest.
- In Wicomico County there was a huge debate on the size of the acre. The decision was to allow for 3 acres rather than 15 acres. The decision was to allow farmers to sell the 3 acre parcels to enable them to retire and this is way too one-sided. Seems to believe that this was because the County Council was not educated properly.
- Problem with people that are sitting on their forests to take advantage of the tax rate and are letting their forests die. Forests should be managed. If not managed the agricultural rate should not apply. People are being taxed for their entire property, so they are asking to have forest management plans developed for their forested part so that their taxes are reduced.
- Property rights are important but there are people who live next door to those who have large tracts that are timbered and this changes the water table. If

someone takes out a lot of trees and I am trying to get a perc, I may have a problem. There should be opportunity for the adjacent property owner to voice their opinion in front of the forestry board. Maybe the person registering the complaint should pay for the value of that forest. Ecosystem services and who pays for it?

- Like to see some effort that where you have large tracts of forests, try to keep it that way.
- If biomass becomes an end to a means, there may be an exhaustion of the resource for biomass
- Buy local campaign for forestry – branding or a push that you are supporting the people you live next door to
- Been receiving literature on stumpage prices in Maryland – Delmarva and the Western part of the State are very different. There is a reasonable pine stumpage rate but for hardwood, there is a shortage of supply so the prices are quite high.
- Education campaign to the consumer and encourage a shift toward FSC certification.
- Local stuff is only used for rafters. Most houses are now being built with Canadian lumber and they are subsidized. FSC certified is hard for a mill to deal with. There are 95000 acres of FSC certified and DNR is going to try to work on this. It costs the land owner a lot. People purchase where the lumber is the cheapest.
- Parameters for forest buffers are too tight. Will not get any more new forest buffers. Need to open up the parameters. If cannot get through USDA, then Maryland should have a program that encourages multiple species.
- As far as helping industry. The problem with the industry is the prices. What the state can do is provide incentives to sawmills for modernization and changes in mills.

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THOSE ATTENDING THE LISTENING SESSION AT THE COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND LA PLATA, MD JUNE 15, 2009

Over 35 leaders and stakeholders representing a cross section of forestry interests came together to voice their concerns and opinions about challenges and issues facing forestry in Maryland and what to do about them. The summary of the meeting first presents the written contribution to five issues in which each participant identified his/her greatest concern as well as secondary concern. The second part of the summary reflects the verbal contribution from the participants in either reiterating their concerns or offering recommendations and suggestions to address those concerns.

I. Retention and Management of Private Forests: Greatest Concerns:

- Pressure from development across the whole State except in those areas where impractical. Population growth means more houses, highways, commercial areas, fragmentation....
- As a logger I feel like it must be necessary to plant back the clear cuts we cut in Southern Maryland if the land is not going for commercial or residential development. When we cut these nice pine stands, just leaving seed trees does not stop the invasive species
- The cost of land to maintain forests or any agricultural endeavor is increasing. Even in times where real estate prices are down. A mechanism that directly impacts forest retention is needed. But however, it needs a more targeted approach than MALPF.
- If private landowners are not able to maintain forest land, the forest industry will be monopolized to a select few. Those select few will have too much power and say over forest land. More privately owned forest land, if managed properly will be better for the State
- Laws and regulations that are major disincentives to maintain private forests and public officials who promote them.
- Preventing families from keeping forests
- Given that 75% of forested land in Maryland is in private hands, people need to be educated regarding use and management, etc. What is worse; one person counterfeiting 1 million dollars or a million people counterfeiting \$1.00 each? Small mismanagement on the part of each individual landowner can cause substantial damage.
- Ensure incentive programs do not conflict with existing conservation programs (Rural Legacy, MALPF, MET)
- Provide incentive programs directed at organizations which own forested lands (Homeowner's Associations). Tax incentives may not work.
- Education to general public and to our political representatives-county and state This could be done along with smart growth planning, agr/farm preservation and Save the Bay Initiatives
- Create viable opportunities (markets) and incentives in the Forest Industry and provide technical assistance to help forest owners realize the opportunities.

- Promote redevelopment in urbanized areas- enable high density and land use diversification in concentrated areas and reduce the need for clearing or removing forests outside of these areas
- Enhance older built-up areas with street trees and municipal parks
- Improve the health of forests within built-up areas.
- DNR Forest Service staffing levels: a) often a non-starter with government officials due to the high cost associated with hiring a new employee. However it is essential to implementing many of the goals and objectives listed in the survey such as management of private and public forests, inventorying of State lands, marketing of forest products industry, increasing public awareness and education
- The old axiom of “doing more with less” has reached its limit.
- Increased cost share rates for forest management plans (\$600 plus \$12 per acre with a 75% cost share), timber stand improvement, and reforestation with or without tree shelters
- Assist forest landowners who have forest management plans in obtaining carbon credits for their properties or in grouping properties together to have the ability to trade carbon credits
- Seek Farm Bill funding (EQUIP) for on-the-ground forestry work
- A “taking” of our woodland by government (State and local) Example: Zekiah Swamp in Charles County has been designated by County Officials as an area they want to buy for the Rural Legacy Program – we own 250 acres of this woodland and want to keep it private. Example 301 By-Pass Issue – State Department of Transportation is purchasing woodland to preserve a right-of-way for a western by-pass of Waldorf. Similar issues could occur for 301 By-Pass of LaPlata.
- Need Protection of our woodland – guaranteed in contract and by law to prevent taking of our future wealth and current efforts
- Lack of Maryland DNR employees to implement forestry programs
- Lack of DNR Forest Service employees to manage State forest resources
- Families losing property due to tax issues – timber market value falling
- Benefits (either tax or financial) for following management plan

Secondary Concerns:

- Markets for wood products
- Budget buying land vs. laying off employees
- Invasive species control (EAB, Gypsy moth, etc.)
- Outreach to next generation of forest landowners
- Forest landowner size decreasing
- Maintain tax incentives for private landowners and lessen regulation on the forest products industry
- Incentivize forest retention-neutralize interest in paying minimal fines for excessive clearing

- Provide more educational opportunities to private forest landowners so they are aware of the resource they own and how it can benefit them, as well as their environment and community
- Coordination of educational efforts between agencies
- The provision of more resources (human, financial and other), especially to the State agencies
- More high-profile networking among groups with an interest in forest retention and management
- Regulation of timber harvesting activities. Ensure that harvest exemptions under the Critical Areas or Forest Conservation Programs continue to be approved

II. Retention and Management/Public Forests:

Greatest Concerns:

- Promote redevelopment in urbanized areas- enable high density and land use diversification in concentrated areas and reduce the need for clearing or removing forests outside of these areas
- Enhance older built-up areas with street trees and municipal parks
- Improve the health of forests within built-up areas.
- The State recently purchased prime farmland in Southern Maryland. Concern – while I agree it makes sense to plant some trees on this land it is also important to protect the cropland. A balance needs to be struck when these properties are being managed
- I do not believe the State needs to become the owner's of the forest – it is best left in the lands of the private landowner. We already have in my opinion enough parks that are State-owned. The money spent could have been used to educate the private landowners and provide tax incentives as opposed to purchasing isolated tracts of land
- Lack of Maryland DNR employees to implement forestry programs
- Lack of DNR Forest Service employees to manage State forest resources
- Families losing property due to tax issues – timber market value falling
- Benefits (either tax or financial) for following management plan

Secondary Concerns:

- Markets for wood products
- Budget buying land vs. laying off employees
- Invasive species control (EAB, Gypsy moth, etc.)
- Outreach to next generation of forest landowners
- Forest landowner size decreasing
- Incentivize forest retention-neutralize interest in paying minimal fines for excessive clearing
- Public forests can be managed under one entity, much different from private concerns. Public management should lead by example.

III. Economic Viability of Maryland's Forest Products Industry:

Greatest Concerns:

- Over regulation – the timber industry is based on a free market system. We compete with the rest of the Country and even with the rest of the world to some extent. If forests are over regulated and permits and fines are difficult to obtain and deal with, the landowners are the ones who will suffer in the long run. Loggers and sawmills still have to cover their expenses and deal with regulations so they pass these extra expenses on with lower stumpage prices
- Keeping a viable forest industry to market wood products, and increasing technical assistance to private landowners by increasing Forest Service foresters available in Southern Maryland to provide unbiased assistance to landowners
- A healthy industry is needed to support forest management. Promote more research and development in wood industry markets.
- Not having so much government red tape to get a permit to cut timber. In Southern Maryland no one should have to wait 5-8 weeks to get a permit to cut timber. I would also like to see an electric generating station somewhere on the western shore of Maryland that uses wood/biomass as its primary source of fuel.

Secondary Concerns:

- State should purchase, when available, forested lands for maintaining a perpetual easement
- I understand that the Green Movement has required LEEDs wood for State buildings. I think I should be able to use or sell my timber to anyone as long as it is healthy. Why would the State of Maryland require the use of wood in their buildings to be from a foreign source?
- I think Tree Farmers should receive more public credit for the value our trees provide for air quality
- I think the State should stop harassing home owners by requiring them to landscape their new homes to the State or County specifications.
- The State needs a program of mandated use of Maryland forest products. If State agencies or State controlled entities were required to use Maryland forest products that would be a start for some alternative product use in areas as well as for opportunities
- High taxes – with Maryland becoming more and more of a welfare State the government is forced to charge more in taxes to people and businesses which actually produce a product. This affects everyone in the business from the landowner to the sawmills to the loggers and everyone in-between.
- If one cannot use a resource people will no longer be interested in preserving/conserving it
- Reducing or streamlining laws and regulations concerning forest harvesting and removals, fire management etc. There are many levels of regulations in place governing the forest industry and management; often from different agencies. Reducing redundant or duplicated processes and streamlining existing regs will encourage forest owners to implement forest practices (TSI, harvests, etc.).

- Hiring foresters at the county level of Planning and Zoning offices can bring forestry issues to the table vs. being marginalized.
- Decline of forest industry and lack of concern/effort by business community, State and local economic development agencies to promote retention/expansion of primary and secondary FPOs
- Legalized Disincentives – creating major economic disincentives for forest industry in Maryland

IV. Maintain Forest Diversity in Maryland:

Greatest Concerns:

Secondary Concerns:

- Increase public awareness through education as to values of the forest. Often landowners do not realized the value of their property with trees. Seems like it is often easier to cut, but plant back is the problem. Needs to be more education in maintaining after harvest

V. Value-Added/Alternative Opportunities:

Greatest Concerns:

Secondary Concerns:

- Not having so much government red tape to get a permit to cut timber. In Southern Maryland no one should have to wait 5-8 weeks to get a permit to cut timber. I would also like to see an electric generating station somewhere on the western shore of Maryland that uses wood/biomass as its primary source of fuel
- The State needs a program of mandated use of Maryland forest products. If State agencies or State controlled entities were required to use Maryland forest products that would be a start for some alternative product use in areas as well as for opportunities

VI. Other:

Greatest Concerns:

- Considering the rate of development (physical) and the inevitability of transformation through development, there is a need for greater emphasis (research, resources, regulation) concerning the urban forest (urban forestry)
- The need to find more effective tools to assess the benefits of forest, and to find more effective (simpler) means of communicating these to the policy makers and the public at large
- I am so aggravated I can hardly write. It seems like a great deal of money was wasted on this survey which is skewed to be for more government fees and taxes. I just talked to 4 tree farmers who did not get a survey. Are you guys just pawns for the Federal government programs? Is this pushing cap and trade? How long did you work on this survey and what did it cost?
- Development of forest land and assignment of Forest Conservation Areas to the development. Purchase of lot options to add an addition to existing house or

options to build a swimming pool. It is too easy to but back the Forest Conservation Areas with .10 cents a Square Foot. It should be made very expensive or unattainable.

Secondary Concerns:

- Too much duplication of effort due to similar but competing programs. Example: Tree Farm – Forest Stewardship Program, Maryland Forest Management Conservation Program plus “Certified Forests” and global green coalitions.
- We need to work together under a single program – or at least we need to equally recognize each and give tax incentives to each one. If we fail, we fragment our efforts

VII. Recommendations:

- Large forested areas set aside in easement managed by HOA, but no incentive or knowledge for good management and harvest
- Requirement for [good management?]
- No more requirements—already too much government
- Takes forever to get timber harvest permit. Thousands of dollars is tied up while they wait
 - Ditto
 - VA makes it easy to harvest—officials come to them on job site
- No need for tighter regulations
- Government officials won't talk to smaller landowners
 - Ditto
- State laws are anti-forest management and using wood—wood is not allowed to be used in MD state buildings
 - State is locked into a system that has a monopoly and is highly anti-wood
- Would see 10% increase in value [profit?] if red tape was minimized
- Permit required to reconstruct shed and mill that he had recently disassembled
 - Then sent all kinds of other officials to make trouble (health, noise, restrooms, DOT, water supply)—forced him to sell and move to VA. All caused by too much regulation
 - Ditto, ditto
- Should mandate the use of MD forest products in MD state buildings. LEED doesn't give a financial incentive
 - Should provide incentive or mandate for using MD forest products in state buildings.
 - There is a mandate in place to force MD wine producers to use MD grapes, why not a mandate to force MD forest product producers to use

MD timber? (a letter is issued to lift mandate when there are not enough grapes)

- There is a major disincentive to pass forest land on to your heirs—change in tax laws
- Person from DNR sent to legislative meetings sent to represent DNR is not a forester or landowner and is against tree harvesting
- State foresters are not needed if there's no forest harvest industry
- If you want to decrease fragmentation/parcelization, increase the ease of permitting—this protects more woodland than any easement program
- Easements should be flexible—should allow forest management
- People who are for the harvest of forest products are often a minority at meetings
- Land is developed because owner has big money incentive to do so—if there was an incentive to keep it in forests instead, then less development would happen
- Biggest issue for small landowner is lack of market—loggers don't want to move equipment for just 5 acres
- Need 100 loads of wood to harvest—can't even consider harvesting on 17.4 acre, which is the average in the MD
- DOT prevents lots of moving of equipment from site to site because equip is too wide
- More and more loggers in S. MD are operating in VA because there's too much regulation in MD
- Target organizations that own forests (e.g. College of S. MD), not just private landowners, and encourage them to practice good forest management
- Educate the public—large contingent aren't aware of what forestry can do—teach them that timbering is not bad (it's been drilled in since grade school that timbering is bad)
- Educate legislators—Major concern
- Encourage multiple use. DNR FS arbor day poster competition doesn't allow “cutting is bad” elements
- Public education is key
 - No net loss of forest laws are irrelevant if there's no education
- The state wants the public's money to pay for things that it wants to pay for, and the people who makes those decisions want votes, so education is important
- Regulations on managing land next to water are tough
- Regulations on logging land next to water are tough
- Regulations can be bent when landowner is a corporation with lots of money
 - They can get more tax income from a project like national harbor than from keeping it forested

- Rural legacy puts pressure on adjacent landowners for recreational use
 - County government considers private forest land to be theirs—pass well-intended rules that cause unforeseen problems
 - You ought to be able to have forest land with a written guarantee that if you have it in a forest management program, that it won't ever be put in rural legacy or taken in eminent domain for highway corridor (e.g. your land might be targeted because you've worked so hard to keep it as open land)
- Sustainable forestry act recognizes environmental benefits of forestry that haven't been recognized in legislature before—will be interesting to see how it's manifested
- It's hard in MD –75% of population has no connection to rural area (estimate)
 - Only see insurance commercials with monsters cutting timber—urban people are the ones using all the energy and creating demand for resources
- Instead of building electric generation station, see if existing plants can burn waste products—keep MD grown material in MD [biomass?]
- Look at what's being done elsewhere, like VA even in early 1900s. there's nothing new out there, we just need to look at rest of country
- Timber can be just as profitable as corn per year
- Virginia seems to have more passing on of timber land to next generation than in MD
 - Lots of corporations are buying up timber land there
- Turnover rate of land ownership in MD is much higher than in VA—no continuity of ownership goals
- VA is stricter because someone (county forester) actually comes out and inspects jobs
- In VA you can see timber you want to log in the morning, buy it and move equipment in by sundown, call 800 number, meet forester and get cutting the next morning
- Problem in tree farm system—MD is all volunteer-run. Most other states have partners who commit paid staff time to organization. It's much, much, much more expensive and time-consuming for volunteers in tree farm committee in MD
- What is our future if all the loggers get driven out?
- Need more incentives for keeping a working forest rather than “hands-off” forest. Rural legacy is geared more towards preservation than conservation
- Teach people to manage property in low-impact fashion without having to bring in a logger. Need to have market and infrastructure for products
- Have legislators who promote forestry a lot, but they are spread thin so their effect is minimal

- A state review of legislature to compare incentives for management with disincentives
- Reviews shouldn't be by green building and high performance buildings people—should be by forest landowners and foresters
- Improving markets would help landowners a lot
 - High grade material is easy to sell, but is scarce
 - Low grade material might have to be trucked 100 miles—would be better for everyone if there was a local market
 - Urbanites shoot down any policy that improves markets because they don't like to see harvesting
 - Need a local market for “trash” in pine plantations, like a pellet manufacturer or energy plant
 - Local sawmills are alright, but there's not much high-grade material to feed them
 - It's our state: state is supposed to be working for us
- Charcoal-making facility could help, but people don't want smoke
- Pellet plant has environmental impacts too
- More investment and research for markets in southern Maryland
- Southern Maryland has historically lowest timber values in the state due to soil
- You're not going to stop roads, asphalt, concrete—you have to accept that. We are close to DC so it's inevitable
 - We need to set priorities for what may be possible
 - Can't rely on government sector, it's only been getting smaller. If we rely on gov't it may not happen or may not happen the way we want it to.
 - May be a future in new markets
- How does what we do in this project compare and contrast to prior reports and task force efforts?
- Sent email to 6 people, one called immediately to vent discouragement and refusal to come to listening session, no mention of urban forest in questionnaire or format of listening session.

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THOSE ATTENDING THE LISTENING SESSION AT THE URBANA LIBRARY IN URBANA, MD. JUNE 16, 2009

Over 25 leaders and stakeholders representing a cross section of forestry interests came together to voice their concerns and opinions about challenges and issues facing forestry in Maryland and what to do about them. The summary of the meeting first presents the written contribution to five issues in which each participant identified his/her greatest concern as well as secondary concern. The second part of the summary reflects the verbal contribution from the participants in either reiterating their concerns or offering recommendations and suggestions to address them.

I. Retention and Management of Private Forests: Greatest Concerns:

- Despite all we have learned about solar energy collection, we still are not as efficient as a tree
- Increase guidance for private forest owners concerning marketing of timber from scientific cuts
- Help private land owners select foresters to manage selective harvest cuts
- Encourage more house-harvesting of selective cuts
- Forests are disappearing due to increasing population and development pressures (land needed for housing and strip mall development)
- Retaining current canopy with on going pest problems
- Predation and subsequent high cost of successful reforestation efforts
- Maintaining the forests
- Development consuming more and more of Maryland's dwindling forests. It is becoming more and more important to save forests by limiting development rather than reforesting acre for acre in other areas. The older growth forests are important to wildlife and clean air etc., where it takes decades for a newly placed forest to develop these characteristics
- There should be more support (marketing, tax incentives etc.) for small scale and medium scale forestry products enterprises that are located in rural, suburban and urban areas
- Expansion of value added and alternative eco-enterprises/opportunities (biofuels/carbon banking)
- Uses for wood products other than firewood or lumber
- Better economic use of forest products
- Loss due to disease, fire etc; loss due to human expansion –building; loss due to lack of care by owners; loss due to abuse by owners; loss due to climate change
- Availability of and assistance to, access incentives-tax, zoning, estate, other – that encourage and support retention and expansion of private forest lands and that offer sufficient advantages to compete with other land use and development options
- Creating and implementing a strategy to reach out to the increasing number of small woodlot owners...5-15 acres. They will be the stewards of Maryland's

forests in the near future. They need to learn about the responsibility they have for our future

- Involving and interesting the next generation in tree farming
- To help with our water and to do away with housing in forests
- Permanent loss of forest and forest fragmentation due to development and “sprawl” planning (i.e. large lot subdivisions and parcelization). We need incentives to help landowners keep their forests and increased incentives to the local government (counties) to make forest retention a higher priority when developing comprehensive plans, zoning etc.
- Minimizing loss of forests to haphazard development
- Adequate harvesting
- Fragmentation of forested land. Large tracts are being subdivided and thus become many small tracts. This makes it hard for loggers to cut enough wood to make it worth their while. New owners lack understanding of forests as renewable resources. New Owners lack understanding of forests as important ecosystems

Secondary Concerns:

- Government’s respect of private property rights is needed. Government needs to encourage private landowners to maintain their property in forestry through tax incentives and technical assistance
- Lack of education demonstrating to the general citizenry that forests are required to retain the ecosystem which in the long run means people
- By-product utilization
- Reducing threats from invasive species, gypsy moth (and other invasive plants). This is very costly to individual landowners.

II. Retention and Management/Public Forests:

Greatest Concerns:

- Forests are disappearing due to increasing population and development pressures (land needed for housing and strip mall development)
- Retaining current canopy with on going pest problems
- Predation and subsequent high cost of successful reforestation efforts
- Loss due to disease, fire etc; loss due to human expansion –building; loss due to lack of care by owners; loss due to abuse by owners; loss due to climate change
- Adequate harvesting

Secondary Concerns:

- Lack of education demonstrating to the general citizenry that forests are required to retain the ecosystem which in the long run means people
- Maintaining the integrity of Maryland’s public forests from in holdings and development in buffer areas adjacent to those forests. Example, Green Ridge

State Forest. If the State would prioritize funds to purchase in holdings and buffer zone protection, this would protect for all times these important corridors and deep woods

- By-product utilization
- Create a more understandable process for evaluating areas that need to be preserved as forestland. How much is enough? How much private forestland do we need and how much public forest land do we need?

III. Economic Viability of Maryland's Forest Products Industry: **Greatest Concerns:**

- Predation and subsequent high cost of successful reforestation efforts
- When people value the products, they value the forests that provide the products
- There should be more support (marketing, tax incentives etc.) for small scale and medium scale forestry products enterprises that are located in rural, suburban and urban areas
- Expansion of value added and alternative eco-enterprises/opportunities (biofuels/carbon banking)
- Uses for wood products other than firewood or lumber
- Better economic use of forest products
- Fragmentation of forested land. Large tracts are being subdivided and thus become many small tracts. This makes it hard for loggers to cut enough wood to make it worth their while. New owners lack understanding of forests as renewable resources. New Owners lack understanding of forests as important ecosystems
- In Montgomery County the Department of Environmental Protection is preventing any harvesting of timber from private forest land on farms. Even farms with a Forest Stewardship Plan are being included. SB549 encourages working landscapes and section 5-403 supports silviacultural operations without government interference. Montgomery County needs to get its priorities straightened out in regards to State Law and DNR forest policies. The Forest Conservation Law applies to developments not agriculture and forestry

Secondary Concerns:

- Owners unaware of options for their forest (industry) or the need for management (diversity)
- Maintaining a viable, healthy forest industry and expanding the industry to include not only timber but also outlets for by-products of forest improvement silviculture-such as markets for biomass, chip wood, pulp, firewood etc.. A healthy industry can help forest landowners keep their forest intact by providing economic incentives through the forest products market
- Improving alternative opportunities for forest landowners (recreation, markets for products such as mushrooms, ginseng, ferns etc.) and economic cost-share with technical help to develop these products and markets may also provide

landowners incentives and capability to retain forest parcels intact instead of subdividing

- The need of our forest products industry to re-invent itself to deal with the challenges of the 21st Century. More attention needs to be given to helping small operators continue to do business. They need to be poised to thrive when the economy turns around. The emphasis should not be on their growth but activity and ability to form alliances and co-ops. Small operators need not follow the “Wall Street formula” to succeed. They need to find strength in their numbers.

IV. Maintain Forest Diversity in Maryland:

Greatest Concerns:

- Development consuming more and more of Maryland’s dwindling forests. It is becoming more and more important to save forests by limiting development rather than reforestation acre for acre in other areas. The older growth forests are important to wildlife and clean air etc., where it takes decades for a newly placed forest to develop these characteristics
- Loss due to disease, fire etc; loss due to human expansion –building; loss due to lack of care by owners; loss due to abuse by owners; loss due to climate change
- Fragmentation of forested land. Large tracts are being subdivided and thus become many small tracts. This makes it hard for loggers to cut enough wood to make it worth their while. New owners lack understanding of forests as renewable resources. New Owners lack understanding of forests as important ecosystems
- Retaining the forest land base and replanting some of the lawnsapes around the State

Secondary Concerns:

- Loss due to disease, fire etc; loss due to human expansion –building; loss due to lack of care by owners; loss due to abuse by owners; loss due to climate change
- Lack of education demonstrating to the general citizenry that forests are required to retain the ecosystem which in the long run means people
- Maintaining the integrity of Maryland’s public forests from in holdings and development in buffer areas adjacent to those forests. Example, Green Ridge State Forest. If the State would prioritize funds to purchase in holdings and buffer zone protection, this would protect for all times these important corridors and deep woods.
- State and local support for planting and maintaining forest diversity favoring local, indigenous tree species, including development of products and markets for those species
- For the beauty of the changing of the seasons!
- Reducing threats from invasive species, gypsy moth (and other invasive plants). This is very costly to individual landowners
- Maintenance of improvement of forest ecosystem health through management and control of non-native invasive species and overabundant deer populations

- Health of forests due to invasive pests and diseases
- Public education/awareness of benefits/needs for forested land
- Providing programs for educating the public about the importance of diversity

V. Value Added/Alternative Opportunities:

Greatest Concerns:

- Maintaining the forests
- Getting the help (state funds) I need to protect my trees from exotic insects attacks and the tax burden imposed by the State
- Expansion of value added and alternative eco-enterprises/opportunities (biofuels/carbon banking)
- Uses for wood products other than firewood or lumber
- Better economic use of forest products

Secondary Concerns:

- Owners unaware of options for their forest (industry) or the need for management (diversity)
- Providing owners of private forest land incentives to keep the forests intact
- Providing markets for small producers of timber (and getting Maryland timber included in LEED)
- Owner incentives
- State and local support for planting and maintaining forest diversity favoring local, indigenous tree species, including development of products and markets for those species
- By-product utilization
- Maintaining a viable, healthy forest industry and expanding the industry to include not only timber but also outlets for by-products of forest improvement silviculture-such as markets for biomass, chip wood, pulp, firewood etc.. A healthy industry can help forest landowners keep their forest intact by providing economic incentives through the forest products market
- Improving alternative opportunities for forest landowners (recreation, markets for products such as mushrooms, ginseng, ferns etc.) and economic cost-share with technical help to develop these products and markets may also provide landowners incentives and capability to retain forest parcels intact instead of subdividing

VI. Other:

Greatest Concerns:

- The adoption of poorly thought out regulation that does not take into account the needs of urban revitalization when creating environmental laws, which inhibits urban renewal, which is smart growth and protects more forest than any other form of land development. Examples include the new stormwater regulations to

be administered by the Maryland Department of the Environment and revisions to the Forest Conservation Law administered by the Department of Natural Resources

Secondary Concerns:

- The Department of Natural Resources-Forest Service has been gutted. They do not have the number of personnel necessary to educate landowners in best management practices and to assist in preservation of what we have
- Education of general public and K012 as to where their “stuff” comes from such as clean water, wood products, food etc.
- Training of the future generations as to the value of the forest
- Loss due to disease, fire etc; loss due to human expansion –building; loss due to lack of care by owners; loss due to abuse by owners; loss due to climate change

VII. Recommendations:

- Photosynthesis process: how important it is
- Manage the urban forest. Very Concerned about losing the canopy due to pests. Also, believes that the import of items brings in “hitchhikers” which are damaging our trees. The shipping process created problems with pests.
- Seminar is needed on pests, etc.: When the colonists came over there were only 50 types of pests. Now, there are 3,000 types
- Some of the types such as gypsy moths can be sprayed for. Others can no
- Regulation comes out of State Circle and is not well thought out in terms of the State’s different environments. In some cases compliance with the State regulation can actual harm the look
- Fragmentation of forested tracks. Carroll County is the least forested county in the State. New people moving in need to be educated about their forests and how to handle them. When land is broken up into small tracts, loggers lose their jobs. Everything is connected. Most new owners don’t understand that their forest is an “ecosystem”
- The general public needs more education about the value of the forests vs. lawn.
- More education: Doesn’t see a push to educate the general public as to needs to maintain the forests. The general public needs to see the long term benefits of the forests. Problem is people only look at the short term.
- The State should standardize a program for the school children at different ages to inform them about forests. It will also be necessary to educate the teachers as well
- People are confused by how much forest is enough and not enough. It would be really helpful for State Forestry Service to develop some guidelines for a statewide overall need for forests. It takes 1 acre of tree canopy for 18 people for sustainability.
- This can be determined if people decide we only need forests for people, but don’t we also need forests for the timber industry, the ecosystem, and the animals?

- Frederick County's Master Plan makes sense. If everything worked the way it was written, it would be fine, but that hasn't happened. The planning and zoning office needs to work with DNR to implement the correct plans. ****
Example: Frederick County has a strict plan, but then they break it by allowing a horse farm. They need to stick to their plan.

Another issue is telling people what they can and can't do with their private property. ****

- Maryland has several public forests and most of the citizenry doesn't know the public forests are logged. Green Ridge State Forest (Rt. 68) is the second largest forest in the State. We looked at what they were doing and how they were logging – they logged a little more than 200 acres a year. Very few trees were left in some areas. People were very surprised at the scenery. To make matters worse, they were losing money on this logging operation. They are also releasing CO2 into the atmosphere. Why is the State of Maryland logging the forests and losing money?
- Counties do not have stewardship towards the forests. They allow invasive species to take over.
- The West Virginia butterfly lays eggs and damages the tree canopy
- Sunlight coming into the forests and cutting the canopy down allows invasive species to enter the forests
- Each State forest has a management plan. Cutting of the forests can only be done in certain areas in a conservation manner. The first forest deeded to the State was deeded as a working forest so that is a common theme throughout the forests.
- Keep the public land unfragmented
- One of the consequences of little logging in public forests is that they are not logged at maturity and therefore they decay and fall down and create problems
- The State needs a deer management program. *** The State also needs a program for non-native invasive plants. The counties and/or the prisoners should handle this project.
- Setting priorities on a statewide basis. Oftentimes, the various priorities to save the Bay and the forests layered on top of each other create problems. Perhaps DNR can help sort out this problem. For example in Hagerstown, the college, the town has new buildings. How can they convince anyone to move down town? Some State or county governments have done a very good job.
- There is a lack of education for children about forests
- One of the biggest challenges of both public and private forests is ATVs. There should be licensing of ATVs
- More qualified people at DNR are needed. Give Steve Koehn his budget back.
- Whether or not you agree with how the public forests are managed, the consistent decrease in staff has harmed the forests on many levels
- Take some of the revenue you receive from the Savage River, etc. and put it back in DNR rather than returning it to the State's General Fund

- Look into developing a contingency fund for invasive species
- Provide education regarding the invasive species and insects
- Ask for federal stimulus funds for education regarding invasive species and green technologies
- If a group of property owners who are contiguous want to develop a forestry plan (with the proper legal instruments) they should be able to do so
- The State should develop some signs for forest preservation/con
- In an economic crisis, one should note that historically the US has exported wood products
- A binding agreement on forestry policies between the State and the counties should exist
- An incentive program should be created for planting trees on small lots. If people received the right advice and incentive they would be more inclined to do so. A suggestion was made to make the trees native trees
- “Tree-mendous Maryland” trees should be more inexpensive for use by private landowners
- Education: Maryland agriculture has a program that educates the teachers. In fact, Farm license plates help to pay for that program. Maybe, forestry could tag onto this program or create a new tag. A program of this nature previously existed but was cut.
- Project Wild and Learning Tree were good programs that need to be reinstated. Perhaps, the program should be tagged onto “No Child Left Inside.”
- Currently, there is no involvement in Arbor Day or Envirothon. Definitely, need a way to educate the public
- Do a cost benefit analysis before logging on public lands.
- De-couple county payments from logging revenue.
- Increase technological assistance to the small forest owners.
- Promote more horse harvesting (draft horses).
- The State needs to make it more profitable for people to maintain their forest land: tax incentives, education, increase opportunities for low value and non-traditional forest products, cost-share. All of these efforts would enable people to keep their land in large parcels
- Would like to see continued and increased cooperation among the many different agencies and organizations for the common good of the forests
- Need an economic incentive for the industry to work with educators on “show me” tours
- The forests provide a lot of benefits for people that they don’t know they are getting. For example, the warbler or owl. If forests don’t exist, the birds won’t exist. There has to be some type of realization that the clean water that flows out of the forests, that the animals and the clean air are all benefits
- Carbon dioxide to oxygen conversion. NYC has conducted studies in this area which could be reviewed
- MD LEED standards do not recognize MD certified tree farms as an appropriate source. “Buy local” should be encouraged

- The State should encourage the local conservation groups. The local conservation groups are the ones really educating the public.

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THOSE ATTENDING THE LISTENING SESSION AT FROSTBURG UNIVERSITY, FROSTBURG, MD. JUNE 17, 2009

Over 55 leaders and stakeholders representing a cross section of forestry interests came together to voice their concerns and opinions about challenges and issues facing forestry in Maryland and what to do about them. The summary of the meeting first presents the written contribution to five issues in which each participant identified his/her greatest concern as well as secondary concern. The second part of the summary reflects the verbal contribution from the participants in either reiterating their concerns or offering recommendations and suggestions to address those concerns.

I. Retention and Management of Private Forests: Greatest Concerns:

- Keeping forests healthy and sustainable for future generations and keeping development and fragmentation from increasing
- Keeping jobs in the forest industry
- Not enough foresters on the ground providing sound forest management for State forests
- Developments (Residential/Commercial) -Too many acres of forestland are being destroyed due to over-development. As forests are fragmented diversity is lost
- Retention and management of both private and publicly owned forests, including fragmentation of forests, by subdivision, even large lot subdivision.
- Increased outreach and technical assistance and development of forestry focused land use regulations should be priorities
- The introduction of genetically modified trees in any State will create infest able trees thousands of miles away and destroy future forests
- Loss of private and State forestland to land conversion other than forests... we are one generation away of losing much of our large tracts of privately owned forest land due to inheritance tax laws and the next generation sub-dividing the land as they are losing connection to forestland
- Loss and fragmentation of forest land. We are not responding swiftly or smartly enough to demographic shifts in forest landowners. Need to increase strategic focus and effectiveness of outreach and education and provide meaningful incentives that are targeted to real significant outcomes at the State level
- Taxes on private forest property. Even if you are in a program for tax breaks the property is assessed 1 acre at a high rate saying it could be a home site. If you own 5 separate plots of land that don't join each other you are taxed for 5 possible 1 acre home sites
- Increase staffing DNR Forest Service to provide technical assistance to forest landowners
- Increase funding to augment technical programs workshops and seminars
- Provide a database of qualified speakers
- Promote cooperation of various State agencies including agriculture, EPA, Soil Conservation with appropriate funding for individual contact as well as to accomplish these programs

- Development of new and better-less intrusive methods of selective harvesting of forest tree stands
- Most current methods being employed are not only harmful to the forest. But the land, water and other natural resources
- I feel that one of the biggest concerns facing Maryland's forests is that the counties with the most forested land are in the western part of the State. Something needs to be done in the eastern and central parts to create more forested land. We need to find a way to work with, develop and incorporate more trees and green areas into the plans. We need to educate people to now less and plant trees in their yards and line streets, cities, parking and anywhere else that has space with trees.
- Increasing staffing to promote sound forest management practices.
- Maintaining/increasing forest land base
- Being able to maintain and control invasive species, fires and predation with the help of people with technical support and knowledge
- Control mile a minute and removing the trees that need to be removed
- Loss of forest land to urban development
- Since literature about the Sustainable Forestry Act just passed stated "Trees are the Answer." State policy should state: "No diminution of Maryland forest land." The devil is in the details of course. Methods could include focusing on the Maryland Forest Service developing Forest Stewardship Plans as first priority. Then to help landowners complete these plans there should be cost-share moneys to develop the plans and implement the plan for e.g. tree planting, TST, thinning, etc. Theory being those who benefit, pay part of the cost.
- Along with no loss of forest land goes the importance of forest in watershed protection. Water is and will be the most important use of forests. Therefore watershed protection should be primary purpose of these plans in addition to economic benefit. This means fire protection. Some cost-sharing could be established for watershed protection.
- Too much forest land is being taken out of forest management and turned into commercial or residential property each year. The Forest Conservation Act needs more teeth and needs to be implemented in both Garrett and Allegany Counties to protect forests. In addition, the Maryland Department of Agriculture policy on Gypsy Moth spraying places forests under forest management plans in a category that reduces their potential for being sprayed. The MDA policy needs to be revised.
- Concerning private property and smaller-segregated forests, there should be programs/incentives for forest less than 10 acres since there is a rise in smaller properties (large tract subdivision). I notice a lot of tree removal without consideration of the importance of contiguous forest. A lot of removal of forest without replacement. A fear of mine is that development is more popular/important than conservation. There should be replacement (reclamation) requirements for tracts being cleared for money and such.
- Small (1-10 acres) landowners. Parcelization is shrinking the forest land base that is greater than 10 acres. This loss is being missed by a segment of the voting public which is ignorant of forest issues.

- Retention and management/private forests-in Garrett County 64% of the forests are in private ownership. Parcelization, fragmentation are making many forests difficult if not impossible to manage. As the landowners options are taken away, more and more land will go into development.
- Retention of private forests is very important to us particularly considering money which is and will be available to private forest owners who seem to be in a large minority of the people who are taking the long view of their importance
- Retention and management of private forests. It is important as a landowner to keep programs in effect that help with property taxes. Also to keep the forests in sustainable condition
- The loss of private forests throughout the State to development and forest fragmentation
- Fragmentation and loss of forests caused by sprawl and other development which has been going on at an alarming rate
- Professional assistance in management of private woodlots to continually improve the quality of the woodlot
- Assistance in marketing the products of improvement harvesting
- Fragmentation of forestland (loss of contiguous large tracts of land due to development)
- Maryland's forests are becoming too fragmented. We need some sort of financial incentives to make forest land profitable to discourage the division into smaller parcels which are not managed. We need tax breaks (property or income). The public also needs to be made more aware of the value of the forests.
- Citizens of Maryland need education regarding the importance of forests and forest management. The Maryland Forest Service has been forced, due to lack of resources, to limit its educational focus. Not long ago, my best graduates joined the Maryland Forest Service. Now, graduates are offered temporary contracts with little hope of a career. We must address the future of the Agency with respect to providing educated boots on the ground
- The lack of people on the ground in Maryland Department of Agriculture and Department of Natural Resources. The last 20 years has seen people advancing upward-consuming more of the limited budgets in their salary increases while budgets have been cut and fewer people have been added to the bottom
- Too many parcels being sold and split up

Secondary Concerns:

- Value of future generations toward public lands. Younger generations don not value outdoors as much and may not value keeping public forests funded
- Development is always a huge threat. Actually, this should be #1 concern. Once a forest is turned into a parking lot or subdivision, it will not be a functioning forest for generations.
- Public must increase awareness about value of keeping a forest forested and not developing it. This is both for the sustainability of species to stormwater runoff, to property values
- Trying to make it easier to pass on the land-taxes-etc.

- Proper management of our forest resource that focuses on sustainability. This involves not only education of landowners and forest products operators, but improved market conditions/tax incentives for low quality material
- Maryland manages their forests politically and not scientifically
- Competing land values – economic pressure to convert forest land to something that puts more cash in their pocket-not necessarily out of greed-but often out of need
- Continue and encourage the tax incentive programs now in place and expand on them in some counties where they do not exist
- The quality of our forests is declining because of poor economics/lack of viable merchants to harvest and manage the land. Western Maryland's (and perhaps all of Maryland's forests are declining in quality due to poor management options and lack of technical support
- The lack of forest management plans on privately owned forests
- Tax incentives or credits are probably the best way to obtain more managed forest
- Control development in "rural" areas so large tracts of forest can remain – reducing fragmentation and diversity
- Invasive plants that kill young trees such as multiflora rose, honeysuckle etc. Funds are needed to support eradication in private forests
- Stricter laws on stealing of trees
- We need to develop new programs to help land owners with access to tree stands
- Cost share and other financial support programs should be developed to assist landowners with proper construction of access roads, bridges and other requirements
- Standards that will guide us would also help
- Curtailing urban sprawl by giving landowners financial incentives to retain their forest land
- Continued erosion of private woodland tract size. Larger woodland tracts are subdivided for family lots or lost to more commercial development such as housing or windmills
- Tax incentives for forests that are privately owned (property tax credits)
- Losing private forest land to development, roads, etc. Losing tax incentives
- Education of the general public- Many people like forests but do not realize their importance. Because of this many people do not try to protect forests. They are there for esthetics only. I feel that if more people news the functions and importance of forests there would be concern for them among the general public and not only be a concern of environmentalists.
- Other concern-invasive and exotic species
- Private landowners not managing their forest land, but relying on the land to provide a cash windfall at some point (retirement, pay for the kid's college etc.) A lot of farmers fall into this category.
- DNR is sorely in need of employees for forest management-it seems all they can get done is enforcement

- Generational issues- land ownership changing hands to younger generation lacking vested interest in actively managing lands.
- Land parcel size shrinking as large tracts are divided among siblings who may often be absentee owners as well
- Smaller parcels harder to actively manage-loss of contiguous areas
- “Rapid” response to insect and disease infestations
- Lack of equal emphasis on forest values beyond timber and non-game wildlife. Greater cooperation between forestry and heritage programs on private forest land could broaden landowner and community appreciation for value of the forests
- Dwindling financial support for our natural resources management agencies Particularly shrinking staff capacity
- Threat posed by climate change
- Loss of forest land to development
- Need to increase the amount of wood consumed locally as supplied by local production

II. Retention and Management/Public Forests:

Greatest Concerns:

- Keeping forests healthy and sustainable for future generations and keeping development and fragmentation from increasing
- Keeping jobs in the forest industry
- Not enough foresters on the ground providing sound forest management for State forests
- Retention and management of both private and publicly owned forests, including fragmentation of forests, by subdivision, even large lot subdivision.
- Increased outreach and technical assistance and development of forestry focused land use regulations should be priorities
- The introduction of genetically modified trees in any State will create infest able trees thousands of miles away and destroy future forests
- Education for the public should be one of the top priorities when it comes to several categories
- Local zoning issues that proclaim development over sustaining forest land – especially in rural counties. Development without a grasp of consequences of poor planning
- The lack of people on the ground in Maryland Department of Agriculture and Department of Natural Resources. The last 20 years has seen people advancing upward-consuming more of the limited budgets in their salary increases while budgets have been cut and fewer people have been added to the bottom
- Funding for purchase of land by the State
- Proper management of public forest lands to maintain health and vigor of the forest resources and don’t become too “locked” into managed vs. non-managed areas. If an area is “non-managed” and gypsy moth destroys a significant number of trees- those trees should be salvaged

- The health and viability of the Maryland Forest Service. This relates to their ability to manage state forest land and their ability to obtain Forest Certification. The ability to actively advise private landowners is also a concern.
- Maintaining the acreage of public forests and expanding this if possible. Concern is losing State forest land or allowing development/industrialization on forest lands
- Lack of management-very little cutting. No management of invasives

Secondary Concerns:

- Maryland manages their forests politically and not scientifically
- Out public lands are at risk as elected officials with little connection to the land are making decisions that could damage or destroy public lands. Example: Terrapin Run in Allegany County. Developer has plans to request 500 acres of public land to build hospitals, schools, and other infrastructure to support a 4,300 unit development. Also wants to build a sewage treatment plant on one of Maryland's most pristine streams: 15 Mile Creek
- Invasive plants that kill young trees such as multiflora rose, honeysuckle etc. Funds are needed to support eradication in private forests
- We need to find a way to maintain and increase the number of forestry and state park jobs. It is they who manage our public forests and provide the education that is needed to ensure that the public understands how important our forests are and what they can do to help
- Large areas here are public forest. There is a need for sufficient employment in the forest protection, education sector. In an area like ours, there could be more land protected by becoming public forest.
- There should be opportunities/incentives for long term forest conservation. Creative opportunities for conservation of contiguous tracts (maybe owned by multiple landowners). Good opportunity for education
- Exotic Invasive Species – Native plants (trees, shrubs, wildflowers etc.) are being eliminated by exotic invasives like HWA, EAB, SOD, Japanese Stiltgrass, J. Spiraea. Garlic mustard, etc. etc. etc.). As native plants are lost, native animals will follow. Our biological heritage is too precious to lose.
- “Rapid” response to insect and disease infestations
- Lack of equal emphasis on forest values beyond timber and non-game wildlife. Greater cooperation between forestry and heritage programs on private forest land could broaden landowner and community appreciation for value of the forests
- Dwindling financial support for our natural resources management agencies Particularly shrinking staff capacity
- Threat posed by climate change
- Need to increase the amount of wood consumed locally as supplied by local production

III. Economic Viability of Maryland's Forest Products Industry:

Greatest Concerns:

- Keeping forests healthy and sustainable for future generations and keeping development and fragmentation from increasing
- Keeping jobs in the forest industry
- Not enough foresters on the ground providing sound forest management for State forests
- I am not a part of Maryland's forest industry. I do however use the products provided by our forest products industry. There is a problem with the thesis/category about maintaining "Maryland Forest Industry Viability" It appears to me that if Maryland fosters a viable working forest climate, the other four categories can be maximized more profitably. By supporting working forests throughout Maryland: industry remains viable, forests are retained and managed, alternative opportunities can be nurtured, and diversity can be planned and managed. Additionally less tax incentives and financial assistance is required and jobs will be created!
- Global markets impact on local forest products industry. Without industry that is viable forest landowners have nowhere to market their timber-without markets no incentives to keep in forest and pressure to sell out to other land uses (i.e. development etc.)
- Need increased emphasis on fiber certification both on public and private lands
- Largest concern is that all emphasis on biofuels and emerging markets – with all the government assistance will price raw material (wood fiber) too high for traditional forest industry to continue to exist
- Viability (and expanded opportunities) for the forest products industry. Recognizing that without a forest resource, there will be no industry. The issue of true sustainability requires harvesting on a State-wide scale. In addition, there must be expanded market opportunities that keep pace with the green emphasis in our society today
- The lack of people on the ground in Maryland Department of Agriculture and Department of Natural Resources. The last 20 years has seen people advancing upward-consuming more of the limited budgets in their salary increases while budgets have been cut and fewer people have been added to the bottom
- No new industry

Secondary Concerns:

- Maryland manages their forests politically and not scientifically
- Income potential for forest landowners and public lands for keeping forests healthy and productive
- Maryland forest industry – without markets for the forest products very little management will occur. More land would go into development
- The current economy causing a loss of forest industry throughout the State
- Creating a variety of markets to encourage a financial return for landowners practicing forest management
- Increase education of public to the values of forest management and of forests and trees

- Without a forest products industry, there is little hope of maintaining “working” forests in Maryland. WE must provide assistance to our traditional forest products industry while allowing and providing assistance for development of new ventures
- Recognition in the State (public and government) that forest products and a healthy forest are as important as preserving the forest
- The U.S. Forest Service early on established the forest products lab at Madison, Wisconsin. Great idea. So why not establish a similar lab within Maryland by use of State and private funding to help the wood products industry remain viable and obtain advance technology such as biomass for energy, composite materials focus should be on practical application of research conducted at the State Lab. Widely disperse such information through Cooperative Extension Service and Department of Natural Resources
- There are becoming less and less companies and individuals to sell forest products. After managing the forests – the end result of a properly managed forest is lumber, pulp wood etc. Currently there are not many pleased in Maryland to sell these products
- Threat posed by climate change
- Need to increase the amount of wood consumed locally as supplied by local production

IV. Maintain Forest Diversity in Maryland:

Greatest Concerns:

- The lack of people on the ground in Maryland Department of Agriculture and Department of Natural Resources. The last 20 years has seen people advancing upward-consuming more of the limited budgets in their salary increases while budgets have been cut and fewer people have been added to the bottom
- Global warming/population/urban sprawl
- The proper control and removal of exotic invasive species
- No real diversity-lack of management

Secondary Concerns:

- Maryland manages their forests politically and not scientifically
- Threats from invasive species – insects (e.g. gypsy moths, borers)
- Lack of equal emphasis on forest values beyond timber and non-game wildlife. Greater cooperation between forestry and heritage programs on private forest land could broaden landowner and community appreciation for value of the forests
- Dwindling financial support for our natural resources management agencies particularly shrinking staff capacity
- Number of invasives and endangered/threatened species (monitoring)
- The effects that development – fragmentation- have on forest diversity as well as wildlife diversity

- Threat posed by climate change

V. Value-Added/Alternative Opportunities:

Greatest Concerns:

- The lack of people on the ground in Maryland Department of Agriculture and Department of Natural Resources. The last 20 years has seen people advancing upward-consuming more of the limited budgets in their salary increases while budgets have been cut and fewer people have been added to the bottom
- Most needed –no new alternative opportunities that I know of

Secondary Concerns:

- Maryland manages their forests politically and not scientifically
- There should be opportunities/incentives for long term forest conservation. Creative opportunities for conservation of contiguous tracts (maybe owned by multiple landowners). Good opportunity for education.

VI. Other:

Greatest Concerns:

- There are many serious threats towards Maryland's forest and forest industries. Both private and publicly owned lands are under threats from human and non-human induced impacts. These would be mis-management, invasive species (gypsy moth) and development.
- I think the greatest concern facing Maryland's public lands are those from invasive species. Gypsy moth and Hemlock wooly adelgid pose severe threats to Western Maryland forests.
- Privately owned forests – there needs to be a greater understanding by the landowners of the values both economic and ecosystem services. Landowners need to become aware of how to increase the value of their products to reduce over-consumption.
- Development is the greatest concern overall!!!
- Conflict or lack of communication and collaboration between stakeholders and agency professionals primarily focused on 1) production/harvest and economic values versus 2) conservation/preservation and environmental values. Need to resolve past conflicts in which economy and environment area pitted against each other. Social values and discourse affect all of the other issues as well
- Concern with peoples disconnection to forests- their basic lack of interest and/or Understanding of the value of forests in their busy lives

Secondary Concerns:

- Creating a variety of markets to encourage a financial return for landowners practicing forest management
- Increase education of public to the values of forest management and of forests and trees
- Lack of equal emphasis on forest values beyond timber and non-game wildlife. Greater cooperation between forestry and heritage programs on private forest land could broaden landowner and community appreciation for value of the forests
- Dwindling financial support for our natural resources management agencies Particularly shrinking staff capacity
- The “graying” of the natural resources professionals. Young adults are tending to stay away from lower paying natural resources jobs (foresters, wildlife, biologists etc.).
- Need to control invasive species such as ailanthus, mile-a minute- thistle
- Effective control and identification of invasive species such as mile a minute and ailanthus and other invasives which threaten the sustainability of our forests
- Education and information available to private landowners about forest management practices

VII. Recommendations:

- One of the things in Garrett County is a travesty being done by forest harvesters. Scared to death to begin a harvest because of what he has seen. Need some kind of standard that would exist on non-intrusive or minimally intrusive methods to be put into place without tearing things apart.
- Losing private forest land – need to maintain or increase public tax incentives (1 ditto)
- Need educated boots on the ground. We do have good people in the DNR Service but they are being asked to do more and more with less and less (ditto, ditto, ditto) Box this one.
- Overdevelopment of residential and commercial and that we are losing private forest land. There should be more funds directed to helping people with conservation easements and helping them with surveys and with recording fees. Most cannot afford. Also need funds for the purchasing of conservation easements.
- Smart growth regulations – new plans are being written for PUDs support smart growth regulations
- MD needs to manage their forests with science instead of politics
- Fire 60% of the administrators in DNR and MDA and put them on the ground so they know what is happening
- Incentives for tracts of land 10 acres or smaller. Also the opportunities to put the private landowners together they would be able to help educate others.

- Allegany County, there is a plot of 10 acres and another for 13 acres. Pays more for 1 acre than 150 acres. Moved it over to MD as a money maker.
- MDA has a policy for gypsy moth spraying that disallows spraying on private property under forest stewardship plans. MDA gives it a very low score for these lands as opposed to the higher scored areas that are residential. Ditto several times.
- The dream of the natural resources profession, seeing less and less of young people choosing that as a career because DNR has no positions and people are hired under contract with no benefits and are not paid much.
- Need to speak out now against the genetically engineered trees that are intruding and we will lose our forests.
- Comprehensive landowner education needed to make sure that what is happening in #1 is really understood and what the possibilities are. People need to know what they are seeing versus what is actually happening. Dittoed several times.
- There are parts of the State forests that are to be managed and not managed. These parts should be managed for an income producing stream. Rather than let everything die, there is a bank account that if worked with could sustain you forever.
- When revenue is realized it needs to be put back into the forest and not into the General Fund. This would require changing the law.
- The money that is produced for tax inspections goes elsewhere. This should go back into the forests.
- In Western MD we have a viable forest industry, so rather than go into bio anything we need to take into consideration the fact that our industry needs things and emphasis should be placed on those things versus new bio things.
- Waste products that are being garnered in places, can these waste products from the forest be used to diversify income?
- Would like to see a database established of qualified people from various fields in forestry that we can call on for workshops and educational programs. This would be helpful to get people to know what is being talked about.
- Related to staffing and managing state lands. Would like to see the State lands become certified that requires money and staff. At the same time this would lend credibility as to what is happening on State owned lands and would allow the State to be viewed as leaders and would help the industry. This ties in with managing the forest with science and not just politics.
- Leadership factor in the State-need to do some things and move forward with confidence.
- See an effort towards buy local for wood products to balance a big imbalance with the wood that we export instead of import. This goes into the picture of what is our carbon footprint. Education can be tied in with this as well so that we can grow those types of trees to help with the import/export balance.
- Over the last 20-25 years the State has done a pretty tacit and good job with not supporting the working local forests. Since we cannot harvest products over time, the woods get trashed. So all of these other categories of retention etc. cannot be supported. We need to figure this out for the long term. Ditto. We need to

support our working forests. Working forests are those that someone can own, manage and ensure its viability. Need to ensure a local sustainable supply for industry and we need an industry to manipulate the woods for the various purposes (integrated industry). If it is a viable working forest and is integrated, we ought to be able to have this pay for itself. From stump to finished product, all stimulated so that all of the parts work.

- New income opportunities for the forests besides hardwood.
- Think about ways to create more common ground between forest interests and forest conservation. We need to recognize that there are values. People hold different values for our forests and this leads to politics that can shape things. We need some large scale planning for the forests that are to be managed for ecosystem purposes and sometimes forest management can go against this. It can also be vice-versa.
- Aging forestry profession. Need education for the younger people who are growing up with their wii and game boards. They do not consider environmental resources because they have not been exposed to it. Our forestry people have been forced out of this. Need to develop a wii lumberjack for espn.
- Need to create the common ground (ditto to one above). While we argue with what to do about forests, we are losing them. We need to create both the forests for conservation as well as for timbering. Ditto, Ditto Also added a great concern about exotic species and emerald ash borer and also exotic plants. When there is disturbance, we need to be proactive about what species come in during that process so that we do not lose biodiversity. Ditto. May not be able to get rid of them but need to prevent its spreading. That comes back to the same funding problem as gypsy moths. Not money to eradicate.
- Need to revise our education on forestland in our schools. People think of parks instead of forests. Bring the forests to the school campuses with tree planting. Envirothon is essential in Garrett Co. only 1/3 of schools are involved.
- Liked the past incentives. Look at what we have now by way of incentives and lock them up to make sure that they continue.
- Can we make greater gains at protecting the forest land base if we were more strategic and targeted with the incentives and education to be able to retain the forest base. We need to focus on the threatened 10 acre pieces instead of the larger pieces that are in tact. Raising the minimum lot size actually encourages loss of land moreso. Go back in the cities and fix them up. Ditto.
- Revitalization of the cities in some ways with urban forests. If we have smart growth, it would cut down on urban sprawl.
- In addition to re-localizing markets for lumber etc. we can do the same thing for forest sequestration. Maybe we should have our own local markets for carbon sequestration and not have to go international to do this. Can we get these services here?
- A lot of these things seem to bode for more regulations and licenses. We cannot have this happen because we are over regulated and over licensed. It can be interpreted in that fashion.
- Need to educate the landowners as to the value of their forests. They are somewhat disconnected. They view their forests as their own islands of

sanctuary. Need to outreach to the average citizen because there is no appreciation of the forest. Ditto. Action, maybe MFA devote more of its money towards that purpose.

- Come up with an add campaign the same way as the got milk campaign. Got toilet paper?
- Concerned that as the budget gets tight; there will be more pressure on our state lands to be locations for commercial enterprises such as a ski resort, a lodge etc. Concerned about a resort that is private that could come into the forests. The Farm Bill had ski resort money included. Ditto Ditto
- Regulation fears – Virginia has a program where they measure out the buffer zone and a tax break is given to maintain it as a forested buffer. Not losing that potential revenue in that area.
- Common ground – observed a lot of fragmentation among forest interests so it seems like a worthy goal to try to achieve coordination and cooperation among organizations and those dealing with forestry.
- There is a lot of outside influence from other states such as Pennsylvania and Virginia. This influences Maryland. For the consumer you want to manage the property with a professional and not hire someone who higrades and runs.
- Criminal prosecution for tree theft. When you call the sheriff, it is a civil matter.
- Would this planning process include a series of indicators to tell us how one knows if you have a sustainable forest at the State level and the large landscape level for all of the reasons that one needs a forest.
- The implementation is affected by the tax incentive in apposite manner. It is now. As the economy has taken a downturn, people are having their plans recertified; this gives them the opportunity to talk with the landowner to talk about sustainability of forests in the plan.
- Evasive species – four wheelers and their impact. We need to give them some place to be and need to enforce that law. There is a law now but it is not enforced.
- Fragmentation and diversity have been talked about – what about deer? They have a deleterious effect on forests. Ditto Just not getting rid of deer but have to have the right buck to deer population.
- Cooperation between the utility companies and the landowners. Property has been sprayed and the planting of grass has been destroyed.
- Public lands and the juxtaposition of the private lands next to the public lands and their prime value. Makes it hard to purchase them because of their prime values.
- Uncontrolled fire can be a threat, but it can also be less of a threat. Not enough staff to put fire on the ground for beneficial purposes. Plenty of models in the East where there is collaboration to use fire as beneficial. This is also a liability issue. Ditto as a diversity enhancer (fire).
- Problem is that the fire will be so hot because of the source of timber residue on the ground and there may not be regeneration as a result.
- We need to have the woods to go to and with the population projections; this becomes important to the future.