

Agriculture & Forestry Advisory Panel Meeting

Meeting Teleconference - WebEx

2 November 2020

10:00 am

At a Glance

- The Advisory Panel received two presentations regarding forestry and forestry management issues.
- The Advisory Panel discussed the development of forestry related recommendations to meet the goals outlined in the work plan.
- Each sector's recommendations will be brought to the Climate Action Council for review at their November - December meetings.
- Subgroups were reviewed by the panel and will meet independently before the next AP meeting.
- Information regarding meetings and materials can be found on – www.Climate.ny.gov

Present

WebEx: (82 total attendees including panelists and agency staff)

Advisory Panel:

Commissioner Richard Ball, Chair AGM; Peter Innes, DEC; Michelle Brown, TNC; Samantha Levy, AFT; Robert Malmsheimer, SUNY ESF; Peter Woodbury, Jenifer Wightman (invited) Cornell University; Tom Gerow, Wagner Lumber Co.; Elizabeth Wolters, NYFB; John Bartow, Empire State Forest Products Assoc.; John Noble, Noblehurst Farms; Amanda Barber, Cortland SWCD; Julie Suarez, Cornell University; Nelson Villarrubia, Trees NY; Suzanne Hunt, HuntGreen LLC/Hunt Country Vineyards; Ned Sullivan, Scenic Hudson; Peter Lehner, Earth Justice; Donna Wadsworth, International Paper.

Absent: Stephanie Morningstar, Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust; Rafael Aponte, Rocky Acres Community Farm.

Agency Staff:

David Valesky, Brian Steinmuller, (Presenter), Jennifer Clifford (meeting host), Lindsey McMahon, Greg Albrecht, AGM; Suzanne Hagell, Willow Eyres, Jeffrey Mapes, Jason Drobnack, Gregory Mumby, Ian Crisman, DEC; Giovanni Holmquist, ESD; Anurupa Roy, DOS; Ziggy Majumdar, Stephen Hoyt, Kara Allen, NYSERDA.

Welcome

Commissioner Ball, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

Panel Member Role Call

Absences are listed above.

Sub-Groups

Commissioner Ball, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

GOAL: Provide overview of panel sub-groups.

Sub-groups will focus on the below topics and should consider policy initiatives, workforce development, threats and barriers, financing, and cross cutting issues in their discussions.

- Agroforestry
- Livestock and dairy management
- Nutrient management and regenerative agriculture
- Land use conversion
- Forestry and forestry management
- Bioeconomy

Each subgroup team will meet the prior to the next Panel Meeting and will be led by AGM and DEC staff.

NY Forests: Opportunities for Climate Mitigation and Resilience

Michelle Brown, The Nature Conservancy New York

RESEARCH SUMMARY

- Private land ownership accounts for the largest proportion of ownership in NYS
- The majority of owners own less than ten acres of land and prioritize scenery over any working function
- Eastern NY forest land sequesters the most carbon, followed by Western NY
- Partial harvesting is the dominant process in NY
- Northern hardwoods and hickory are harvested at low rates
- Targeting the production of pellets and chips will increase sequestration
- All harvest scenarios, even the most aggressive harvest strategies still result in net positive sequestration
- Using wood products for long lived purposes such as construction materials has large potential to increase sequestration
- Methane from landfills, plays a surprisingly large role in emissions, thus important to divert biomass from landfills whenever possible

RECOMMENDATIONS

Protect

- Develop incentives to avoid land conversion
- Focus on funding open space protection
- Reduce barriers to landowner enrollment in tax relief programs
- Explore ways to help landowners keep forests as forests

Manage

- Explore financial solutions to help landowners maintain and improve forests
- Address issues limiting regeneration
- Increase the use of consulting foresters
- Increase use of harvested wood products

Restore

- Expand existing reforestation programs and ways to scale these programs up
- Increase urban forestry

DISCUSSION

- Herbivores (deer), pests, and pathogens are a significant threat to forests and natural forest regeneration in NY
- Private forest owners may not understand the negative impacts of how they manage their lands. They need access to qualified foresters to sustain healthy forests
- The research presented was based off a 100-year timeline. Can we adjust the scenarios to reflect a 20-year timeline that aligns with this legislation?

[NYS Forest Management and Forestry Associated Land Use Conversion Recommendations](#)

Peter Innes, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

RECOMMENDATIONS

- No net loss of forests through protection, regulation and incentives
- Scale up improved forest management
- Create incentives or regulations to ensure professional management is used on private lands
- Develop incentives or regulations to report harvests and harvested wood products
- Develop incentives to increase manufacture of NYS grown wood products
- Increase afforestation and reforestation
- Increase tree cover and wood utilization in urban areas

[Next Meeting](#)

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18th at 10 a.m.

Meeting concluded at 12:08pm

Please contact Peter Innes, NYSDEC; Deputy Commissioner David Valesky (AGM) or Brian Steinmuller, Assistant Director of the Division of Land and Water Resources (AGM), if you have questions.

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