

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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January 14, 2009

Steven W. Koehn, Director/State Forester
Maryland DNR Forest Service
Tawes State Office Building, E-1
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Steve Koehn,

This letter is to respectfully request for you to Chair the Forestry Subcommittee for Maryland's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Technical Committee. The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between the National Association of State Foresters and the National Association of Conservation Districts and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and United States Forest Service identifies the State Forestry agencies as having the primary leadership role and responsibility for the delivery of forestry programs on State and private lands. The formation of the forestry subcommittee with your leadership will help NRCS improve and advance opportunities to address forestry issues and concerns with Farm Bill Programs. We want to offer this opportunity for you and other stakeholders to provide us with constructive advice and recommendations for the implementation of Farm Bill Programs in the State of Maryland. NRCS would like to be able to integrate recommendations received from local work groups and subcommittees, such as this, into our program delivery policy and processes. The expected outcome will be the availability of more focused and viable incentive-based approaches to sustainable environmental stewardship.

Your leadership for the forestry industry is recognized by the many forestry professionals and stakeholders in Maryland. I would like you to chair this initial orientation meeting of the Forestry Subcommittee, on January 28, 2009 at 1:30 pm at the NRCS Maryland State Office, for the following purpose:

1. To serve as the primary contact for this subcommittee of the State Technical Committee
2. Make recommendations for subcommittee membership to the State Conservationist for selection and invitations to serve in this capacity. Keep in mind the need for an expressed commitment to serve in this capacity and a diversity of stakeholders representing a broad forestry working group.

As a minimum the subcommittee make-up should include but is not limited to representation from:

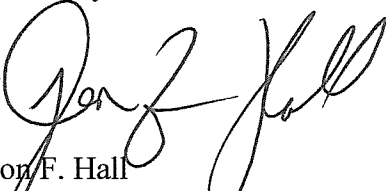
- Maryland Soil Conservation Districts
 - United States Forestry Service
 - Maryland Forests Association
 - Forestry Consultant
 - University of Maryland Extension
 - Maryland Department of Agriculture
 - Forest Industry
 - Maryland Forest Service
 - Chesapeake Bay Program
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Private Forestry Land Owners
 - Resource Conservation and Development Councils
 - Environmental Defense
3. Establish a regular meeting date for the subcommittee prior to the meeting of the State Technical Committee in order to present recommendations during the State Technical Committee meeting
 4. Analyze State issues and concerns relating to the conservation and implementation of forestry practices
 5. Present subcommittee recommendation to the State Conservationist during the State Technical Meeting

The State Technical Committee members will be receiving a copy of this letter and the invitation to participate in the initial meeting of the subcommittee.

Program questions are to be directed to Mark Rose, Assistant State Conservationist – Programs, at 443-482-2910 or mark.rose@md.usda.gov. Your meeting needs and logistics are to be directed to Carol Hollingsworth at 443-482-2902 or carol.hollingsworth@md.usda.gov.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is always willing to help address natural resource concerns and advance environmental stewardship. I know that with your support and cooperation, everyone at NRCS will work very hard this next year to provide the kind of service that you expect and deserve.

Sincerely



Jon F. Hall
State Conservationist

Attachments:

**State Technical
Committee
Forestry
Subcommittee**

**January 28, 2009
1:30 PM
339 Busch's Frontage Road
Suite 205, Conference Room (2nd floor)
Annapolis, MD 21409**

Type of meeting: Initial meeting of the Forestry Subcommittee

Agenda

Introduction
Purpose
Responsibilities
Questions
Next Steps
Adjourn

Additional Information