

Enactment of State Legislative Forestry Issues

We were successful in supporting a number of enacted statutes related to our industry since October 2017.

- 🌲 The 2018-19 State Budget passed by the legislature in July included a \$424,000 line item funding for the PA Hardwoods Development Council.
- 🌲 PFPA continued to oppose the creation of a gas severance tax which could include additional taxation on timber harvesting. Governor Wolf continues to push for this tax and will do so if re-elected in November.
- 🌲 The legislature created a Forestry Task Force in the Joint Conservation Committee in recent years to explore the impacts of the DCNR State Forest Management Plan; the impacts of invasive forest pests; the relationship between industry and municipalities; and the decline of timber harvesters in the state. PFPA continues our working relationship with DCNR and new State Forester Ellen Shultzabarger.
- 🌲 Legislation to extend the “letters of local determination” continues to be aggressively lobbied by PFPA. This provision which was part of Act 89 of 2013 expires on December 31, 2018.

Governor’s Green Ribbon Task Force on Forest Products, Conservation and Jobs

The Green Ribbon Task Force, including input from PFPA was released on October 25, 2016. It contained 15 major recommendations on job creation, conservation and workforce development. PFPA is supporting funding to aid in implementation of these recommendations. PFPA was part of the last Task Force meeting. No significant action was taken. The meeting minutes will be made available to PFPA members as soon as they are available.

Expand Timber Production on ANF and State Game lands

PFPA continues efforts with legislators, DCNR, the PA Department of Agriculture and the ANF to find ways to get more timber off of the Allegheny National Forest. Legislation was passed a couple of years ago that would allow the state to help manage the forest through timber harvesting, promoting forest regeneration and restoring or improving habitats. PFPA also continues working with the PA Game Commission to increase the amount of timber harvested on state game lands. The Commission’s chief forester continues to work with PFPA.

Representing the Industry in Harrisburg

PFPA continues to be the strongest voice in Harrisburg representing the forest products industry on all issues both legislative and regulatory impacting the industry and our members. We also continue to work closely with numerous members of the PA Congressional Delegation on those federal issues impacting the industry in Pennsylvania.

PA WoodMobile Continues to Shine

Through mid-September, the WoodMobile has participated in numerous events throughout the Commonwealth with thousands attending these events. This includes students and teachers. By the end of the year, the WoodMobile has many other “stops” and visits planned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The balance in the PFPA General Operating Account was \$156,795. For the period October 1, 2017 to September 20, 2018, revenue to the unrestricted general operating account was \$429,120 and expenses were \$403,679, resulting in a net profit of \$25,441. The balance in the reserve restricted accounts was \$368,002.

The balance in HLMA Educational Inc. was \$36,198.09. Revenue for HLMA Ed. Inc. was \$26 and expenses were \$4,730 for a net loss of \$4,704.

Membership Report

On September 20, 2018, PFPA membership included 278 companies, individuals and organizations. Since October 1, 2017, PFPA has added 15 members and lost 17 members, for a net loss of 2 members.

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