

Forestry Affairs Committee

Chair – Steve Arbour

Mission Statement

To keep the Chambers membership informed about Forestry Affairs and be actively involved in supporting the Chambers policies as they relate to the federal, state, and county forest industry and the economy of the State of Minnesota by:

Goals for 2008

Actively support the MN Chamber's Environment & Natural Resource's Policy Committee in their effort to keep forestry issues a high legislative priority statewide. Issues include, but are not limited to: 100,000 lbs. First haul out for finished material, school trust lands land locked in the BWCA, class 2B-rural vacant land rules legislation, common language for OHV trails, accountability for Federal Forest Plans, Permit streamlining, and timber harvest levels that are economically, ecologically and socially sustainable.

Encourage business people to join their Chambers of Commerce and become involved in Forestry Affairs issues.

Work with other Chambers and encourage them to promote multiple-use sustainable forest management, including bio economy issues.

Provide input to land use plans of the federal, state, and county agencies and support land owners rights to manage their lands.

Comment on forest management projects in the Chippewa & Superior National Forest and distribute those comments to committee members in order to encourage their participation.

Partner with the MN DNR to maintain long-term stable funding from timber sales, which would be dedicated to the Department of Forestry and designated to generate reliable timber sale and recreation outputs.

Continue to promote the Grand Rapids Area, including the Forest History Center, as the Forest Center of Minnesota.

Find specific ways to educate the general public regarding the value of healthy forest management practices that support multiple-use concepts and the importance of promoting forest policies that sustain the economic health of our communities.

Support forest management education of non-industrial private forestland owners.

Support demonstration of traditional and innovative forest management practices for policymakers, interested organizations and the general public.

Actively support key forest legislation.

Actively support Third Party Certification of private and public lands.

Actively support the Grand Rapids City and Itasca County Land Use Plans.