



Public Briefing Paper for
FSC® Forest Management Certification Re-assessment of
State of Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Land in
Lake Tomahawk, WI USA
July 12, 2019

Introduction - The NEPCon is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification re-assessments of State of Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Land with an office located in Lake Tomahawk, Wisconsin. WI BCPL has been certified by NEPCon since 2014 (NC-FM/COC-007049). The re-assessment includes forest in Wisconsin totaling approximately 27,534 hectares. The re-assessment will be implemented from August 13-15, 2019.

Scope of the Certification Re-Assessment – The forest management certification re-assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forests managed by WI BCPL, using the *FSC-US Forest Management Standard (v1.0)*. To obtain a copy of these guidelines, please visit the FSC-US web site (at www.fscus.org/standards_criteria/forest_management.php) or contact NEPCon directly by telephone, fax, or e-mail as listed below. NEPCon is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®)¹ and this re-assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

Re-Assessment Team Composition – The re-assessment will be conducted by:

- Rob Bryan, Lead Auditor, Forest Ecology;

Assessment Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ Re-assessment organization – The NEPCon auditors and WI BCPL staff will meet at WI BCPL's office in Lake Tomahawk, WI on August 13, 2019.
- ◆ Field assessments – The auditors will visit sites managed by WI BCPL that are included in the scope of the certificate from August 13 to 15, 2019.
- ◆ Re-assessment briefing – Prior to departure, the auditors will meet with WI BCPL managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – The auditors will conduct interviews with stakeholders prior to, during, and after the re-assessment.
- ◆ Draft report production – The auditors will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to WI BCPL. This should occur 45 days after completion of the re-assessment field work.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from WI BCPL and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by October 14, 2019.

¹ FSC® A000535

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification re-assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on WI BCPL’s forest management in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the re-assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the re-assessment, during the re-assessment, or prior to September 5, 2019 so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by October 14, 2019. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with the NEPCon audit team during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Klaus Geiger, the NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification re-assessment from the US Regional Office.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Klaus Geiger. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of auditing WI BCPL as described in this briefing.

Contacting NEPCon

Klaus Geiger, Forest Certification Associate, US Region

- ◆ Email: kgeiger@nepcon.org
- ◆ Worldwide Website – <https://www.nepcon.org/>
- ◆ Telephone – 802-923-3767
- ◆ FAX – 802-434-3116
- ◆ Mail address – 13 Jolina Ct. 2nd Floor, PO Box 99, Richmond VT 05477

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only the FSC and NEPCon staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access NEPCon’s Complaints, Appeals and Dispute resolution procedures at <https://www.nepcon.org/>.