

REDWnG MEETING NOTES

Current Use Bill

H.697

Commissioner Michael Snyder of VTFPR

- Primary objective – to keep forestland in productive use
- Context – the Use Value Approach is critical to support VT’s working forest landscape and vibrant forest economy
- In VTFPR report, if a parcel has a % of its acres that line up with significant or sensitive conditions in that they present timber management or provide a strong ecological basis for managing for values other than sawtimber
- Strategy
 - o Expand eligibility of restorative management for old forests in UVA
 - o Maintain and complement of working lands focus of program by targeting opportunities for attainment of old forests on lands that have sensitive or significant ecological condition
 - o Reduce barriers of eligibility
 - o Support continued active management
- There are about 3,500 parcels of land that could be considered with this approach
- This is exciting because the world is change

- Rep. Laura Sibilia – asks if this approach solve prior management problems – not entirely, there is some administrative enforcements, but Snyder states this is a great point
- Rep. Tom Bock – asks if reserve parcels can be withdrawn from the program – yes voluntarily
- Rep. Coffee – is excited about the expansion of this program – it seems to represent a compromise
 - o \$5 million dollars only comes in if all eligible parcels enter the program and that’s not likely to happen
 - o This program tests the waters – baseline analysis
- Rep. Rogers represents constituents who dislike this program – she asks if this could take some producer’s out of production – many of these places though are not great places to work
 - o Snyder states that yes, this program could take some businesses out of production, yet it is a new money-making approaches for forest workers – change is good

VT Public Access Stations Presentation

Lauren-Glenn Davitian of Vermont Access Network

- Funding request and policy update
- In the 1980s, there were over 50 cable stations, and now there are 6
- Caucus finds this critical
- Lack of revenue – requests bridge funding and long-term problem solving
 - o Requesting \$300,000 in the FY22 Budget Adjustment Act and \$600,000 in the FY23 Budget
- Requests will offset rising costs at the time of declining revenue
- Hybrid structure important for local news and access

Bill Updates / Bill Tracker

- All collective work has positive momentum