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WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Forestry...

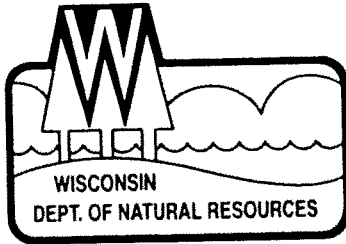
COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (July 2013)



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Clearinghouse Rule 05-106 Administrative Rule - Master Logger Certification Scholarships

Assembly Committee on Forestry

Department of Natural Resources Testimony
Jeff Barkley, County Forest / Public Lands Specialist
Division of Forestry
March 14, 2006

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Good afternoon. My name is Jeff Barkley and I am the County Forest / Public Lands Specialist with the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry. I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you to discuss Clearinghouse Rule 05-106.

The Department of Natural Resources strongly supports CR 05-106. The Master Logger Certification (MLC) program is a performance-based program copyrighted and sanctioned by the American Loggers Council that establishes national standards of performance for the logging profession. It has been in existence in Wisconsin for just over 2 years and it currently is administered through the Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association (WPLA). There are currently forty logging contractors that have achieved MLC. MLC status for logging contractors will provide additional opportunities for marketing of green-certified forest products. This is an advantage for both Wisconsin forest industry and the contractors. In addition, the third party verification of a logger's business practices can only help to encourage professionalism amongst our logging contractors and the landowners they work with.

The 05/07 budget maintained WPLA's role in administering the program, provided forestry-seg. funding for the program (\$50,000 in FY06 and \$150,000 in succeeding years), and directed DNR to develop the rules for it. The rules establish the purpose, applicability, definitions, application and grant procedure, general provisions, accountability and audit procedures, and termination provisions of the program.

In the proposed rules, the scholarships will pay up to 50% of the cost towards an individual's application fee. The current application fee is \$2000 and is prohibitive to some interested in attaining MLC. Scholarships will offset part of the program cost of processing applicants for Wisconsin MLC consideration. The funding will be applied as a credit towards an individual's application including costs incurred during the audit process, training related to the audit process, information and outreach to prospective applicants and owners of Wisconsin woodlands, and record-keeping and administrative costs directly related to Wisconsin MLC.

The rules were originally drafted with input from DNR Forestry, DNR Legal Services, WPLA, and the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse. A video-conference hearing was held December 12, 2005 for public input. The permanent rule you see before you was approved by the Natural Resources Board on January 25, 2006. Emergency rules are now in effect (approved by the NRB on 11/15/05 and extended by the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules on 2/16/06) so that we are able to utilize the

\$50,000 available for FY06. The DNR has received notification from WPLA of ten new MLC applicants in the first quarter of 2006. The permanent rule that you have before you is essentially identical to the emergency rule.

I appreciate this opportunity to express the Department's support for CR 05-106 and would be glad to answer any questions you might have.