

**Governor's Task Force on  
Competitiveness of Minnesota's Forest Products Industry**

**Meeting #4 Summary – December 7, 2006, Grand Rapids**

**Co-Chair comments and introductions**

Commissioner Layman welcomed the Task Force members and guests and introduced Deputy Commissioner Holsten, sitting in for Commissioner Merriam. She reviewed the agenda. Dave Epperly gave an update regarding DNR timber harvesting contract extensions.

**Anti-trust statement**

Attorney David Oberstar made an anti-trust statement.

**Summary of draft Task Force report and member comments and revisions**

Commissioner Layman summarized the contents of the draft report and asked the Task Force to review the report by section. Dave Zumeta will work with the working group to write the executive summary. Mirja Hanson led the Task Force through the report.

The Task Force felt that the draft 'statement of need' should be more concise. Members suggested moving some information to the appendices. A number of Task Force members noted that the report, especially within the Economics Background section, lacked language describing the perspective of the investor as well as the logger. Commissioner Layman asked Task Force members to draft some language to include in the report regarding logging infrastructure trends and the key factors used to make investment decisions. A number of Task Force members also suggested that the report needs to emphasize the key issue: timber supplies exist but are not made available for harvest.

**Recommendation revisions**

The Task Force agreed that they did not want to prioritize the recommendations. Dave Zumeta reviewed how the recommendations were developed, using the 2003 report as a template. The Task Force discussed the use of specific dollar amounts attached to a number of the recommendations. Commissioner Layman noted that the recommendations would be better received by the Governor with specific dollar figures attached. The Task Force agreed to include specific dollar amounts related to various recommendations if the numbers were easily justified.

Mirja Hanson reviewed the Task Force definition of consensus as well as the process by which the task force would review the recommendations. The Task Force proceeded through the entire set of recommendations. Various recommendations were rewritten, moved to another topic area, combined, divided, added, deleted, or left as is. After all of the recommendations were reviewed, every attending Task Force member agreed to support the full set of recommendations as revised.

**Next steps to finalize report**

The Task Force discussed the next steps prior to delivering the report to the Governor as well as some longer-term considerations. It was decided that there was not time for the full Task Force to review the updated report prior to its delivery to the Governor, but assurances were given that it would only reflect changes made at the Task Force meeting. The Task Force discussed the possibility of setting up an implementation committee going forward, ensuring some follow-through with the recommendations, as well as the long-term recommendation of reconvening in 2007. Commissioner Layman thanked the Task Force for its work and reiterated that the language regarding the forest productivity conference would be included in the transmittal letter.