Ohio Sunset Review Committee
Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name Forestry Advisory Council -- ORC 1503.40

Point of Contact Ben Bruns, ODNR Legislative Director

Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives

The Forestry Advisory Council was established by law in the early 1970s to advise and make recommendations to ODNR's Chief of the Division of Forestry concerning forestry practices and programs in the state, including programs of the Division, and may assist the Division in promoting cooperation on forestry practices and programs with other agencies, political subdivisions, and private interests.

Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff

The Council may advise and make recommendations to the chief of the division of forestry concerning forestry practices and programs in the state, including programs of the division, and may assist the division in promoting cooperation on forestry practices and programs with other agencies, political subdivisions, and private interests.

One staff member from ODNR's Division of Forestry serves as a facilitator to the Council. This staff member schedules upcoming meetings for the Council, records minutes, and assists with processing reimbursements. This staff member is not compensated by the Council for their work, as their primary role is to assist the Chief of the Division of Forestry. They work on tasks related to the Council when regular duties permit. On average, they spend about 2 hours every meeting either making preparations or doing follow-up work, totaling approximately 8 hours per year.

Other staff from the Division of Forestry will periodically attend Council meetings to provide updates on their program areas (e.g. state forests and fire, cooperative forest assistance, urban forestry, etc.) to help the Council in their forming of recommendations.

Agency’s past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding

Per ORC, Council members are eligible for reimbursement of direct expenses related to their work on the Council. During FY '23, a total of $859.30 was spent in reimbursements to the members, predominantly for mileage but also for meals.

Reimbursements are allocated out of Fund 5090 / ALI 725602, which is the State Forest line item. Funds in this line item support the operation, maintenance, development, and utilization of Ohio's 24 state forests and provide services to private forest owners. Most of the costs borne by this line item are payroll, supplies, and maintenance expenses.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any

The Council consists of eight members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Members represent forest-based research activities, small private forestland owners, larger private forestland owners, the pulp and paper industry, other forest industries, soil science, forest recreation and the public. Each serves a four-year term and not more than four are permitted from the same political party. The Council holds regular quarterly meetings and has a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary. All meetings are open to the public.

Members receive no compensation for their work on the Council; only reimbursements.

We believe that eight total members is good governance and works effectively to meet the Council's objectives.

Additional notes

The Forestry Advisory Council is a valuable tool to ODNR's Division of Forestry in our efforts to protect, preserve, promote, and responsibly manage Ohio's forests. ODNR recommends that the Forestry Advisory Council be renewed by the Sunset Review Committee.