

THE LOG

April / May 2021

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Letter from the President

“The Times They are A-Changing” – Bob Dylan

A lot has changed in just a year. If we rewind back the clock to April 2020, there was a lot of unknown. With shut-downs, the economy slowed down, the market dropped, and people reduced inventory and production not knowing what lied ahead. A year later the unknown is in the other direction. Demand is up, orders are up, people are busy. The question now, is how long will this continue? I have had numerous conversations on this with colleagues and a variety of guesses on times have been thrown out there.

It is good to see things busy for most of the lumber industry and in any type of building material. People I talk to in our industry along with friends who are in other aspects of building material all say they are busy, and material is a challenge to find. I have yet to find someone that says they can remember a time with such high demand on so many different products.

Hopefully, we can all ride the wave. With spring and summer happening, enjoy the busy times at work and in leisure. The Lake States area has had some nice spring weather, I hope everyone gets a chance to get out and find a summer activity they enjoy. This summer it looks like the lumber market may be as hot as the temperatures.

Rob Paradise
Devereaux Sawmill
LSLA President
rob@devereauxsawmill.com



**LAKE STATES LUMBER ASSOCIATION, INC. . .
PROVIDING LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION TO ASSURE
THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR FOREST RESOURCES**

**LSLA CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**

GLTPA Spring Celebration April 28
Green Bay, WI

Sustainable Forestry Conference May 5
Florence, WI

Annual Golf Outing July 28 & 29
Minocqua, WI

GLTPA Expo September 9-11
Escanaba, MI

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THE REAL AMERICAN HARDWOOD COALITION UPDATE

Get Real with Us!

The Real American Hardwood Coalition is continuing to make great strides in planning efforts towards their consumer marketing platform. The RAHC has created a timeline and goals for 2021 and has funds already committed from supporting associations. However, funds from individual companies will be a crucial part to reach the goals of the 2021 funding campaign. More information can be found [here](#) in regards to the funding strategy. Additionally, executives from the coalition recently spoke at the OFA, HMA, KFIA, and IHLA to continue to spread awareness and gather feedback on the initiative.

Visit the [Real American Hardwood](#) website for more detailed information that is geared towards our industry and provides the initiative's progress and accomplishments. I encourage all industry stakeholders to visit the site, especially if you have questions about how businesses and individuals can contribute to the effort. You'll most likely find the answers there. And if not, reach out to info@realamericanhardwood.org.

CN REACHES DEAL TO SELL 650 MILES OF RAILROAD TRACK IN NORTHERN WISCONSIN AND THE U.P. TO WATCO

Canadian National Railroad [announced on March 30th it reached an agreement with WATCO](#) to sell nearly a thousand miles of tracks.

250 miles of the track runs from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario to Oba, Ontario. It includes 650 miles of branch lines of Wisconsin Central Ltd. in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula.

CN said this marks the successful conclusion of the sale process that CN announced and [launched in July of 2020](#).

In Ontario, Watco will continue freight operations as well as the Agawa Canyon Train Tour. Watco has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Missanabie Cree First Nation regarding partnership opportunities for the Algoma Central Railway (ACR).

In both the United States and Ontario, CN will continue to play a central role as the transferred segments will remain connected to CN's tri-coastal network, safely and reliably linking businesses to markets around the world.

Lawmakers are praising the agreement.

"This is truly great news for Wisconsin. This announcement means not only continued freight rail service for Wisconsin's Northwoods, but it also presents an opportunity to expand service," Governor Evers said. "That is especially good news for our Northwoods economy and the timber and paper industries that rely heavily on freight rail to connect to major ports and markets all over the world."

Congressman Tom Tiffany said he hopes to work with WATCO and CN to ensure a brighter future for the region.

"Access to reliable rail service is critically important to the viability of our agriculture, timber and manufacturing sectors," said Tiffany. "Northern Wisconsin is poised for growth, and stable, affordable and dependable rail service a key component for reaching that potential."

The terms of the agreement were not disclosed and the acquisition of the rail lines in the United States is subject to regulatory authorization by the Surface Transportation Board.

SUBMIT A LOG ARTICLE

LSLA members are welcome to submit articles that are of interest to our membership. Contact our office at LSLA@LSLA.COM if you are interested in submitting an article or if you have member news of general interest to our industry.

A MESSAGE FROM THE WI-DNR, BY LOGAN WELLS, WI DNR FOREST PRODUCTS SPECIALIST

Forest Product Services Webinar Series

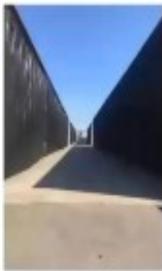
This winter, the Forest Products Services team hosted three webinars on different aspects of manufacturing lumber. Each webinar highlighted principles from the recently published [Forest Products Technical Guides](#).

Recordings of these webinars are available. These recordings expand on each topic, filling in some details about the industry.

We look forward to offering future webinars to highlight Wisconsin's forest resources. Thank you to our partners Lake States Lumber Association Education, Northcentral Technical College and UW-Madison, for their help in putting together these resources and webinars.

Yard Layout Continued

- Keep yard well-drained and control vegetation
- Smooth, firm ground or pavement is best



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | DNR.WI.GOV

Learn more via the Forest Products Technical Guides or watch the webinar recordings here:
<http://bit.ly/WiForestProductsResources>

A MESSAGE FROM THE WISCONSIN Economic Development Corporation (WEDC)

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD: Supporting Wisconsin's Forest Products Industry

Wisconsin's rich and abundant forests—and the many value-added products we create with these plentiful resources—are vital contributors to our state's economic welfare, accounting for more than \$35 billion of our economic output. Yet driven by globalization, technology changes, environmental considerations and many other factors, this key industry is at risk and changing rapidly.

For the good of us all, Wisconsin's forest and forest-products economy must keep pace with these changes to thrive into the future.

We want to hear from you. Please join state leaders and industry experts to make your voice heard in two upcoming virtual listening sessions dedicated to reinvigorating our forest products industry:

- May 6, 2021 – 2-4 p.m.
To register:
<https://join.inwisconsin.com/wiforestrylistening1>
- May 11, 2021 – 6-8 p.m.
To Register:
<https://join.inwisconsin.com/wiforestrylistening2>

Ideas and insights gathered during these sessions will help guide future economic development support to create a more diversified, robust and enduring forest products industry.

Can't attend either listening session? Please visit the WEDC webpage below to provide your input and ideas on our public comment form.

Public Comment: <https://wedc.org/rural-prosperity/forest-products-industry-listening-sessions/>

Organizers

Input sessions and this initiative are organized by:

- *Wisconsin's Council on Forestry
- *Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and the Office of Rural Prosperity
- *Department of Natural Resources
- *University of Wisconsin – Extension
- *Regional and association partners

A MESSAGE FROM THE MI-DNR, DAVID NEUMANN

Michigan Forest Products Industry Update Compiled by the Michigan DNR – March 2021

As part of effort to encourage good communication between the DNR and the industry, Michigan DNR staff periodically compile an update for Forest Resources Division staff based on interviews with some of the mills that receive the majority of DNR timber. The March industry update below was based on conversations with 13 mills, and two biomass energy plants in Michigan. Common themes in this month's responses:

- Markets for construction lumber, industrial lumber and grade lumber are strong.
- OSB, composite siding and stud mills are running at full capacity on strong demand for finished products.
- Finding outlets for pulpwood has become problematic – in both peninsulas. Of the 8 pulpwood using mills in Michigan, five have reduced quotas or cut off roundwood deliveries in late March/April:
 - Two mills have temporarily cut off roundwood deliveries due to equipment repair and other issues.
 - Three mills were operating on reduced roundwood delivery quotas, due to full woodyards.
 - The three other pulpwood mills were accepting standard quota deliveries, but not ramping up due to full woodyards.
- Grayling Generation Station and Cadillac Renewable Energy are accepting steady fuel deliveries.
- Red pine users at the beginning of March commented that log supply is getting tight, and finished product demand remains high.
- Lack of good, long-lasting cold weather this winter has made it difficult to complete swamp sales that normally require a good freeze to access and operate.

Mills also commented that it remains difficult to find enough labor to run facilities at full capacity – some say they adjusted by not staffing some machine centers, and some by parking or selling idled harvesting equipment.

Our thanks to the mills that contributed to this update! Please contact the MDNR Forest Resource Division, Forest Utilization & Marketing program staff with any questions or comments – Brenda Haskill at haskillb@michigan.gov or Dave Neumann at neumann@d@michigan.gov.



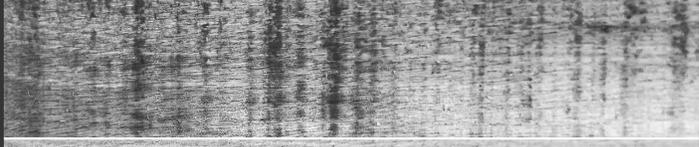
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Wisconsin Legislative Report

By Amy Boyer, WI Legislative Consultant

DOT Secretary-Designee One Step Closer to Confirmation

Craig Thompson, Governor Evers' designee to head up the Wisconsin

Department of Transportation, has now unanimously passed the Senate Transportation and Local Government Committee for a second time and looks for a full Senate confirmation vote in the coming weeks.

Thompson, who has been leading the DOT since January of 2019, received a favorable vote out of com-

mittee last session but his confirmation vote never made to the Senate Floor amid concerns from some Senate Republicans and the onset of the COVID pandemic. The matter will now go before the Senate Republican Caucus to see if there is enough support to confirm Mr. Thompson.



LSLA EDUCATION UPDATE

HARDWOOD LUMBER GRADING SHORT COURSE

Aug 17—Aug 19, 2021
Northcentral Technical College
Wood Technology Center of Excellence
312 Forrest Avenue Antigo, WI

The Hardwood Lumber Grading Short Course, which will be held Aug 17 — Aug 19 in Antigo, WI, is sponsored by Lake States Lumber Association Education. This class is targeted for beginners and therefore will be ideal for sawyers, edgemen, trimmermen, grading trainees, sales people, managers and supervisors. The Course is open to all interested participants, whether a member of LSLA or not. Members of LSLA may register at a reduced price.

Course Schedule

Tuesday, Aug 17—Day 1

- Hardwood Lumber Grading: A Language
- Clear vs. Sound Cuttings
- Surface Measure / Cutting Unit Method
- Wood Characteristics vs. Defects
- Surface Measure Exercise
- Hardwood Lumber Manufacturing Standards

Wednesday Aug 18—Day 2

- NHLA Standard Grades

- Defect Limitations
- Hands-on Lumber Grading

Thursday, Aug 19—Day 3

- Understanding Wood Structure
- Species Exceptions / Color Sorts
- Kiln Dried Lumber
- Hands-on Lumber Grading

Time

Sessions begin at 8 am each day

Students Must Bring

- Lumber rule or lumber scaling stick
- Notebook or clip board

Registration deadline: Aug 12, 2021

Course limited to first 35 registrations.

Fee: \$250 for LSLA members, \$350 for non-members.

To register please visit the link below https://ntcforms.formstack.com/forms/lsla_2021 and complete the online form. You will be given the option to pay yourself or have an invoice sent to your company.

Michigan Legislative Report

By Scott Everett, MI Legislative Consultant



Senate Allows Hertel Appointment As DHHS Director To Go Through

After publically announcing that all of the Governor's appointments were going to be rejected as political punishment for not working with the legislature, (especially on COVID) in March the Michigan Senate allowed the appointment of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Elizabeth HERTEL. With 19 votes needed for passage, the final vote was 18-16, one vote short. All of the chamber's Democrats were in support. They were joined by four Republicans -- Sen. Ken HORN (R-Frankenmuth), Sen. Wayne SCHMIDT (R-Traverse City), Shirkey and Sen. Jim STAMAS (R-Midland), all second-term, term limited members.

Gov. Taps Again Previously Rejected Appointees

On the heels of the Senate approving HERTEL as DHHS Director, the Governor turned around and re-nominated 17 of the 18 gubernatorial appointees that were previously rejected by the Senate earlier this year. Appointees to three university boards, the Office of Children's Ombudsman, the Natural Resources Commission and the Civil Rights Commission are among the picks.

Senate Introduces 39 GOP Voter Bills

Senate Republicans have introduced 39 bills to reform the election process in the state. Voters would need to present a photo ID in order for their vote to count, under one of the bills. Those without an ID would have six days to show one to the local clerk or their vote wouldn't count. The bills also tighten up the accuracy of the Qualified Voter File, require clerks to train on how to compare signatures on absentee ballots and allow for the video recording of ballot processing and auditing. One bill allows clerks to pre-process absentee ballots a day before the election, as was done in the 2020 election.

Ag Commission Awards Grant To Iron River Sawmill

In March the State Agriculture Commission voted to approve a \$50,000 grant for Shamco Lumber Inc. of Iron River to help advance a \$1.96 million project to

modernize and expand the sawmill's operations and lead to the creation of four jobs. "This project will have an economic rippling effect throughout the region," said Gary McDOWELL, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, in a statement.

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WRI Market Insights 2021

Global Sawlog Markets

Russia's proposed log export ban in 2022 will have a far-reaching impact on global forest product markets

Russia exported 15 million m³ of logs in 2020, which accounted for almost 12% of globally traded roundwood. Much of this trade may come to halt next year when a new law proposed by Russia's president will ban the exportation of softwood logs and high-value hardwood logs as of January 1, 2022. The Russian government is also considering new regulations aimed at reducing the exportation of green softwood lumber. This regulation is loosely planned to also commence in 2022 and is intended to incentivize investments in dry-kilns to produce dried lumber for exports. Reducing log and green lumber exports will likely stimulate further value-added processing within Russia and better control illegal logging.

While the proposed ban is not yet law, it is widely expected to be implemented and passed into law in the second quarter of this year. If enacted, the law will most significantly impact Eastern Russia, where an estimated 10% of the timber harvest is exported in log form. In the short-term, the Chinese lumber industry will be most directly impacted, as exports of softwood logs mainly from Russia Far East are likely to be prohibited. According to a just-released study, **Russian Log Export Ban in 2022**— Implications for the Global Forest Industry (<https://woodprices.com/focus-report-series/>), China will probably look to source more sawlogs from other regions of the world, such as Oceania, Europe, and the US. The increased competition for logs in those markets will likely put upward pressure on sawlog prices. Mid-term, the study expects that China will evolve from importation of roundwood to importation of lumber. This shift will allow lumber manufacturers in Europe and Russia to increase shipments to China.

Although it is expected that the export ban will drive Russian investment in new lumber capacity, there might also be some impact on other forest industry sectors, for example those planning to co-locate pellet plants with sawmills. In addition, the possibility of restrictions in the exportation of green lumber will encourage more investments in kiln drying capacity, thus improving access to markets in Europe and the US.

The excerpt is from the just-released Focus Report "Russia Log Export Ban in 2022—Implications to the Global Forest Industry", published by Wood Resources International LLC and O'Kelly Acumen. For more information about the study or to inquire about purchasing the 60-page report in easy-to read slide format, please contact either Hakan Ekstrom (hakan@woodprices.com) or Glen O'Kelly (glen.okelly@okelly.se). A Table of Contents of the report is available on our website [here!](#)

GLTPA Safe Routes Media Release

"Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) commends Congressman Gallagher for his persistence to create a safer environment for local communities and truck drivers with the re-introduction of the "Safe Routes Act, H.R. 2213" of 2021," stated GLTPA President Matt Jensen.

"The "Safe Routes Act, H.R. 2213" of 2021 provides drivers of product specific, specialized log trucks a choice of routes by allowing them access to the interstate highway system when available," he continued. When passed by Congress, the "Safe Routes Act, H.R. 2213" will allow drivers of state weight compliant log trucks the option of avoiding urban streets and highways where pedestrian activity is ongoing all hours of the day.

Log truck drivers throughout the nation are restricted, under certain conditions, from utilizing the interstate highway systems designed to transport heavy military equipment. This restriction forces drivers to travel on city, town, and rural haul routes. Being forced to secondary haul routes increases truck driver exposure to automobiles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. In addition to increased pedestrian exposure, driver hours of service are increased adding to driver fatigue which is something concerned safety groups say they would like to see lessened for drivers.

In addition to reducing driver hours and fatigue,

(continued on page 10)

HARDWOOD FEDERATION UPDATE

BY Dana Lee Cole—Executive Director, Hardwood Federation

The Biden Trade Agenda

International trade, particularly U.S. trade with China, has been a dominant issue for the Hardwood Federation for the past several years. As the industry knows all too well, the Trump Administration's tough approach to China and imposition of tariffs on Chinese imports led to retaliatory tariffs on U.S. hardwood lumber and log exports to China...a devastating development for many in the industry. While some sectors benefited from this approach to global trade negotiations, for many others it has been a tough road back.

Currently, Chinese tariffs on U.S. hardwood are suspended, at least until September 2021. What happens in October is still in question. Attention now turns to the Biden Administration and how they will handle China...and the rest of the world.

President Biden's pick for U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), Katherine Tai, is a well-known trade expert in Washington, D.C. She has years of experience within USTR as a senior staff member and most recently served as the chief trade counsel for the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee. In this role, she was key to gaining Democratic approval for the revised trade agreement between the U.S., Canada and Mexico (USMCA, previously known as NAFTA). She is well respected on both sides of the aisle and her nomination was easily approved 98-0 by the Senate.

In comments made during her confirmation hearings, USTR Tai gave every indication that the Biden Administration will continue to take a firm line with China. There are no immediate plans to remove existing U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods, and there are indications that the Biden Administration will be tougher than the Trump team on issues like the environment and worker rights. However, it also seems that there are efforts to lower the trade tensions with other global partners. The Administration recently announced an agreement with the European Union to suspend tariffs on a number of items including aircraft, food and wine that were imposed as a result of disagreements over subsidies provided to Airbus and Boeing.

It is reasonable to assume that the Administration will work towards compromise where they believe they can without pulling back on their priority goals.

As required by Congress, the President released his 2021 Trade Agenda on March 1, 2021. The trade priorities outlined in the report seek to:

- Address COVID-19 and restore the economy by increasing vaccine production and distribution, ensure that frontline workers have access to personal protective equipment and increase domestic production of essential medical equipment.
- Ensure that new trade policies and agreements include strong, enforceable labor standards and commitments to fight forced labor and exploitative labor conditions.
- Include strong environmental standards, consistent with the development of market and regulatory approaches, in trade discussion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve net-zero global emissions by 2050.
- Understand the projected impact of proposed trade policies on communities of color and consider those impacts before pursuing such policies.
- Develop a comprehensive strategy to combat alleged unfair trade practices by China, including unfair subsidies to favored industries and use of forced labor that targets Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities.
- Partner with global allies to hold China accountable by implementing reforms to the World Trade Organization's substantive rules and procedures to address inequality, digital transformation, and impediments to small business trade.
- Seek to expand global market opportunities for American farmers, ranchers, food manufacturers, and fishers and to enforce global agricultural trade rules.
- Review of existing trade programs to evaluate their contribution to "equitable economic development." As part of this review, the Biden Administration will seek to incorporate corporate accountability

(continued on page 10)

HARDWOOD FEDERATION UPDATE (CONT'D)

- and sustainability into trade policies.
- Comprehensive enforcement of trade agreements' labor and environmental standards.

Clearly, this is an ambitious set of priorities and we will have to work hard to understand the implications for the hardwood industry and develop strategies of our own to make sure we benefit from the Administration's global action. As always, this will include clear communication of facts to policy makers at all levels. We have already started the outreach process and will continue throughout the year. We will be reaching out to you too...for your help with YOUR members of Congress. So stay tuned, and be prepared to act! If we all work together, we can make a difference.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

LSLA frequently sends out to its members important announcements and information about meetings, educational opportunities, legislative matters or events of interest to the forest products industry. Email is the most effective method of communicating this information fast and efficiently, and ensures members' ability to respond to time-sensitive matters.

If your current email address is listed in the Buyer's Guide and you haven't been receiving emails from Lake States Lumber Association, please make sure that your email is not blocking emails from Isla@Isla.com or that emails from us aren't being tossed into the junk mail folder.

If your current email address isn't listed in the Buyer's Guide and you would like to receive update information from us, please contact us, and we'll put you in our email address book. If your email address has changed, please notify us so that you don't miss out on any important news.

GLTPA Safe Routes Media Release (CONT'D)

the "Safe Routes Act, H.R. 2213" also reduces the number of "Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)". VMT is a measurement used to determine the number of projected accidents based on the number of vehicle miles traveled within a given time frame. Interstate routes are typically shorter and more efficient than secondary routes. As such, fewer miles traveled results in fewer projected accidents which is promoted by industry and safety advocates alike.

"The "Safe Routes Act, H.R. 2213" of 2021 is simplistic legislation which will have an enormous positive impact on safety for both pedestrians and log truck drivers nationwide," said Henry Schienebeck, GLTPA Executive Director. In addition to added safety, local routes will see a decrease in traffic which could lead to increased road life. Along with all the states who are members of the American Loggers Council and Forest Resources Association, Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association fully supports this narrowly focused yet meaningful safety legislation.

Matt Jensen, GLTPA President

Henry Schienebeck, GLTPA Executive Director



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WHERE IS DAVID BRADLEY?

Another day in the wood yard, David Bradley has been busy scaling and trimming logs!



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