

Regional Forest Resource Committees

C Implementing the Landscape-Based Planning and Coordination Program C

Minnesota Forest Resources Council

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The Sustainable Forest Resources Act (SFRA) directs the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) to establish regional forest resource committees to foster landscape-based forest resources planning and coordination activities. These committees will create a forum to encourage coordination and communication among the region's forest land managers and owners. As specified in the SFRA, these regional committees must:

- C include representative interests in a particular region that are committed to and involved in landscape planning and coordination activities;
- C serve as a forum for landowners, managers, and representative interests to discuss landscape forest resource issues;
- C identify and implement an open and public process whereby landscape-based strategic planning of forest resources can occur;
- C identify sustainable forest resource goals for the landscape and strategies to achieve those goals; and
- C provide a regional perspective to the Council with respect to Council activities.

The following identifies the process and criteria for establishing the regional forest resource committees, as well as how the regional committees will be staffed and administered.

Criteria for Membership

Individuals serving on the MFRC's regional forest resource committees must:

- C reside (including seasonally) within the landscape region for which the regional committee has responsibility for fostering landscape-based planning and coordinating activities.
- C be committed to the goal of sustainable forest management and be interested in or affected by management of forest resources within the landscape region.
- C be willing to work collaboratively with others, including those with different interests and values with respect to fostering landscape-based planning and coordination.
- C be able to commit the time and energy required to further the landscape based planning and coordination goals of the regional committee.
- C recognize the voluntary nature of the landscape-base planning and coordination program.

Committee Size and Representation

- C The regional forest resource committees should strive to be inclusive yet be a manageable number

of people. Size may vary among landscape regions, depending on the specific needs and level of interest in forest resources and/or landscape-based planning and coordination within each landscape region.

- C To the extent possible and practical, regional committees shall be composed of a balanced yet diverse set of interests with respect to the management and use of the forest resources within the landscape region. Public and private forest land managers should be involved in the landscape planning and coordination program.

Appointment of Regional Forest Resource Committees

- C The Council, in cooperation with the Forest Resources Partnership and other interested local organizations, will notify the public of the process to establish regional committees and encourage interested people to participate.
- C The landscape program coordinator working with the Council, Partnership and other interested local organizations will convene several information meetings in the landscape region to inform and encourage interested people to participate.
- C People interested in participating will respond, in writing, to the Council's selection criteria.
- C After the information meetings are completed, all interested people who have responded in writing and who meet the Council's membership criteria will be encouraged to attend a meeting to select the regional committee. The Council's Landscape Program Subcommittee will establish the sideboards for selection of the committee members. Using these sideboards for guidance, participants will self-select members to the regional committee, subject to Council approval.
- C All interested people will have the opportunity to be involved in the process of landscape planning and coordination; those not serving on the regional committee will have the opportunity to become part of a formal network that the regional committee will utilize for feedback, ad-hoc working assignments, subcommittees, etc.
- C After consultation with the Partnership (refer to section 89A.04 Sustainable Forest Resources Act), the Council is responsible for formally approving participants to the regional committees.
- C Participants serving on regional committees will have a set term of 4 years. Initially, one half of the terms will be for 2 yrs., one half for 4 yrs. This will establish a staggered term and insure continuity for the committee. Each committee will determine the frequency of meetings and operational guidelines necessary to accomplish the goals they set for the landscape.

Regional Committee Operation and Staff Support

- C Within the framework set forth by the Council, regional committees will be encouraged to establish an open and public process that fosters landscape-based forest resources planning and coordination which address the unique needs and resources of each landscape region.
- C All regional committee meetings will be open to the public.

- C The Council will be responsible for ensuring that regional committees have the staff required to effectively carry out their responsibilities. *The* landscape program coordinator will be responsible for overall staffing coordination and administration of the regional forest resource committees. Facilitating, data gathering, analyzing and administrative skills are the principal staff support needs of the regional forest resource committees. Organizations represented on the Council will be the principal source of technical support and the Information Cooperative will have the lead role in providing data and information to the regional committees. Additional skills can be obtained from a variety of sources including contracting out services to meet specific needs. It is the regional committee's responsibility to determine how best to staff the committee and to provide direction to staff work.

- C The Council will cover committee member's out-of-pocket costs (e.g., mileage reimbursement, food, lodging) resulting from their participation in regional committee activities.

- C The Council, in cooperation with the Partnership and other interested local organizations, will conduct a general orientation session to give committee members an overall orientation to landscape-based planning and coordination. Each regional committee will hold an individual committee organization and collaborative skill development meeting to develop their operational by laws, their group norms and behaviors, select a chairperson and start building trust and good working relationships.