



Minnesota Forest Resources Council

DATE: March 4, 2015
TO: MINNESOTA FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL
FROM: DAVE ZUMETA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RE: PREPARATION FOR MARCH 18, 2015 MFRC MEETING

In preparation for the March 18, 2015 meeting of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC), attached are the following materials (those related to action items are in **bold**):

1. This cover memo.
2. **Draft minutes for the January 14, 2015 MFRC meeting.**
3. **Draft agenda for the March 18, 2015 MFRC meeting.**
4. Committee reports.
5. **Draft resolution in support of House File 14 and Senate File 156.**
6. House File 14 and Senate File 156.
7. **Draft resolution in support of House File 1410 and Senate File 1414.**
8. **House File 1410 and Senate File 1414.**

Meeting Logistics

The MFRC will meet on March 18, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Carlos Avery State Wildlife Management Area (WMA) located at 5463 West Broadway, Forest Lake, MN 55025.

From I-35, take the Forest Lake (Washington CR Hwy 2/ W Broadway Ave) exit, and go west. Washington CR Hwy 2 will curve into Anoka CR Hwy 18/ W Broadway Ave. The WMA is located about 7 miles west of Forest Lake on the right (north) side of Anoka CR Hwy 18. For more information about Carlos Avery WMA, call 651/296-5290, http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/wmas/detail_report.html?map=COMPASS_MAPFILE&mode=itemquery&qayer=bdry_adwma2py3_query&qitem=uniqueid&qstring=WMA0900101

Meeting Agenda

Draft resolution in support of House File 14 and Senate File 156 to provide increased funding for the MFRC* – Bob Stine will provide background information on House File 14 and Senate File 156, which have identical language. Both bills would provide the MFRC with \$300,000 per fiscal year in supplemental base funding for implementation of the Sustainable Forest Resources Act. Council members will be asked to vote on the resolution.

Committee of the Whole: Draft resolution in support of House File 1410 and companion Senate file to revise the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act*—Wayne Brandt and Kathleen Preece will summarize House File 1410 and the companion Senate file. Both bills revise the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act in ways that respond to recommendations from the 2013 Office of the Legislative Auditor's Evaluation Report on the Sustainable Forest Incentive Program and the subsequent Recommendations for Revisions to the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act by the SFIA Stakeholder Group, January 12, 2015. The latter group was convened by the MFRC Chair and the Commissioners of DNR and Revenue at the request of Representative Dill and Senator Saxhaug to respond to the Legislative Auditor's report and seek agreement on how best to revise the SFIA. Council members will be asked to vote on the resolution.

Relationship of timber harvesting to deer, ruffed grouse and American woodcock populations over the past 20 years –Ted Dick and Steve Merchant, DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife, will make presentations on how changes in timber harvesting over the past 20 years, and especially the steep declines in timber harvesting on private forestland in the past 10 years, are likely to have influenced populations of deer, ruffed grouse and American woodcock.

Vision for Terrestrial Invasive Species Research Center – Dr. Rob Venette, Executive Director, Terrestrial Invasive Species Center, University of Minnesota, College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences, will present his vision for this new center, which recently received \$3.9 million in start-up funding from the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Impact of European earthworms on Minnesota forests, with particular focus on impacts on forest productivity– Dr. Lee Frelich, Department of Forest Resources, University of Minnesota, will provide a brief overview of the impact of introduced European earthworms on Minnesota forests. His presentation will emphasize research in the Upper Great Lakes that shows significant impacts of earthworms on forest productivity in certain forest ecosystems, and implications for forest management.

Forest Bank program in southeastern Minnesota – Larry Gates, Chair, Southeast Regional Landscape Committee, and David Schmidt, The Nature Conservancy, will provide an overview of the Forest Bank program, which was piloted by The Nature Conservancy in southeastern Minnesota.

*Denotes action item