



# Minnesota Forest Resources Council

**DATE:** MAY 6, 2015  
**TO:** MINNESOTA FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL  
**FROM:** DAVE ZUMETA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**RE:** PREPARATION FOR MAY 19, 2015 MFRC MEETING

In preparation for the May 19, 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 March 18, 2015 MFRC meeting.**
3. **Draft agenda for the May 19, 2015 MFRC meeting.**
4. Committee reports.
5. Information about northern long-eared bat regulations proposed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/news/778.html>.

## Meeting Logistics

The MFRC will meet on May 19, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the upper conference room at the Northland Arboretum in Brainerd, MN (14250 Conservation Drive, Brainerd, MN 56401). Directions to the meeting are provided below.

From US-10 West, take MN-371 toward Brainerd. Take MN-371 through Baxter to Excelsior Road and turn east. Drive 8/10 of a mile to Conservation Drive. Turn left (north). The Arboretum is at the end of the road.

For more information about the Northland Arboretum, call 218-829-8770, or visit <http://northlandarb.org/>.

## Meeting Agenda

**2015 legislative session outcomes** – Forrest Boe, Dave Zumeta, and Wayne Brandt will summarize outcomes from the legislative session, assuming the session ends as scheduled on May 18. Forrest will focus on outcomes related to DNR Division of Forestry programs, Dave will focus on outcomes pertaining to the MFRC, and Wayne will focus on outcomes of interest to the forest products and logging industries.

**Introduction of new MFRC members** – Deb Theisen, Tom McCabe, and John Fryc, the three members of the MFRC who were recently appointed to the Council for the first time by Governor Dayton, will provide a brief summary of their respective backgrounds and interests in Minnesota's forest resources.

**MFRC member response to Northern Long-Eared Bat regulations** – Forrest Boe will introduce Amber Ellering, DNR Division of Forestry, and Bryan Lueth, DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife, who will briefly summarize the recent draft regulations related to protection of the northern long-eared bat that were promulgated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Information about the long-eared bat regulations proposed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service is included as an attachment to this memo (go to <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/news/778.html>). During and following the meeting, the DNR is seeking MFRC member responses to these draft regulations. If you would like to read more information, a list of frequently asked questions is available at: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/pdf/FAQsInterim4dRevised2April2015.pdf>, and a key to the interim rule for non-federal projects is available at the following site: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/pdf/KeyInterim4dRuleRevised2April2015.pdf>.

**Preliminary results from guideline monitoring conducted in 2014** – Forrest Boe will introduce Dick Rossman and Jennifer Corcoran, DNR Division of Forestry, who will present preliminary results from the DNR's new watershed sampling approach with emphasis on key guidelines related to water quality, soils, and wildlife habitat. Statewide estimates of forest disturbance patterns will also be presented and discussed within the context of guideline implementation estimates for each of four forested watersheds in the state.

**Vision for The Nature Conservancy forestry programs in Minnesota** – Shaun Hamilton will introduce Jim Manolis, lead staff for forestry programs in Minnesota and the Dakotas for The Nature Conservancy (TNC), who will present his vision for TNC forest management and protection programs in Minnesota.

**Long-term trends in forest bird populations on the Chippewa and Superior National Forests** – Darla Lenz will introduce Alexis Grinde, Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota, Duluth, who will summarize over 20 years of bird population data from the Chippewa and Superior National Forests.

**Potential for elk reintroduction to eastern Minnesota** – Bob Lintelmann will introduce Mike Schrage, Wildlife Biologist, Fond du Lac Resource Management Division, who will describe a project for elk reintroduction being considered by the Fond du Lac Band.

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\*Denotes action item