

## **Site-level Committee Meeting Summary**

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MN Interagency Fire Center, Grand Rapids, August 26, 2011, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

**Members present:** Dale Erickson, Bob Lintelmann, Dave Parent, Shawn Perich, John Rajala

**Members absent:** Gene Merriam, Mary Richards

**Staff:** Rob Slesak

**Guests:** Tim O'hara

Rob informed the Committee of cuts to the monitoring program budget which will likely result in monitoring not being conducted in FY 2013. Some discussion of implications to forest certification ensued, and it was generally thought that there would not be any negative outcomes to certification if the monitoring was only delayed for one cycle.

The meeting then turned to evaluation of the draft invasive species that Rob had developed for the Committee's evaluation. Discussion initially focused on the severity of threat and whether or not invasive species guidelines were needed and effective. It was generally agreed that communication of the threat was probably the most effective way to slow the spread of invasive plant species, and that some general guidelines would be appropriate. After further discussion, members had several requests for word changes and additional content. Most of the concerns were related to the timing of recommended activities, meaning of specific words, and concerns related to additional work and implementation cost. The additional content included seeking professional assistance as needed and specifically noting that timber harvesting can increase the spread of invasive plant species. The committee worked together to rectify the requested changes and other member concerns, and eventually unanimously adopted the draft guidelines.

Rob then reviewed several key pieces of information related to revision of the riparian guidelines including the historical context, the RSTC process, the RSTC report, the economic analysis, and some guidelines from other states. He then summarized the scoping comments related to the riparian guidelines, noting that there were several common themes to the comments and two broad opposing views. Common themes included a need for simplification and recommended removal of the even/uneven-aged distinction. One of the broad views from the comments was to keep the guidelines flexible with a range of residual basal areas and relatively narrow RMZ widths, while the other recommended relatively wide RMZ's with limited harvesting. Some brief discussion on the upcoming riparian evaluation followed.

Members decided to change the next meeting to Friday, September 16 from 9:30 am to 2 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.