

Minnesota Forest Resources Council
Meeting Minutes
May 16, 1996
Cloquet Forestry Center
Cloquet, Minnesota
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Council Members Present

Paul Ellefson, Bob Dunn, Janet Green, Howard Hedstrom, Kathy McAllister, Norm Moody, Alan Knaeble, Dick Knoll, Bob Oswald, Jerry Rose, Joe Wood, Marcie McLaughlin

Council Member Absent

Judy Hewes

Staff Present

Michael Kilgore, Laurie Zitzman

Call to Order

Paul Ellefson called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Motion: Norm Moody moved and Jan Green seconded the approval of the April 18, 1996, Council meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Motion: Howard Hedstrom moved and Bob Oswald seconded the approval of the May 16, 1996, Council meeting agenda. Motion passed.

Chair's Remarks

Paul Ellefson attended the first meeting of the four guideline development technical teams on April 29, and the Council's Planning Subcommittee on May 6.

Paul distributed a copy of a letter of thanks to Steve Earley for his briefing to the Council on the work and activities of the Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership.

Paul stated the agenda now includes a new item: "Communications to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council". The purpose of this item is to provide an opportunity to receive official correspondence from organizations having an interest in Council's matters. Paul also indicated members attending Council meetings will be given an opportunity to comment on major agenda items at the time they are discussed by the Council.

Executive Director's Report

Expense Forms. Mike Kilgore distributed a copy of a revised Volunteer Expense Form.

Meetings Attended: Mike attended and/or made presentations at the following meetings: Ecosystem Based Management pilot project with Boise Cascade; Superior and Chippewa National Forest Leadership Team; DNR's Regional Administrators' Meeting; Timber Producers Association Annual Meeting; SAF Accreditation Review of the University of Minnesota's Forest Resources Curriculum; University of

Minnesota, College of Natural Resources Alumni Banquet.

Project Consultant Position. Mike indicated interviews for this position will be held in St. Paul on May 21. Mike requested a Council member to sit in on these interviews. Bob Dunn offered to participate in the interviews. Mike indicated his goal is to have this person employed by the June Council meeting.

Budget Information. Mike will be preparing preliminary Sustainable Forest Resources Act and Minnesota Forest Resources Council budget information for discussion by the Council in June.

June Council Meeting. Mike indicated that he would like to have the next Council meeting (June 20) at the new Forest Service Office in Grand Marais. Howard Hedstrom is willing to give the Council a tour of his facilities. The attire is to be casual.

Communications to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council.

Paul Ellefson circulated a fax he received from the LCMR regarding a field tour of white pine management in northeast Minnesota. Mike Kilgore indicated he extended an invitation to make a brief presentation on the Council during the tour, but such a presentation could not be arranged.

Paul stated he received a letter from the St. Louis County Land Commissioner expressing concern over alleged comments made by guideline development staff regarding the appointment of a member to the guideline technical teams. Joe Wood suggested the Council's Personnel Subcommittee look into this issue.

Motion: Paul Ellefson moved and Bob Dunn seconded that the Personnel Subcommittee look into this issue and report back its findings at the June Council meeting. Motion passed.

Proposed Council Protocol Revision

Mike Kilgore reviewed a proposed change to the Council's operating protocols to clarify how the Council will address items placed on the agenda the day of the meeting. Bob Dunn suggested the phrase "formal action" replace "vote" in the proposed language.

Motion: Jan Green moved to amend the protocols with the changes suggested. Seconded by Jerry Rose. Motion passed.

Bob Dunn stated a distinction is needed between subcommittees and task forces, with the former limited to Council members. Bob suggested "these subcommittees" be replaced with "Task Forces" to clarify membership. The phrase "subcommittees shall consist of no more than five Council members" should also be incorporated. Bob further suggested to add "membership" after "vote of the Council", and strike the next two sentences up through "The Council shall not vote...".

Motion: Bob Dunn moved and Joe Wood seconded these changes be adopted to the Protocols. Motion passed.

Staff was requested to inquire with the Attorney General's Office regarding the need to include in the Council's protocols conditions for closing a meeting as per the state's Open Meeting Law.

Council Office Location

Mike Kilgore reviewed cost information associated with relocated the Council's offices outside the DNR building. Three alternative locations were examined, with additional annual costs ranging from \$17,000 to \$24,000. The Council discussed the Council's office location at length. Jerry Rose stressed the importance of ensuring the Council was fulfilling its mission, and indicated his full support for the Council regardless of where the office is located.

Motion: Jan Green moved and Joe Wood seconded that \$25,000 be annually allocated to relocate the Council office; that the Executive Director decide where the office should be relocated; to explore opportunities for continuing financial and staff support to the Council from the DNR where appropriate; and to inform the House and Senate Environment and Natural Resource Finance Committee Chairs regarding the use of funds to relocate the Council office. Motion passed. Abstentions: Jerry Rose and Paul Ellefson.

Procedures Document: Landscape-Based Forest Resources Planning

Mike Kilgore reviewed with the Council the revised draft procedures document for developing a landscape-based forest resources planning program. The two issues discussed were the timing of hiring a coordinator for this activity, and the involvement of the Partnership and others as the landscape planning framework is developed and implemented.

Motion: Howard Hedstrom moved and Marcie McLaughlin seconded that the landscape-based forest resources planning and coordination procedures document be approved and that it reflects the Executive Director discretion to identify the landscape planning coordinator by October. Motion passed

Motion: Jerry Rose moved and Alan Knaeble seconded the motion to add a paragraph on page two that discusses the Council reaching out to the Partnership and other organizations with responsibility for landscape based planning/management in developing this process. Motion passed.

Gabe Horner and Bridget Hust provided comments to the Council on the revised draft landscape-based planning and coordination procedures and timetable document.

Timber Harvesting Guideline Technical Team Update

Mike Phillips updated the Council on the status and activities of the Technical Teams. Mike distributed to Council members a copy of the Technical Team Meeting dates for 1996. He also distributed proposed revised rosters of the technical teams. Howard Hedstrom inquired whether the Forest Soils Productivity Team was planning to (or should) focus the scope of its work on forest productivity.

Motion: Jan Green moved and Bob Oswold seconded to approve the membership of the Riparian Zone Management, Forest Soil Productivity, and Site Level Forest Wildlife Habitat guideline technical teams rosters (dated May 16, 1996) as presented, and tentatively approve the Historical/Cultural Resources Team roster pending additional information about the ability of certain members to participate. Motion passed.

Presentation: Interagency Information Cooperative

Jack Shea gave a presentation to the Council on the Interagency Information Cooperative. Jack explained the work to date to organize the cooperative, and asked for Council member input regarding priority data needs and additional cooperative members. Jack explained the idea of creating a Homepage on the Internet for the Council, Partnership, and other activities associated with implementing the Sustainable Forest Resources Act. Jack indicated he will be updating the Council periodically on the work of the

cooperative.

Planning Subcommittee Update

Dave Zumeta provided an update on the work of the Council's Planning Subcommittee to review existing statewide forest resource planning requirements and recommend possible changes. Dave indicated the Subcommittee met on May 6th and will meet again on June 10 before forwarding a draft report to the Council for its consideration.

Council Member Comments

Jerry Rose discussed collaboration as a model of how organizations can interact and work together, using the Council and Forest Resources Partnership as an example of how collaborative approach can work to the benefit of both organizations.

Kathy McAllister announced she has accepted a position as the deputy regional forester for the USDA-Forest Service's Northern Region effective July 1996. Consequently, June will be her last Council meeting. Kathy indicated the Eastern Region's regional forester has written a letter to the Governor indicating Kathy's transfer and suggesting Steve Eubanks, Chippewa National Forest supervisor, be the Forest Service's representative on the Council.

Howard Hedstrom stated he believes there are misperceptions about the Council's responsibilities and activities, and suggested the need to continue providing factual information on the Council's activities and accomplishments.

Public Comments

Jack Rajala provided a brief update on the work of the Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership, and indicated the next Partnership meeting will be on May 23 in Grand Rapids.

Bridget Hust indicated that the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy received a grant to hire an individual to help write forest land stewardship contracts and plans this summer.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council will be on Thursday, June 20, 1996, at the Forest Service office in Grand Marais. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Motion: Bob Dunn moved and Norm Moody seconded that the Council stand in adjournment. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.