

Minnesota Forest Resources Council
Minutes of the Council's 13th Meeting
December 19, 1996
The Holiday Inn, Duluth, MN
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Bob Dunn, Paul Ellefson, Steve Eubanks, Janet Green, Judy Hewes, Alan Knaeble, Richard Knoll, Jack LaVoy, Marcie McLaughlin, Norm Moody, Robert Oswald, Jerry Rose, Joe Wood

Council Members Absent: All Council members present.

Alternates Present: N/A

Staff Present: Mike Kilgore, Sarah Risser

Call to Order

Paul Ellefson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Paul mentioned that the Council met in executive session at 8:00 that morning to conclude the performance review of the Council's executive director, Mike Kilgore; the Council is pleased with Mike's performance.

Approval of Minutes

Janet Green requested that any revised or formally approved documents discussed at Council meetings be included as an attachment to the meeting minutes.

Motion: Steve Eubanks moved to approve the November 21, 1996 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Marcie McLaughlin moved to approve the December 19, 1996 meeting agenda. Motion passed.

Chair's Remarks

Paul Ellefson and Mike Kilgore met with Senator Morse to brief him on FRC programs and to better understand the Council's granting and contracting authority when transferring money to groups such as the Research Advisory Committee. The Senator is interested in the Council and enthusiastic about its programs and initiatives.

Administrative Duties: 1) Paul Ellefson assisted in Mike Kilgore's performance review. He expressed appreciation to Judy Hewes for taking the lead on this effort. 2) Paul participated in the interview process for the new landscape-based planning coordinator on December 16, 1996.

Future Meetings: The January Council meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Brainerd and will include a presentation by Don MacKay on the economic analysis of guideline implementation. The Council will meet in the Twin Cities in February, March and April.

Executive Director's Report

Mike Kilgore reiterated that four candidates were interviewed for the landscape-based planning coordinator position in St. Paul on December 16, 1996. An offer has been extended with the goal of

having the new coordinator attend the January meeting and be on board in February. Office space for this individual will likely be located out state and is currently being pursued.

The joint DNR/MFRC forest resources modeling position description has been drafted. Comments on the draft position description should be submitted to Mike by the end of December. The DNR will coordinate the hiring process for this new position.

Mike assisted in selecting a vendor to produce a video on forestry in Minnesota that will further K-12 continuing education activities. The development of the video is being managed by public affairs specialist, Meg Hanisch.

The Research Advisory Committee will meet on January 15, 1997 at the North Central Forest Experiment Station in St. Paul. The agenda includes a discussion of the following: 1) the *Draft Strategic Research Assessment Document*, 2) a workshop on pertinent modeling issues, 3) an approach to effectiveness monitoring, and 4) an update on RAC recommended research projects. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

The Interagency Information Cooperative held a workshop on December 18, 1996 in St. Paul and will hold two additional workshops--on February 5, 1997 in Bemidji and February 6, 1997 in Duluth--to discuss priority issues and projects. Interested individuals should contact Dave Zumeta for further information.

Communications to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council

No letters were received by the Forest Resources Council since last meeting in November.

Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership

At the request of Janet Green, Terry Weber, the Partnership's Coordinator, distributed the four MOUs produced and passed by the Partnership to date.

Terry reported that the Partnership won't develop timber harvesting and forest management guidelines. He also mentioned that the Partnership is looking forward to working with the Council on regional planning issues; they have created a task group to help facilitate input to the regional groups.

Review of Council Accomplishments: 1996

Mike Kilgore provided an overview of the Council's 1996-97 work plan and discussed specific accomplishments. Mike indicated that the Council might improve its effectiveness in the upcoming year by: 1) being more visible, 2) spending more time on substantive issues, 3) focusing on information and education, and 4) continuing to improve trust between Council members as well as between the Council and other interests.

Paul Ellefson then encouraged individual Council members to share their impressions of the Council's current status and ideas for strategically guiding the Council through the upcoming year. In general the Council agreed that:

The progress made on the timber harvesting and forest management guideline development process is impressive; Mike Phillips and the individual technical teams are doing an outstanding job. The regional committees will be an important element to realizing the Council's overall objective. Collaboration is a key tenet of sustainability.

The Council's relationship with and understanding of the Partnership has improved significantly over the past year; however, the Council needs to continue to work on this relationship.

It is important to have a technical understanding of pertinent forestry issues in Minnesota.

It is extremely important to keep up-to-date with key forestry-related activities throughout the state.

The Council should re-familiarize themselves with GEIS findings and continue to work on implementing GEIS recommendations.

The Council should continue to place emphasis on communication and public outreach.

The Council should move ahead with work on monitoring programs.

Review of Draft Biennial Report

Sarah Risser led the Council in a discussion of the final draft version of the Biennial Report. Council members provided input into the report. Sarah agreed to incorporate suggested changes and mail the final draft version of the report in early January for the Council's final review and approval. Sarah indicated that the report will likely be mailed directly to Council members shortly after the regular Council mailing.

Update: Timber Harvesting and Forest Management Guidelines Development

Mike Phillips invited Council members to attend Best Management Practices field audits.

The soil productivity and riparian scoping documents have been finalized and will be presented to the Council at the January meeting. Mike Phillips received 41 individual comments on the riparian, 47 on the wildlife, and 8 on the soils scoping documents. The wildlife and riparian teams broke into subcommittees to deal with the comments received. The comment period on the cultural/historic scoping document ends on January 14, 1997.

There have been some membership changes to the technical teams. Mike will distribute updated rosters at the January meeting.

Mike Phillips mentioned that the Native American Indian community expressed interest in getting involved in Council activities and suggested putting an education program together with the Indian community.

Don MacKay attended the last Partnership meeting to discuss the economic analysis of guideline implementation.

Presentation: Biological Diversity Principles, Concepts, and Issues

Peter Reich, of the University of Minnesota, gave a presentation to the Council on biological diversity. His talk focused on concepts and on-going research in Minnesota.

Presentation: Report of the White Pine Regeneration Strategies Work Group

Bruce Zumbahlen presented the findings and recommendations of the White Pine Strategies Work Group to the Council. The Council had a lengthy discussion regarding its role in working with and responding to these recommendations.

The Council requested that staff work with Bruce Zumbahlen and the White Pine Strategies Work Group to develop an implementation plan based on realistic funding expectations and bring this back to the Council for consideration at the January meeting.

Council Member Comments

Jack LaVoy - Expressed concern over the Earth First! demonstration in the Superior National Forest and commented that the Council provides an appropriate forum for discussing such forest resource management issues.

Bob Dunn - Mentioned that The Nature Conservancy participated in a global warming conference where there was a lively discussion on the effects of global warming on agriculture and forestry.

Janet Green - Suggested that Council members familiarize themselves with two DNR publications: "Timber Harvesting on State Lands" and the DNR report on fuel wood. Janet also suggested that the FRC consider using SFRA implementation funds to digitize visual BMP sensitivity routes.

Steve Eubanks - Mentioned there was a good turnout for the Forest Plan Revision meeting in Grand Rapids earlier this month and that the International Boreal Forest Research Association will meet on August 4 - 8, 1997 in Duluth.

Jerry Rose Distributed *Sustainable Forestry Initiatives in Minnesota*, a paper written by Mike Kilgore, Dave Zumeta, and himself.

Public Comments

Howard Hedstrom - Voiced his perception that Minnesota's main environmental groups are associated with Earth First!

Bob Schimek - Mentioned that Minnesota's Native Indian tribes own significant forest resources and that the Council should consider including Native American representation on the Council. Bob also indicated that non-tribal forest resources are of significant economic benefit to Native American Indians and that the Council should consider holding a meeting at a Native Indian Reservation.

Dave Zumeta - Stated that he will serve as the interim coordinator for the Interagency Information Cooperative until a replacement for Jack Shea is found.

Lynn Rogers - Expressed his appreciation for Jack Rajala's hard work on the White Pine Regeneration Strategies Work Group.

Jim Sanders - Supervisor for the Superior National Forest and alternate for Steve Eubanks was introduced.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forest Resources Council will be from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday January 16, 1996 at the Holiday Inn in Brainerd.

Motion: Alan Knaeble moved to adjourn the December Council meeting.
The Council adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Sarah M. Risser