

Minnesota Forest Resources Council
Minutes of the Council's 18th Meeting - June 18 and 19, 1997
Best Western Holland House and Suites
Detroit Lakes Minnesota

Council Members Present: Bob Dunn, Paul Ellefson, Steve Eubanks, Jan Green, Judy Hewes, Alan Knaeble, Dick Knoll, Marcie McLaughlin, Norm Moody, Robert Oswald, Jerry Rose

Alternates Present: Tim O'Hara (alternate for Jack LaVoy)

Council Members Absent: Joe Wood

Staff Present: Mike Kilgore, Sarah Risser

Call to Order: Paul Ellefson called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday June 18, 1997.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Jerry Rose moved to approve the April 17, 1997 minutes. The motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Steve Eubanks moved to approve the June 18 and 19, 1997 agenda. The motion passed.

Chair's Remarks

Paul Ellefson updated the Council on his current activities indicating that he has been attending to a number of Council-related administrative details such as responding to inquiries and advising staff. Paul attended the following meetings since the Council last met: the Research Advisory Committee's Twin Cities Public Forum to Identify Priority Research Needs, the Council's Personnel and Finance Subcommittee, the DNR's white pine/public involvement workshop, and with staff from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota's Resources (LCMR).

Executive Director's Report

Mike Kilgore updated the Council on his recent activities and reviewed a number of administrative items.

Mike distributed and reviewed the final conference committee appropriation and rider language for Sustainable Forest Resources Act Implementation and the Minnesota Forest Resources Council.

Discussed the distribution of year-end contingency funds.

Clarified that the July Council meeting will be held at the University of Minnesota's Forestry Center in Cloquet and will include a detailed overview of compliance monitoring by Mike Phillips.

Clarified that the August Council meeting will be held in Grand Rapids and likely include a field tour with the LCMR.

Communications to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council

A letter on behalf of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council welcoming President-Designate Mark Yudof to Minnesota and Yudof's response.

An April 29, 1997 correspondence from Hal Rime and Bruce Barker of the Timber Tourism Visual Quality Committee discussing the Committee's structure and work and offering to make a presentation to the Council on progress to date regarding voluntary visual quality and Paul Ellefson's June 1, 1997 enthusiastic response.

Jack LaVoy's June 10, 1997 intent of resignation from the Council.

*FY 1998-99 MFRC Work Plan and SFRA Implementation Budget

Mike Kilgore met with the Personnel and Finance subcommittee (Paul Ellefson, Jack LaVoy, Judy Hewes, and Janet Green) to discuss the draft work plan. Mike distributed the December 1995 work plan as a context piece before reviewing the draft June 1997 work plan. Mike then distributed the Sustainable Forest Resources Act 1996-97 draft spending plan as a context piece for discussing the SFRA Implementation Budget.

Motion: Judy Hewes moved to approve the June 1997 Work Plan and FY '98 - '99 Implementation Budget. The motion passed.

*SFRA Monitoring Programs Development Procedures Document

Mike Kilgore reviewed *Sustainable Forest Resources Act Monitoring Programs Development and Procedures Document*, discussing the three types of monitoring programs underway and the need to establish stronger linkages between the monitoring programs.

Motion: Steve Eubanks moved to approve the Monitoring Programs Development Procedures Document. The motion passed.

*Potential FY 1997 SFRA Appropriation Expenditures

Norm Moody submitted a proposal to the Council to appropriate a portion of the additional year-end Council funds to counties for basic computer resources and information technology development. Norm emphasized that ensuring adequate information technology to counties is critical to the success of the Landscape-Based program. Norm Moody introduced Mark (Chip) Lohmeir, Commissioner of Becker County.

Motion: Janet Green moved to approve Norm Moody's proposal. The motion passed.

Citizens Concern Process: Procedures Document and Background Materials

Sarah Risser presented an update on implementation of the public concerns registration process. Given the high degree of uncertainty pertaining to resources needed and, consequently, costs, Sarah suggested a phased implementation program. The Council recommended that Sarah proceed with a phased implementation of this program and report back to the Council with some frequency.

Update: Timber Harvesting and Forest Management Guideline Development

Mike Phillips distributed a revised timeline for completing the Timber Harvesting and Forest Management Guidelines. Mike suggested that Council members encourage their appointees to work toward collaboration and consensus. Mike voiced his concern that the technical teams may be too far along with the process to easily accommodate new members.

The integration team is currently discussing guideline format and will lead a field tour in July; a background paper on monitoring is currently underway and should be completed shortly. Finally, Mike thanked Bob Schimek for arranging a Native American Indian presentation and the recent Historical/Cultural Tour.

Paul Ellefson requested that the technical teams look at the guideline development document and report back on its feasibility, and suggested revisions.

The Council broke for dinner and enjoyed a presentation by representatives of the Native American Indian Community.

Thursday June 19, 1997

Paul Ellefson reconvened the June Council meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday June 19, 1997.

Landscape-Based Forest Resources Planning and Coordination

Dave Miller set the context for discussing landscape-based delineation by reviewing the previously-established criteria for landscape regions, namely: 1) that they are based on already existing ecological classifications; 2) that they recognize existing political and administrative boundaries; and 3) that they are administratively feasible.

Dave summarized the stakeholder landscape-delineation workshop that was held in Cloquet in early May mentioning that participants generally fell into two camps: those that preferred the DNR's Ecological Classification System boundaries and those that preferred county boundaries (because counties already comprise manageable social and political units.) Fortunately there is significant overlap between county lines and ECS boundaries.

The Council agreed to take the western, prairie, region of the state into consideration but to recognize that it is a lower priority for the Council. Paul suggested exploring other mechanisms for communicating with this region.

After discussion, the Council agreed to the landscape regions shown in Figure 1.

Motion: Bob Dunn moved to approve the new landscape regions. The motion passed.

*Principles and Goals of Landscape Planning and Coordination

The Council began to discuss the principles and goals to guide the landscape-based planning program. The general feeling was that the principles should be the sideboards to guide the Council whereas the goals should specifically describe where the program is headed.

The Council agreed that they needed more time for discussion of this topic.

Motion: Marcie McLaughlin moved to postpone the discussion on principles and goals until the July meeting. Motion passed.

Presentation by Tom Nelson of the Quincy Library Group

Tom Nelson presented an overview of the issues and work of the Quincy Library Group. His presentation was enthusiastically received.

Presentation by Dave Heinzen on Regional Planning Committees

Dave Heinzen provided an overview of the availability of forest resource information to support the landscape coordination program.

Council Member Comments

Alan Knaeble emphasized the importance of economic considerations.

Norm Moody commented on how much he enjoyed Tom Nelson's presentation.

Steve Eubanks felt that the Council needs to discuss how local groups come together and observed that the most committed people are often self-selected. Steve also distributed information on the Forest Services's Forest Plan Revision and encouraged people to call him if they have any questions or concerns.

Dick Knoll attended a Stewardship Committee meeting.

Marcie McLaughlin passed out the current issue of the Rural Partners' newsletter. Rural public policy will be the topic for Rural Partners' Annual Meeting September 9, 1997 in New Ulm.

Jerry Rose mentioned that he has been in contact with the secretary of agriculture who is interested in sustainable development and also under the impression that Minnesota is further ahead than many areas of the country. Jerry also mentioned that Dennis Ingvaldson, assistant director of the Division of Forestry at the DNR will assume the position of supervisor in the Deer River area on July 8. Bob Tomlinson will act as assistant director until a permanent assignment is made.

Tim O'Hara requested the opportunity to show a short video tape on AF&PA's Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Judy Hewes expressed how much she enjoyed the presentations over the last 1.5 days and feels that the Council is moving forward in many ways.

Public Comments

Terry Weber of the Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership mentioned the following: 1) the dispersed recreation task group is preparing a map and completing a user survey--their hope is to enhance management in recreation areas; 2) the Partnership is sensitive that the guidelines be finished in a timely manner and requested involvement up front so that finalization goes smoothly; 3) the Partnership has a lot of questions about the landscape-based initiative and appreciates the Council's efforts to stay in close communication.

Motion: Norm Moody moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

Paul Ellefson adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday July 19, 1997.