

**Minnesota Forest Resources Council**  
**Minutes of the Council's 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting - January 15, 1998**  
**Champion International Training Center - Sartell, MN**

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

**Council Members Absent:** Marcie McLaughlin, Joe Wood

Staff Present: Mike Kilgore

Call to Order: Paul Ellefson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Mike Sullivan, Public Relations Director, Champion International, welcomed the Council and talked about the training facility where the Council's meeting was being held.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Jan Green moved to approve the November 20, 1997 meeting minutes. Wayne Brandt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Wayne Brandt recommended minor changes to the December minutes. Under Election of Officers, the minutes should reflect that Paul Ellefson turned the chair over to Judy Hewes for election of the chair position, and that prior to election of both the chair and vice-chair, there was a request for additional nominations. Under the Economic and Financial Analysis Subcommittee Report, a word was omitted from the fourth line.

Jan Green stated that the minutes should reflect that the Council discussed the requirements of Chapter 15 and that the Executive Director was asked to check into it.

Bob Dunn stated that under his comments at the end of the meeting it should read forest "bank" not "book" that provides assistance in sustainable forest management to private landowners.

Motion: Judy Hewes moved to approve the December 18, 1997 meeting minutes with the amendments that were noted. Bob Oswald seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Jerry Rose moved to approve the agenda. Dick Knoll seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chair's Remarks

Over the past month, Paul Ellefson has attended to a number of Council administrative duties, i.e., counseling staff, answering numerous telephone calls regarding Council business, etc. He also attended the following meetings: 1) Rod Sando and Patty Burke, Department of Natural

Resources, to discuss status of Council activities; 2) staff from North Central Forest Experiment Station to discuss the economic analysis/Memorandum of Understanding; and 3) Guidelines Integration Team to discuss a set of procedures to guide its work.

Paul also noted future meetings: 1) legislature hearings (not yet scheduled) to review the Council's programs; 2) the Minnesota Association of County Land Commissioners annual meeting in early February to provide an update on Council activities; and 3) a meeting with the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy and the Minnesota Audubon Society on January 16 at 2:30 p.m. at the College of Natural Resources Administration Building to review the progress of Council programs. He welcomed participation by other Council members.

### Executive Director's Report

Mike Kilgore distributed and discussed the following items:

The final draft schedule of Council meetings for this year. With the exception of June and August, the Council will meet monthly. Additionally, a two-day meeting is set for May. Technical Team external review process - following up on the request from last month's meeting, Mike obtained a nonindustrial private landowner, Carl Wegner, for the historic/cultural resources guidelines and an out of state reviewer, John Zasada, NCFES in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, for the riparian zone management guidelines. The last set of guidelines are scheduled to be submitted in about 10 days.

Letter of Understanding with the Council and North Central Forest Experiment Station. This was presented at the December Council meeting. It has now been signed, and we are in the final stages of working out the details for a cost agreement. Work to draft a detailed work plan will begin next week. It will then be reviewed by the Council's Economic Analysis Subcommittee and then brought to the Council in March for consideration.

Mike noted that he is setting up meetings with legislative committee chairs for hearings on the Council's programs. They will likely be scheduled in early to mid-February.

MFRC staffing. Sarah Risser will be on leave through at least the end of February.

### Communications to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council

A letter from Don Janes, Sierra Club, dated December 15, 1997, concerning the Council's regional committees' representation and appointments. A response letter has been sent.

A letter from Don Arnosti, Minnesota Director, National Audubon Society, and Peter Bachman, Executive Director, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy dated December 31, 1997, requesting information about FRC programs and how they are implementing the mitigation strategies in the GEIS. Mike Kilgore has set a meeting to discuss this with them for Friday, January 16, at the College of Natural Resources offices. Council members are encouraged to participate in the meeting.

A letter from Cheryl Larson, Minnesota Lakes Association expressing its support for a benefit analysis as well as a cost analysis of the guidelines. Mike Phillips, Guidelines Coordinator is in

the process of preparing a response.

A letter to Bernard Brommer, President, Minnesota AFL-CIO thanking him for its strong support of the Council's work.

Partnership Update

Terry Weber, Executive Director, stated that the Partnership will be meeting on January 23 in Grand Rapids and will dialogue with the Council's Landscape Planning Subcommittee. The Partnership supports the historic/cultural guidelines.

Historic/Cultural Resources Technical Team Guidelines

Mike Kilgore stated that this is the first of the four technical team reports and draft guidelines that will be presented to the Council. The Council should focus on reviewing the process by which the guidelines team developed its guidelines and then accept and forward them on to the guidelines integration team.

Al Jones, team leader, gave the Council a report of the team's membership and their respective backgrounds, an overview of its mission, procedures and meetings.

Pat Emerson, member of the Historic/Cultural Technical Team, reviewed the organization of the draft guidelines in relation to the scoping document approved by the Council in February 1997. The first three sections contain a lot of background text because there is not as much knowledge of cultural resources in the forestry community. The guidelines are very clear as to where existing laws and regulations apply. The team recognized the need to provide a range of recommendations given the target audience. The team also went through the document to expressly identify aspects that could have financial or economic effects (practices) and give to Mike Vasievich as he develops his work plan. She then highlighted the peer review comments and others that have been received and incorporated into the document.

The consensus from the Council was that this was a very thorough and readable product of the technical team. The report is valuable in itself as a reference document and representation of the thinking that came together. The Council recommended that all the technical team documents be put together as a reference document and a history of the team be documented and included as well.

Motion: Jan Green moved to accept the Cultural Resource Guidelines For Timber Harvesting and Forest Management and forward them to the Guidelines Integration Team. Steve Eubanks seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Council expressed its appreciation to the technical team for its hard work and excellent outcomes. Jan Green suggested the Council provide a more formal recognition for all the technical team members at a future date.

Update: Timber Harvesting and Forest Management Guidelines

Mike Phillips provided an update to the Council on the guidelines integration team meeting. He distributed the meeting minutes, an updated list of the integration team members, its meeting schedule, and an updated integration team protocols. Mike Vasievich and Chris Edgar attended the meeting to join a broad-ranged discussion on the economic issues. The technical team leaders have been asked to put together a list of economic analysis questions that their respective team identified to be used to develop the work plan. Mike Vasievich will attend the Council's March meeting to outline the economic analysis work plan.

Mike stated that a consultant will meet with the integration team next month to talk about a format for the integrated guidelines, set time frames, and benchmarks. Mike has developed a list of the timber harvesting activities and the integration team will look to see where there may or may not be conflicts. In order to maintain the integrity of the technical team process, any significant changes proposed will go back to the teams for discussion and resolution.

In response to a question from Dick Knoll about whether the current Water Quality BMPs document may be changed as a part of the integrated guidelines process, Mike responded that the current document will stand as it is written today.

Mike also distributed a status report of the Council's \$20,000 contract with the DNR Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program to provide support for compilation of information needed for a booklet on endangered and threatened species in the forested areas of Minnesota.

#### Developing a Common Vision for Minnesota's Forests

Paul Ellefson recalled that the Council discussed the draft vision statement at its November and December meetings. At the December meeting, the Council focused on how the vision statement could integrate the site-level and landscape-level goals and be more reflective of the ideas that came out of the GEIS Implementation Roundtable Report. Mike Kilgore then reviewed the changes based on that meeting's discussion.

Motion: Norm Moody moved to adopt A Vision for Minnesota's Forest Resources. Jerry Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mike Kilgore asked Council members to engage a discussion on the most important goals, and at the same time, identify the goals that may be the most difficult to achieve.

A common theme throughout the Council member comments was the need for gathering accurate, current information on the state of the forest (better inventory and better merging of the available information) as being critical to achieving many of the goals stated.

Jan Green - stated that she believes the goal of delineation of cover type, age, and class is essential to achieving a sustainably managed forest goal.

Bob Dunn - stated that the first four goals are strategic in nature and are the most important.

Steve Eubanks - stated that we must do a multi-ownership assessment of the "state of the forest." It is essential for the Council to know what is there to focus strategic policy.

Jerry Rose - stated that we are already involved in implementing most of the goals so they are all important.

Norm Moody - stated that the Council needs a better inventory and better merging of the current information about the forest in order to know what are focus has to be.

Judy Hewes - stated that she believes the priority goals are forests are sustainable managed, forest practices are implemented in effective manner, planning is coordinated, and funding is essential.

Bob Oswald - stated that priorities goals are no net loss of forest land, forest-based economic opportunities, the private rights of landowners are recognized, multi-resource information systems that are comprehensive and long term funding is essential to accomplish the goals.

Dick Knoll - stated that a lot of what we are doing is great, but a priority is to get this information disseminated to the citizenry.

#### Landscape Program Pilot Implementation

Dave Miller gave Council members an update on soliciting participation on the Northeast Regional Landscape Committee. The local media will write news releases, and three information meetings are scheduled in early February: 11<sup>th</sup> at Wolf Ridge in Ely, 10-12 noon; 12<sup>th</sup> at Holiday Inn in Eveleth, 7-9 p.m.; and 17<sup>th</sup> at the Cloquet Forestry Center, 7-9 p.m. Council members were urged to attend one or all of the information meetings. The format of the meetings will be informal/open house. To date, Dave has received two participation forms and commitments from two-to-three others.

Dave Miller noted that there is significant disagreement about how the regional landscape committees are going to self-select. The Council's Landscape Planning Subcommittee will meet with the Partnership on January 23 to discuss and resolve.

Norm Moody stated that county land commissioners want to ensure that the landscape committees' purpose be very clearly stated that it will not directing policy of land management agencies - that it is strictly coordination and cooperation.

Dave Miller stated that the ad-hoc landscape assessment group is still working to identify the data needed and who will put it together for the regional committees. Also, he will continue to work with the University of Minnesota staff on its Regional Partnerships Initiative for coordinating efforts.

#### Citizen Concerns Referral Process

Mike Kilgore stated that the Sustainable Forest Resources Act directs the Council to establish a process whereby citizens can register concerns over potentially negligent timber harvesting and forest management practices. He then gave an overview of the process as it is defined and handed out the information brochure, application form, and a sheet that describes the process procedures. Sarah Risser has worked closely with the Minnesota Logger Education Program in developing this process. To date, the Council has hired a consultant contractor who will be responsible for gathering the background information and following up on complaints. A 1-800 number has been set up in the Council's office. The Council has allocated \$10,000 for this fiscal year. The process will be operational by next week.

#### Presentation: Sustainable Forest Resource Management Video and Education Materials

Mike Kilgore stated that the Council allocated \$40,000 for developing education materials on sustainable forest management. Meg Hanisch, Public Affairs Specialist, DNR, worked with a contractor to develop a 18-minute video tape and teacher's guide that introduces sustainable forest resource management through economy, environment, and community. The Council then viewed the video tape and were very impressed and pleased.

Jan Hatley, an elementary teacher, attended the Council meeting to say thank you for allocating funds to this project and stressed the importance of making these kinds of education resources available to schools.

Meg Hanisch stated that she has printed 1,000 copies and will send an order form out to every school's environmental education contact and in the Arbor Month mailing. The information will explain how teacher's can use this information with the outcomes of the state's graduation standards.

Meg Hanisch engaged the Council in a discussion about ideas for direction on future environmental education projects. Most Council members felt that the available funds are best directed towards furthering distribution of the current video, but also liked the idea of producing shorter follow-up videos that focus on a more specific subject. Meg also suggested general forestry learning trunks that would be available to the classroom. She has received many requests for such a learning tool.

The Council recommended Mike Kilgore and Meg Hanisch pursue the ideas suggested, and seek out additional partners that could help make this happen.

#### Council Member Comments

Jan Green - provided copies to Council members of the NCFES document, " Ecologically Based Forest Management on Private Lands".

Bob Dunn - handed out an information sheet on the forest bank that he mentioned at the last meeting.

Bob Oswald - noted that the AFL-CIO will be screening candidates for endorsement for governor. The Wood Fiber Council will make annual legislative visits on February 9-11, 1998.

Judy Hewes - noted the Upper Midwest Hospitality show on February 1-3, 1998 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Steve Eubanks - distributed a copy of an opinion article printed in the Bemidji Pioneer that he felt was balanced. He also provided brief update on the National Forests plan revision.

Wayne Brandt - stated that he viewed the Little Alfie sale (had photos for Council members to look at).

Alan Knaeble - noted the rally of loggers that will come to Minneapolis to show their support for the logging industry in the Little Alfie case.

Norm Moody - stated that the county may have a timber sale similar in nature to the Little Alfie.

#### Upcoming Meetings

The Council's February meeting is scheduled in St. Paul on February 19.

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

Paul Ellefson adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 15, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Blom