

Minnesota Forest Resources Council

Meeting Minutes -- May 21, 1998

Deep Portage Conservation Reserve, Hackensack, MN

Council Members Present: Wayne Brandt, Bob Dunn, Paul Ellefson, Jan Green, Alan Knaeble, Dick Knoll, Marcie McLaughlin, Norm Moody, Bob Oswold, Jerry Rose, Joe Wood

Council Members Absent: Steve Eubanks, Judy Hewes

Council Alternates Present: Jim Sanders for Steve Eubanks

Staff Present: Mike Kilgore

Call to Order

Paul Ellefson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and welcomed Jim Sanders to the meeting as an alternate for Steve Eubanks. Molly Malecek, Deep Portage's Program Director, welcomed the MFRC to Deep Portage and gave a brief overview of the Reserve.

Approval of April 16, 1998 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Dick Knoll moved to approve the April 16, 1998 meeting minutes. Jerry Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Wayne Brandt moved to approve the May 21, 1998 agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Norm Moody. The motion passed.

Chair's Remarks

Paul Ellefson reported on the following activities regarding the MFRC:

- Conducted a meeting of the Personnel and Finance Committee to discuss FY 1999 Supplemental Budget allocations, staffing and office space, and development of a proposed FY 2000-01 SFRA implementation budget.

- Worked with MFRC staff and chair of the Research Advisory Committee to review progress to date in developing the research directions document and assist in finalizing that document. A draft report has been prepared for review by the Committee. The RAC will meet in June to finalize the report and forward it to the MFRC for action in July.
- Attended an Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) meeting with Mike Kilgore and Al Sullivan to present the MFRC's vision, goals, and topics brochure regarding sustaining MN's forest resources as well as discuss the status of the research directions document. LCMR had significant interest in both the MFRC's vision and goals and the priority research needs identified in the research directions document.

Executive Director's Report

Mike Kilgore updated the Council members on the following items:

- **MFRC Operating Protocols** were distributed. Mike indicated this version replaces previous versions.
- **MFRC Vision Statement.** A copy of the MFRC's Vision brochure was distributed. Mike indicated this brochures was distributed at a recent meeting of the LCMR. Mike acknowledged Meg Hanisch and others from the DNR for the key role they played in the layout and printing of the MFRC's Vision brochure. Additional copies of the brochure are available.
- **MFRC Newsletter.** A copy of the MFRC's spring 1998 newsletter was distributed. Mike acknowledged Meg Hanisch and Tami Glassel (DNR-Forestry) for their help in printing the newsletter. Additional copies of the newsletter are available.
- **New Member.** Mike indicated that recent legislation added a representative of the MN Indian Affairs Council to the Forest Resources Council. Mike indicated that a letter has been sent to the Indian Affairs Council welcoming them to the MFRC and that, to date, no response has been provided from the Indian Affairs Council regarding the appointment of a representative to the MFRC.
- **SFRA Implementation Budgets.** Staff is working with the Personnel and Finance Committee to identify SFRA implementation budget needs for the 2000-01 biennial budget. The Committee will be working to develop a budget recommendation to the full Council for consideration at its July meeting. Mike indicated that since the SFRA implementation appropriation is a pass-through in the DNR's budget, he will be meeting with DNR staff to ensure the Council's budget development process is in step with the DNR's budget development process.
- **MPCA Workshop.** Mike informed Council members (and especially the Economic Analysis Committee) of a workshop on June 11, 1998 sponsored by the MPCA that will discuss using cost-benefit analysis as a tool in making environmental policy decisions, and encouraged their attendance.
- **Staff Assistant.** Mike has announced the project consultant position and interviewed candidates. He has made an offer to one applicant and is waiting for a reply.

- **Upcoming Meetings.** The July Council meeting will be held at the Grand View Lodge near Nisswa, on July 16th. Note this a change in location from what is indicated on the 1998 MFRC meeting calendar. Thanks to Judy Hewes for making the arrangements with Grand View Lodge. Members needing lodging accommodations at Grand View should contact Erin at 1-800-368-1885 prior to June 19th. The September meeting will be held in Cloquet Minnesota.

Communications to and from the Minnesota Forest Resources Council

Paul Ellefson distributed copies of the following communications to Council members:

- Letter from Sierra Club regarding riparian area designation.
- Letter from the Arrowhead Fly Fishers Club regarding riparian issues.
- Letter from the Minnesota Environmental Partnership regarding the economic analysis.
- Letter from the Trout Unlimited, Minnesota Council, regarding riparian issues.
- Letter from the Rivers Council of Minnesota regarding riparian issues (and response).
- Letter from the Minnesota Forest Industries regarding LCMR proposals.

Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership (MFRP) Update

Jack Rajala reported that the MFRP May meeting was postponed so members could attend the MFRC May meeting. The next MFRP meeting will be in June. In June, the MFRP plans to discuss economics issues, as well as the economic and financial analysis. A letter from the MFRP on riparian zone management was distributed to the MFRC.

MFRC Landscape Program Subcommittee Update

Marcie McLaughlin updated Council members on activities of the Landscape Program Subcommittee relative to the NE regional coordinating committee nominations. An eight person convening group was established. The members are: Tom Martinson, Forrest Johnson, Nancy Odden, Jack Pichotta, Paul Stegmeier, Eric Hofstad, Bob Stine, and Rita Hawrot. The next meetings of the conveners are planned for June 12 and July 17.

Jan Green mentioned that the assessment technical working group is gathering information on the social/economic/ecological aspects of the region for the committee. Dave Miller, Landscape Program Manager, provided detailed information regarding the convener's group and NE regional assessment.

MFRC Committee for Financial Analysis

Bob Dunn reported that the committee is trying to schedule a meeting with Mike Vasievich in the near future to review the status of the financial/economic analysis work.

MFRC Personnel and Financial Committee

Paul Ellefson reported that the last meeting of the Personnel and Finance Committee was in Hinckley, MN on May 5, 1998. The committee discussed supplemental budget allocation, office space and staffing concerns, and strategic council plans for next year. Paul indicated he would like the MFRC to discuss the sunset provision and future SFRA implementation budgets at the July meeting.

Mike Kilgore reviewed the Personnel and Finance Committee's recommendations for allocating the \$150,000 legislative appropriation SFRA implementation available in FY 1999. The Committee's recommendations were to hire a GIS specialist to support the Landscape Planning/Coordination program and other SFRA activities; provide funding to be used for instruction, training, and demonstrations on the application of comprehensive timber harvesting and forest management guidelines currently under development by the MFRC; and secure additional professional support to the MFRC to support its research and analytic needs. The Committee also recommended that any unexpended FY 1998 funds be reallocated toward hiring an additional professional staff support to the Landscape Planning/Coordination program in FY 1999.

Motion: Janet Green moved to approve the FY 1999 Supplemental Budget allocation as recommended by the Personnel and Finance Committee. Bob Oswald seconded the motion. The motion passed. Dick Knoll voted no.

Plan of Work for Addressing Important State Forest Resource Topics

Paul Ellefson provided a brief overview and background regarding the process that the MFRC has been engaged in over the past six months to develop a common vision for Minnesota's forest resources, identify major goals to achieve that vision, and identify major topics that could be significant barriers in achieving the vision and goals. Mike Kilgore reviewed the proposed plan of work for addressing two of the topics judged by the MFRC to be of highest priority: 1) the management and use of nonindustrial private forests in Minnesota; and 2) the availability and accuracy of information about MN's forest resources. Following this overview, the MFRC discussed various aspects of the proposed plan of work. The MFRC supported the use of small committees and/or task forces of the MFRC to help provide input on the scoping and analysis of these issues.

Motion: Janet Green moved the MFRC approve this prospectus and, in its implementation, involve the MFRC and others in developing the concepts of the issue to address each topic

identified in this prospectus. Joe Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Presentation of Proposed Integrated Guidelines

Mike Kilgore provided a historical perspective on the guideline development process, including both the legislative requirements and MFRC-developed procedures to develop comprehensive timber harvesting and forest management guidelines. He also reviewed the MFRC's previous actions regarding proposed technical team guidelines and the Integration Team work. Paul Ellefson indicated that the MFRC's focus should be on the Integration Team's work to develop a set of proposed integrated guidelines and, if deemed appropriate, accept them and move them on to the next phase of the process -- financial/economic analysis. He emphasized that the MFRC was not being asked to approve the substance of the guidelines. Mike Phillips, MFRC's Guideline Development Coordinator, then proceeded to provide an overview of the Integration Team's work to develop an integrated set of timber harvesting and forest management guidelines based on the technical team's proposed guidelines and the MFRC's directions for integration. Mike indicated the Integration Team reached consensus on all aspects of its work except the MFRC's directive to make more explicit the need for flexibility in applying the riparian zone management guidelines to allow for professional judgement and accommodating a range of landowner objectives and site-specific conditions. Mike then presented two proposals for addressing riparian zone management guideline flexibility that were developed by members of the Integration Team.

Motion: Bob Dunn moved the MFRC accept the proposed integrated timber harvesting and forest management guidelines and forward them to the Financial/Economic Analysis team for analysis. Jerry Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed. Alan Knaeble voted no.

Prior to voting on this motion, the MFRC engaged in a lengthy debate over how to address the flexibility language for riparian zone management guidelines. During that discussion, the following amendments to the motion were made:

Motion to Amend: Wayne Brandt moved to accept and forward proposed integrated guidelines for economic analysis utilizing Proposal #2 for riparian zone management with: streams greater than 10 feet and all trout streams to be analyzed at both 100 and 150 feet widths; lakes and open water wetlands greater than or equal to 10 acres and all designated trout lakes to be analyzed at both 100 and 150 widths; and lakes and open water wetlands greater than one acre and less than 10 acres in counties with less than 80 percent of their pre-settlement wetlands intact to be analyzed at both 100 and 150 widths. Dick Knoll seconded the motion. Wayne Brandt, Joe Wood, Bob Oswald, Dick Knoll, Alan Knaeble, and Norm Moody voted yes. Paul Ellefson, Jerry Rose, Bob Dunn, Janet Green, and Marcie McLaughlin voted no. The motion to amend did not pass.

Motion to Amend: Marcie McLaughlin moved to accept and forward proposed integrated guidelines for economic analysis utilizing Proposal #1 and to direct the financial/economic analysis team to evaluate both 100 and 150 ft. riparian zone widths and 25 and 40 square ft. residual basal area for even and uneven-aged management, respectively. Jerry Rose seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to Amend: Wayne Brandt moved to amend M. McLaughlin's motion to amend by using Table #1 of Proposal to replace Tables #1 & 2 in Proposal #1 and instruct the Integration Team to make appropriate changes to Table #1, including adding other appropriate landowner objectives, by consensus. Dick Knoll seconded the motion. Wayne Brandt, Joe Wood, Bob Oswald, Dick Knoll, Alan Knaeble, and Norm Moody voted yes. Jerry Rose, Bob Dunn, Janet Green, and Marcie McLaughlin voted no. There was one abstention. The motion to amend the amended motion did not pass.

Public Comments:

The following individuals provided comments on the motion to accept and forward to the financial/economic analysis team as amended:

Jack Rajala -- discussed the MFRP position on riparian zone management guidelines and emphasized the need to look at identifying the benefits associated with the guidelines.

Harry Fisher -- emphasized the need to evaluate the costs of implementing the guidelines before supporting them, indicating that loggers will bear the additional costs.

Betsy Daub -- indicated that public review is the appropriate time to make changes to the guidelines, and that changing the recommendations without consensus from the technical teams risks losing support for the MFRC.

Jim Erkel -- concerned that MFRC not step back from mitigation measures called for in the GEIS as a result of the economic analysis of the proposed integrated guidelines.

Following the MFRC's action to accept and forward the proposed integrated guidelines to the financial/economic analysis team as amended, the following motion was made:

Motion: Dick Knoll moves that the Integration Team to identify in the proposed guidelines the benefits of guideline application and how these benefits relate to landowner objectives. Wayne Brandt seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Forester Certification Program

Mike Kilgore indicated that Rick Dahlman is ill today and will not be able to present the Society of American Forester's proposal to establish a forester certification program in Minnesota. A letter from Rick Dahlman to the MFRC highlighting SAF's certification proposal was distributed. The MFRC discussed the need for a forester certification program in Minnesota and SAF's role in developing and implementing this program.

Council Member Comments

Ellefson - thanked Norm Moody for arranging the field session and MFRC meeting at Deep Portage Conservation Reserve.

Dunn - indicated the Economic Analysis Committee will meet on Tuesday, July 7th in Grand Rapids.

Green - requested the MFRC schedule a presentation on the FIA program from Ron Mc Roberts, USDA-North Central Forest Experiment Station, at its earliest convenience.

Knoll - thanked Norm Moody for the meeting arrangements at Deep Portage.

Oswold - indicated the AFL-CIO executive board will be meeting in Duluth in June, at which time they will tour the Potlatch mill in Cloquet.

Wood - indicated the MFRC's meeting room at Deep Portage is the Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association-sponsored room.

Sanders - provided an update on the National Forest Plan Revision process, and complimented Minnesota for the approach being undertaken through the MFRC to address forest resource issues.

Public Comments

Mike Phillips - indicated that the benefits associated with the technical team guidelines have been forwarded to Mike Vasievich for consideration.

Dick Walsh - stated that the Minnesota Logger Education Program wants to see foresters develop a good education program, and indicated its preference to an alternative proposal than the one being put forward by SAF.

Motion: Wayne Brandt moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Dick Knoll. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Kilgore