

Minnesota Forest Resources Council

Meeting Minutes — October 15, 1998

Cloquet Forestry Center — Cloquet, MN

Council Members Present: Wayne Brandt, Joe Day, Bob Dunn, Paul Ellefson, Jan Green, Judy Hewes, Alan Knaeble, Dick Knoll, Marcie McLaughlin, Norm Moody, Bob Oswald, Jerry Rose, Jim Sanders

Council Members Absent: Joe Wood

Staff Present: Mike Kilgore, Sara Eliason, Chris Edgar, Mike Phillips, Chad Skally

Call to Order

Paul Ellefson called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. and welcomed Jim Sanders, supervisor of the Superior National Forest, to the council. He was recently appointed to replace Steve Eubanks, who moved in September. Ellefson also welcomed the guests in attendance.

Approval of September 17 & September 28, 1998 Meeting Minutes

Changes to the September 17 and September 28, 1998 noted were corrections to council attendance lists. Joe Day was thus added to the attendance roster for both meetings and Hal Rime was added as Judy Hewes' alternate at the September 28th meeting.

Motion: Norm Moody moved to approve the September 17 and 28, 1998 meeting minutes as amended according to suggested changes. Bob Oswald seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Dick Knoll moved to approve the October 15, 1998 agenda.. The motion was seconded by Marcie McLaughlin. The motion passed.

Chair's Remarks

Paul Ellefson reported that no meetings regarding MFRC business had occurred since the September meeting. He reiterated a need for concentrated council meetings during November and December to manage the large amount of business before the council. Paul also distributed a list of committee appointments for the two existing (Personnel and Finance; Landscape Coordination), two new standing (Guideline Implementation/ Monitoring; Forest Resources Information Management), and one ad hoc committees (Natural Resource Professional Education).

Executive Director's Report

Mike Kilgore updated Council members on the following items:

MFRC Meeting. Mike outlined the day's business meeting and explained the process for the evening's open house. The purpose of that event was to inform public attendees about the guidelines.

Guideline Education. Mike provided an overview of the guideline education and training initiative that began this summer. He discussed a late September meeting of the task group which was assembled to coordinate education programs and outreach efforts. The group will meet again on November 3rd, and beyond that as necessary. It is anticipated that by the November council meeting the group will reach preliminary decisions about distribution of the \$65,000 allotted to guideline education in the MFRC FY 1999 budget. Council members asked numerous questions about the progress and direction of the education/training planning efforts.

MACLC meeting. Mike attended a meeting with the MN Association of County Land Commissioners to talk about the relationship between the Interagency Information Cooperative (IIC) and the counties. They discussed strategies for enhancing county participation in the IIC.

SAF Convention. In late September Mike attended the National Society of American Foresters Convention in Traverse City, MI. Mike spoke during a plenary session about ...

Publication. Mike reported that the Research Advisory Committee's document on strategic research directions has been published and is being distributed. "Forest Resources Research: Meeting the Information Needs of the Next Decade" is available by contacting the MFRC. Recipients of full council mailings will receive the document automatically.

Communications

General

Larry Jones offered the MFRC a letter of comment on the economic analysis completed in September 1998.

Dave Tilman provided the MFRC with a letter of resignation from the Research Advisory Committee to the MFRC citing time constraints that restrict his full participation on the committee.

Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership

Terry Weber spoke to the MFRC about efforts to plan guideline training. The MFRP has convened a group that is developing introductory sessions for the key managers of various organizations represented on the partnership. This program will mesh well with existing and new training being planned.

MFRC Committee Reports

Landscape Committee

Marcie McLaughlin, chair of the Landscape Committee, reported on the Regional Landscape Committee meeting held in Duluth on September 29th. Of council members, Jan Green was in attendance. After this meeting the committee is coming together and will now be able to focus on the tasks laid out earlier this year. Bob Stine also attended and as one of the conveners explained the role of that group. Now that working groups have formed and are meeting regularly, the conveners will play an organizational, coordinating function. Several meetings of various working groups are scheduled throughout the fall.

Discussion: Timber Harvesting/Forest Management Guideline Implementation Goals

Mike Kilgore presented examples of potential goals for rates of guideline implementation. He outlined possible criteria to consider when selecting goals and outlined various forms those goals could take. His presentation served as a basis for council members to discuss perspectives on setting targets for implementation. They recognized a need to look at education/training goals as well as organizational support goals—these will affect on-the-ground application of guidelines. Interest in conducting a baseline evaluation of current practices in order to set reasonable,

forward-looking goals was expressed. While the need to consider a wide range of landowner goals was mentioned, suggestions to establish goals according to geographic region were also made. The possibility of setting initial implementation goals and then looking at rates of improvement was also explored. Since guidelines are a means to achieve sustainable forestry, not the end target itself, it was mentioned that goals should focus on effectiveness not compliance. The council concluded this preliminary discussion on establishing implementation goals with an intent to revisit the issue at November and December council meetings.

Discussion: Guideline Implementation Cost Mitigation Strategies

Mike Kilgore provided the council with a short presentation on a potential strategy for mitigating the costs of implementing guidelines. This again was a springboard for council discussion on which alternatives could be placed into an overall program for offsetting the costs associated with applying the timber harvesting/forest management guidelines. Council members suggested that input from numerous organizations be gathered to clarify the scope of possible cost mitigation strategies. Conversation emphasized a need to first very certainly understand the costs that need to be addressed. The council acknowledged that the concerns and questions expressed about costs are very real, thus this discussion and planning will also be continued throughout upcoming meetings.

Presentation: MFRC's Biennial Report Outline

Sara Eliason presented the working outline for the MFRC's 1999 biennial report. Council members offered suggestions on terminology used, clarified content (such as including a brief history of the SFRA and MFRC in an introduction) and layout. They also expressed strong interest in the report being evaluative as well as a forum to outline accomplishments.

Council Member Comments

Hewes The Minnesota Resort Association's annual conference is scheduled at Madden's. Minnesota Forest Industries will set up a booth at the site. Hal Rime has been chosen as Judy's official alternate. He is a natural choice due to his cardinal role in the development of Visual Quality guidelines.

Sanders Jim brought greetings from Steve Eubanks. He also announced that Logan Lee is the new supervisor of the Chippewa National Forest.

Public Comments

Rick Dahlman—mentioned a list of issues that Minnesota SAF put together and provided to the council. This list represents issues that are of special concern to forest practitioners in the state, including consultants, private industry foresters, and public agency foresters. One of the concerns of foresters across the board is adequate and stable funding for them to do what they are expected to do. This perspective from professional societies is something for the council to strongly consider.

Next Meeting:

Motion: Dick Knoll moved that the meeting be adjourned. Judy Hewes seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Eliason