

Minnesota Forest Resources Council
Meeting Minutes - December 17, 1998
Best Western Edgewater - Duluth, 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, Joe Wood

Council Members Absent: none

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

Call to Order

Paul Ellefson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed guests, asking them to introduce themselves.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: Bob Oswald moved to approve the November 19-20, 1998 meeting minutes. Judy Hewes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Jan Green moved to approve the December 17, 1998 agenda. The motion was seconded by Jerry Rose. The motion passed.

Chair's Remarks

Paul Ellefson reported on the following activities regarding the MFRC and other forest related activities:

- In early December he, Mike Kilgore and Sara Eliason met with the RAC to discuss distribution of funding among the three research proposals received.
- He attended a Landscape Committee meeting, where they reviewed the evaluation report of the landscape program's pilot in northeastern Minnesota.
- Upcoming meetings include a brief business meeting on January 28th to act on the biennial report.

The latter half of the day will be devoted to a public workshop to review progress on the SFRA. After January the council will meet again in March, then meet quarterly rather than monthly.

Executive Director's Report

Mike Kilgore updated Council members on the following items:

MFRC List. Mike distributed the most recent listing of council members and their contact information.

January Meeting. Mike overviewed the January public workshop, which Mirja Hanson will facilitate.

MFRP Meeting. Mike attended the December 11, 1998 Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership meeting to update them on guideline work. He also discussed guideline education planning that is ongoing. Mike commented that the meeting went very well.

SFRA Implementation Budget. Mike passed out the latest FY 1999 Budget Expenditure Summary.

Communications

General

- The MFRC will be sending a letter to Governor-elect Jesse Ventura, as a way to introduce the MFRC and highlight its work.
- Joe Day provided council members with a resolution passed by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council to support reauthorization of the Sustainable Forest Resources Act.
- Terry Weber handed out copies of a letter to the council from the Minnesota Forestry Association regarding concerns about some of the timber harvesting/forest management guidelines and the need to look more closely at mitigation of guideline implementation costs.
- Jan Green provided copies of a letter she received from Mike Furtman, Izaak Walton League, McCabe Chapter.

MFRC Committee Reports

Landscape Committee—the landscape committee report is a main agenda item and was not discussed here.

No other committees met. The Guideline-Implementation Monitoring and Natural Resource Professional Education committees will begin meeting in early 1999. The Forest Resources Information Management committee planned a meeting immediately following the December 17 council meeting. This committee will set the agenda for the March 1999 meeting.

Review/Evaluation: NE MN Landscape Planning/Coordination Program Pilot*

Marcie McLaughlin, chair of the Landscape Committee, described the main objectives of the landscape program: to involve private citizens and to include representative interests in finding ways to manage forests across broad areas. She expressed her thanks to the eight conveners, who have contributed to the progress of the program. They are Eric Hofstad, Nancy Ogden, Forrest Johnson, Bob Stine, Lindberg Ekkola, Tom Martinson, Paul Stegmeir and Jack Pichotta. She also thanked all participants in the pilot and commended MFRC landscape program coordinator, Dave Miller.

Dave Miller presented a brief history of the landscape program and the pilot in the Northeast Regional Landscape. He then walked the MFRC through the report "Evaluation Report—Pilot Project: Establishing the NE Regional Forest Resource Committee." This report outlines progress in the northeast, lessons learned throughout the process, and suggestions for moving forward.

Several participants in the landscape program pilot offered their perspectives on the regional forest resource committee and highlighted progress in the three working groups established in summer 1998.

Eric Hofstad discussed the Landscape Coordination working group. Bob Stine spoke about the tasks of the Assessment and Monitoring working group. Lindberg Ekkola talked about the progress of the Outreach and Education working group. Paul Stegmeir provided the MFRC with a view from the convener group.

Motion: Marcie McLaughlin moved to accept the "Evaluation Report—Pilot Program: Establishing the NE Regional Forest Resource Committee. Jerry Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Council members discussed questions of how to fully involve all people who are interested in the landscape program. Jerry Rose thanked Marcie McLaughlin for her work as chair of the MFRC Landscape Committee.

Report: Research Advisory Committee's Recommended Research Initiatives*

Mike Lulich, Research Advisory Committee Member and Director of the Natural Resources Research Institute, presented the RAC's work on distributing the \$280,000 available for research in FY 98-99. In August the RAC invited the principle investigators of the three projects funded by the MFRC from 1996- 1998 to present progress on their studies. Following this meeting, the RAC asked the project leaders to provide proposals for how they would extend their project over two additional years. Based on these proposals, the RAC recommended the available funds be evenly divided among the three research projects.

Motion: Jerry Rose moved to adopt the recommendations of the RAC and divide the \$280,000 evenly among the three research projects. Norm Moody seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Prior to voting on this motion, the MFRC engaged in a discussion of other research needs that the MFRC should consider supporting before the end of the current biennium. The following amendment was made to the above motion:

Motion to amend: Wayne Brandt moved to amend the motion and take 10 percent, or \$28,000 of the \$280,000 to initiate a separate study on the costs to loggers and landowners of applying guidelines. MFRC staff should provide a request for proposal to this end at the January meeting. The motion to amend passed unanimously.

Approval: Timber Harvesting and Forest Management Implementation Goals*

Mike Kilgore overviewed the timber harvesting/forest management guidelines implementation goals. The draft document provided is a revision based on MFRC member comments from the November 1998 meeting. The implementation goals remain a four-tiered system of organizational support for guidelines, user awareness and understanding of the guidelines, user commitment to applying the guidelines and actual application of specific guidelines. Several council members offered additional comments on the goals. Jan Green suggested language to clarify the goals for guideline application levels. Dick Knoll suggested changes on page two: reduce the goal of providing 100 percent of nonindustrial private landowners with written information about the guidelines to 75 percent (both item #3 under "Awareness and

Understanding Guidelines"). Wayne Brandt suggested clarifications under the goal "Commitment to Apply Guidelines."

Motion: Norm Moody moved to approve the timber harvesting/forest management guidelines implementation goals, incorporating council member suggestions. Joe Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Motion to amend: Jerry Rose moved to amend the motion to keep the goal of providing 100 percent of nonindustrial private landowners with written material about the guidelines. Jan Green seconded the motion. Six voted in favor of the amendment. Seven voted against it. The motion did not pass.

Approval: Integrated Timber Harvesting and Forest Management Guidelines*

Paul Ellefson clarified the process for this agenda item and asked Mike Kilgore to provide a brief history of the timber harvesting/forest management guidelines. This history followed the guidelines over the course of the two and one-half years of development.

Motion: Wayne Brandt moved to approve the integrated timber harvesting and forest management guidelines. Jan Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Prior to voting on this motion, the MFRC reviewed changes to the guidelines suggested during the November 1998 meeting. These include alterations to the leave tree and seasonal pond guidelines. Mike Kilgore offered an overview of these changes, providing the MFRC with a handout tracking the changes to the leave tree and seasonal pond guidelines. Next the MFRC looked at the report from the MFRC Riparian Guideline Task Force. This task force, appointed at the November MFRC meeting, included Wayne Brandt, Jim Sanders and Jan Green. They developed a consensus recommendation on alternative riparian zone management language to be included in the timber harvesting/forest management guidebook. Jim Sanders walked the MFRC through the task force's report. Following this presentation, the following amendments to the original motion were made:

Motion to amend: Joe Wood moved to amend the original motion to approve the integrated timber harvesting and forest management guidelines, changing the current riparian guideline language to reflect the MFRC Riparian Task Force recommended riparian zone management guidelines. Norm Moody seconded this motion. The motion to amend passed.

Motion to amend: Dick Knoll moved to amend language on pages 168 and 169 of the December 6, 1998 version of the guidelines. His changes are editorial to clarify that a landowner has two options with regard to leave trees ("retain leave trees in clumps, strips or islands" or use "scattered individual leave trees"), but is not required to use both. He suggested an introduction line to indicate that landowners can use either one or the other, or both if they choose. Marcie McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion to amend passed.

Motion: Following approval of the integrated timber harvesting and forest management guidelines, Paul Ellefson moved to thank those involved in guideline development. He said "The MFRC extends special appreciation to the guideline technical teams, the integration team, and

especially Mike Phillips (Guideline Development Coordinator) for their diligence and hard-work in assisting the MFRC to develop the timber harvesting and forest management guidelines." Judy Hewes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Council Member Comments

Brandt—passed around a new Minnesota Forest Industries brochure and displayed MFI's paper making and wood kits that are available for educational purposes.

Knoll—passed out a letter to Paul Ellefson regarding the guidelines and the impacts of these to nonindustrial private forest landowners. Anyone interested in the full text of this letter should contact the MFRC at 651/603-0109.

Wood—handed out copies of an article from the Minneapolis StarTribune about caribou reintroduction in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Public Comments

Several members of the public commented on the timber harvesting/forest management guidelines approved by the MFRC.

David Schimpf—Commented on the wildlife guidelines and expressed disappointment in the guideline development process.

Harry Fisher—Expressed support for the guidelines and assured the council that loggers will apply them. However, he reemphasized that loggers and landowners are those who will bear the costs of guideline implementation and that the council must consider ways to mitigate these costs.

Dave Ohms—Commented that the MFRC reached a reasonable compromise, and that land managers can find these implementable. He gave the MFRC assurance that Potlatch and other MFRP members will work to carry these out on the ground.

Betsy Daub—Stated that the Minnesota's Audubon Society is glad to finally have the guidelines completed. Yet, she expressed concerns about changes that the MFRC made to the riparian guidelines proposed by the riparian technical team.

Jim Erkel—Jim echoed Betsy Daub's concerns that the guidelines are not sufficient to sustain forest systems. He also mentioned concerns about the process used in developing integrated guidelines, particularly the riparian zone management guidelines.

Next Meeting:

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Eliason