

# Minnesota Forest Resources Council

Meeting Minutes—January 28, 1999

Earle Brown Continuing Education Center—St. Paul, 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

Chris Edgar, Sara Eliason, Mike Kilgore, Dave Miller, Mike Phillips, Chad Skally

## Call to Order

Paul Ellefson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed guests, asking them to introduce themselves.

## Approval of Meeting Minutes

Wayne Brandt requested a change to the December 17, 1998 meeting minutes. Under the section describing approval of the timber harvesting and forest management guidelines, the original motion was not approved until after motion on the amendments.

*Motion: Judy Hewes moved to approve the December 17, 1998 meeting minutes according to Wayne Brandt's suggested change. Jim Sanders seconded the motion. The motion passed..*

## Approval of Agenda

*Motion: Jan Green moved to approve the January 28, 1999 agenda. The motion was seconded by Bob Oswald. The motion passed.*

## Chair's Remarks

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

- Paul discussed appointments to the MFRC. He referred to a letter Mike Kilgore sent that states the process MFRC members can take in seeking reappointment.
- Future meetings: the next meeting is on March 18, 1999 at the Champion meeting facility in Sartell, MN.
- Following the December MFRC meeting Paul, along with Mike Kilgore and Alan Knaeble, met with the editorial board of the Duluth News Tribune. The board has since written several editorials supporting the MFRC and SFRA.

## Executive Director's Report

Mike Kilgore updated the MFRC on the following items:

**Staff:** Mike passed around a card for Mike Phillips, who will be having surgery in a couple of weeks.

**Budget initiatives:** The SFRA is part of the Governor's budget initiative. The level of funding is less than requested—because of the sunset clause, the SFRA is looked at as a new initiative. A bill will be coming from the governor's office for reauthorization of the SFRA.

**Legislative activities:** A senate overview hearing took place in mid-January. Another hearing is scheduled in early February in the house. Mike will keep MFRC members up-to-date about hearings. Mike and Jerry Rose have visited many legislators and the governor's office. The SFRA is consistent with the governor's principles of stakeholder involvement in government—so the SFRA will have support from the governor's office.

**Guidelines:** The Integration Team is finalizing the timber harvesting and forest management guidelines for printing. They should be available in March.

**Guideline Education:** The Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership held two guideline education sessions in mid-January. The guideline education task force is working on training sessions for April through June.

**Economic Request for Proposal:** Mike distributed the RFP asking for a study of economic issues of implementing guidelines. This RFP will be circulated soon.

**Other meetings:** Mike spoke to the East Central Woodland Council. They expressed interest in being involved in guideline education and training.

Judy Hewes expressed disappointment in the negative comments about the MFRC and its work during the hearing in the Senate Agriculture and Environment Finance Committee. She reported that the Minnesota Resort Association passed a resolution in support of the MFRC and Sustainable Forest Resources Act reauthorization. Minnesota Hospitality also passed a similar resolution; their lobbyist will work on SFRA issues throughout the legislative session.

## **Communications**

### **General**

No formal communications to the MFRC over the past month.

Several letters have been sent by the MFRC concerning the SFRA to:

- Senator Morse, Chair, Senate Environment and Agriculture Budget Division
- Representative Holsten, Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance
- Governor Jesse Ventura

### **Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership**

A letter from Jack Rajala, chair of the Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership to the MFRC was distributed.

### **MFRC Committee Reports**

**Landscape Coordination and Planning** Marcie McLaughlin reported that the committee had met briefly prior to the January 28 MFRC meeting. Dave Miller updated on work in the Northcentral and Southeast Regional Landscapes.

Guideline Implementation Monitoring Dick Knoll reported that no meetings had been scheduled yet as they have been waiting for a staff appointment. Dick Rossman, DNR, has been asked to take staff responsibilities for the committee.

Forest Resources Information Management Norm Moody—the committee approved a charter and is working on the agenda for the March meeting.

Natural Resource Professional Education Judy Hewes reported that the committee has not yet met. They are waiting for the guideline education to get underway.

Personnel/Finance Paul Ellefson reported on a conference call where the committee dealt with a reduced budget.

Jan Green suggested the committees develop a regularized meeting schedule and advertise these as best we can to allow for public participation.

### **Approval: Sustainable Forest Resources Act Implementation Biennial Report**

Sara Eliason and Chris Edgar presented the 1997-1998 Biennial Report, and outlined refinements that they would make before printing. The MFRC requested they receive the final version of the report prior to printing, and vote on approval by mail ballot. Thus a vote on approval was not taken during the January 28, 1999 meeting.

### **Discussion of Afternoon Workshop**

Due to limited time, the MFRC decided to discuss the afternoon workshop with Mirja Hanson, facilitator, during lunch.

### **Council Member Comments**

*none*

### **Public Comments**

*none*

### **Adjournment**

*Motion: Dick Knoll moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jerry Rose seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Eliason

Project Consultant