

## **Minnesota Forest Resources Council**

Meeting Minutes — August 8, 2000

Cloquet Forestry Center — Cloquet, MN

**Council Members Present:** Wayne Brandt, Greg Damlo, Jan Green, Rich Holm, Steven Daley Laursen, Gene Merriam (Chair), Norm Moody, Brad Moore, Bob Oswald, Dave Parent, Shawn Perich, Jim Sanders, Roger Scherer

**Council Members Absent:** Betsy Daub, Joe Day, Ron Nargang

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

### **Welcome and Chair's Remarks**

Gene Merriam called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. and welcomed guests and presenters JoAnn Hanowski, Brian Palik, Klaus Puettman, Alaina Berger, Al Sullivan, Larry Jones, Dick Olson, Mike Houser, Terry Weber, and Steve Taff. Gene noted that the forestry tour organized for executive branch personnel in Grand Rapids, MN on July 18 went smoothly. He also reminded MFRC members about the forestry/Sustainable Forest Resources Act (SFRA) tour scheduled with house and senate natural resource policy and budget committees for August 17 in Cloquet and encourages all MFRC members to attend. Finally, Gene announced that Sara Eliason is leaving the MFRC staff and thanked her for her contributions.

**Public Input/Communication to the MFRC** None

### **Approval of June 27, 2000 Meeting Minutes**

*Motion:* Jan Green moved to approve the June 27, 2000 meeting minutes. Dave Parent seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Approval of August 8, 2000 Agenda**

*Motion:* Bob Oswald moved to approve the August 8, 2000 agenda. The motion was seconded by Jan Green. The motion passed.

### **Executive Director Report**

Mike Kilgore reported on the following activities:

**July 18 Field Tour.** MFRC committee chairs talked about the SFRA and forestry in Minnesota on a tour with Minnesota's executive branch personnel on July 18, 2000. UPM Kymmene/Blandin Paper Company, county officials, the USDA Forest Service, and the Department of Natural Resources contributed greatly to the tour.

**August 17 Field Tour.** A field tour with house and senate natural resource policy and budget committee members and staff is scheduled for August 17 in Cloquet, MN. The focus will be on SFRA programs: guideline implementation, monitoring, and the landscape program.

**Legislative Activities.** The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) recommended \$200,000 for the effectiveness monitoring proposal submitted earlier in 2000. Because this is less than the amount requested (\$800,000), several of the original objectives will not be addressed (seasonal ponds, economics, and outreach). (Steve Daley Laursen requested staff compile a list of all projects recommended by the LCMR in 2000.)

**Forestland Tax Study.** The MFRC and the Department of Revenue will each hire consultants to do various portions of the work on the forestland tax study mandated by the 2000 Minnesota Legislature. The MFRC will establish a task force to scope and track the study, which will be complete by December 2000. Members of this task force will be *Dave Parent, Steve Daley Laursen, Wayne Brandt, Roger Scherer, Shawn Perich, Jim Erkel, Clair Nelson, Alan Knaeble, Chris Brokl, Culver Adams, and Joe Gust.*

**Nonindustrial Private Forest Landowners (NIPF) Representative.** A replacement for John Jordan, who resigned from the MFRC in May, will likely be on board by the October 24 MFRC meeting. The governor's office accepted applications for the seat through July 28. They are reviewing new applications along with those submitted in 1999.

**Staff Changes.** As Gene Merriam announced, Sara Eliason is leaving the MFRC staff on August 11. Mike Kilgore thanked Sara Eliason for her work on many MFRC programs. Mike Kilgore hired Amie Brown, graduate of the University of Minnesota Natural Resources and Environmental Studies program, to replace Sara Eliason. She will start on September 5.

**Future Meetings.** Upcoming MFRC meetings are on October 24 at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, November 28 at Cloquet Forestry Center, and December 19 at the Audubon Center of the North Woods.

**Vacation.** Mike Kilgore will be out of the office from August 21 through Labor Day.

**Blowdown Report.** Once Amie Brown is on board, the MFRC will address its commitment to develop a report on the blowdown. A task force will be put together to scope and oversee this study. Jan Green, Wayne Brandt, Norm Moody, Rich Holm, Jim Sanders, and Brad Moore have all expressed interest in participating on this task force.

### **MFRC Committee Reports**

**Forest Resource Information Management** MFRC staff member Chris Edgar updated the council on the Forest Resource Information Management Committee's work. They are currently in the second phase of the information review. (The first phase was presented at the January 2000 MFRC meeting.) They received no proposals in response to a request for proposals to conduct phase two sent out in June. One contractor expressed some interest and after obtaining

clarification on the project decided to submit a proposal. Work will begin in the next month and be complete by early 2001.

**Spatial Analysis** Chris Edgar talked about progress on the spatial analysis of forest landscapes. The project is progressing according to the timelines in the prospectus. The Project Strategy Team, led by Logan Lee, has a good list of questions related to landscape-level forest management. The Project Technical Team, led by Jim Manolis, is now working with those questions, deciding how best to address them within the project's budget and time limits. The two teams have a joint meeting scheduled for September 8. Minnesota Forest Industries (and its member companies), Audubon, and The Nature Conservancy have all generously contributed monies to the project, bringing the total budget to \$250,000.

**Guideline Implementation Monitoring** Dave Parent and Mike Phillips distributed an update of the Guideline Implementation Monitoring Committee (GIMC) activities. The committee met on July 27 and began discussing plans for the second year of guidelines implementation monitoring. The contractor is still monitoring the sites selected for this year's monitoring; the quality assurance/quality control group has visited several of the monitoring sites. Dave Parent highlighted some key issues to address in planning successive years of monitoring. The report on the first year of monitoring will be complete this fall. Mike Kilgore noted that the MFRC will review this report in light of the guideline implementation monitoring goals it set in December 1998 and evaluate progress towards those goals.

**Personnel and Finance** The Personnel and Finance committee did not meet between the June 27 and August 8 MFRC meetings.

### **Written Communication to MFRC**

Gene Merriam reported that Minnesota Forestry Association executive director, Terry Weber, sent a letter to the governor endorsing John Kvasnicka for the nonindustrial private forest landowner representative position open on the MFRC.

### **Overview: MFRC Forest Research Initiatives**

Al Sullivan, Dean, University of Minnesota College of Natural Resources and chair of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council Research Advisory Committee (RAC), introduced the meeting's focus on forest resources research. He provided an overview of the RAC and its work over the last few years: completing an assessment of forest resources research in Minnesota, recommending \$540,000 total in funding for three research projects over four years, and spurring development of the guideline effectiveness monitoring proposal submitted to the LCMR in February 2000. The RAC has been relatively inactive during this biennium due to a lack of budget to work with; however, the group remains committed to carrying out its SFRA mandates.

### **MFRC-Sponsored Research Project Updates**

In 1996, the MFRC approved the Research Advisory Committee's recommendation to fund three research studies at \$100,000 each over two years. In 1998, The RAC recommended an additional

\$84,000 for each project so that the research could extend for another two years. A lead researcher from each study provided overviews of the research to the MFRC.

Klaus Puettman presented progress and ongoing work on the study "Impacts of harvesting on regeneration, productivity, and floristic diversity of quaking aspen and northern hardwood ecosystems." Brian Palik represented the large group working on the project "Evaluating riparian area dynamics, management alternatives and impacts of harvesting." JoAnn Hanowski updated the MFRC on her research, "Wildlife species: response to forest harvesting and management in riparian stands and landscapes."

### **Presentation: Assessing Financial Effects Associated with Implementing Minnesota's Timber Harvesting/Forest Management Guidelines**

Steve Taff, University of Minnesota, walked the MFRC through the report "Assessing Financial Effects Associated with Implementing Minnesota's Timber Harvesting/Forest Management Guidelines," the product of a nine month study he conducted along with Charlie Blinn, Marsha Mlinar, and Neil Townsend, all from the University of Minnesota and Michael J. Thompson from the USDA Forest Service. Steve Taff highlighted findings in each of the study's objectives and outlined three ways in which the MFRC can proceed: commission further studies, monitor what is currently going on in Minnesota's forest industry, or develop policies to address potential costs associated with implementing the guidelines. Steve Taff asked that comments on the report be directed to Mike Kilgore by August 11, 2000; the final report will be available in late August.

### **Sustainable Forest Resources Act Implementation FY 2002-2003 Budget Request\***

Mike Kilgore briefly reviewed the staff-proposed SFRA Implementation FY 2002-2003 Budget Request. This request will be folded into the Department of Natural Resources' request to the governor. Because of the June 30, 2001 sunset provision in the SFRA, this budget is again submitted to the governor's office as a new initiative. Dave Parent requested the MFRC consider supporting a study or policy development to address the costs borne by landowners who apply the timber harvesting/forest management guidelines—this could be a way to direct the special studies money in the budget request.

*Motion:* Wayne Brandt moved to approve the staff-proposed SFRA Implementation FY 2002-2003 Budget Request. Jan Green seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Update: MFRC Involvement in Site-Level Trail Management Guideline Development**

Brad Moore updated the MFRC about its potential involvement in developing site-level trail management guidelines. He developed a proposal, which he brought to the Landscape Committee. Although the Landscape Committee agreed that this is an issue the MFRC should tackle, the DNR Division of Trails and Waterways determined it best to proceed without the MFRC's participation. This issue may, however, be brought to the MFRC for its input at a later date.

### **Future MFRC Agenda Items**

Shawn Perich—Steve Wildes from the US Fish and Wildlife Service is interested in presenting work on the woodcock initiative to the MFRC.

### **Public Input/Comments to the MFRC**

Mike Kilgore handed out a paper from Al Mitton on his proposal for current and perpetual forest inventory and analysis.

### **Council Member Comments**

Wayne Brandt invited everyone to the North Star Logging Expo taking place on August 10-12 at Iron World in Chisholm, MN.

### **Adjourn**

Gene Merriam adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Eliason