

**Minnesota Forest Resources Council
January 23, 2001 - Meeting Minutes
St. Paul, MN**

Draft

Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC or Council) Members Present Wayne Brandt, Janet Green, Steven Daley Laursen, Gene Merriam (Chair), Norm Moody, Brad Moore, Ron Nargang, Bob Oswald, Dave Parent, Shawn Perich, and Jim Sanders. Alternates: Dave Sterr for Joe Day and Mike Scherer for Roger Scherer.

Council Members Absent Joe Day, Wayne Hammer, Rich Holm, and Roger Scherer

Staff Present Amie Brown, Chris Edgar, Mike Kilgore, Jim Manolis, Dave Miller, Mike Phillips and Chad Skally

Welcome and Chair's Remarks The meeting was called to order at 9:30.

Approval of November 28, 2000 Meeting Minutes

The following two corrections were noted: page 3, strike last three words of the 1st bullet "or the legislature," and page 2, update on the Spatial Analysis Project: Aerial photography is \$74, 350 and GLO line-notes is \$25,000.

Motion: Norm Moody moved to approve the November 28, 2000 meeting minutes as corrected. Brad Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approval of January 23, 2001 Agenda

Motion: Ron Nargang moved to approve the January 23, 2001 meeting agenda as amended. Jim Sanders seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Reauthorization

- The Administration's position on the 6-year extension to the SFRA is obtained in the DNR's forestry bill.
- Expect e-mail updates throughout the legislative session

Tax Study

The recommendations put forth in the joint MFRC and Department of Revenue study on forest land taxation were not included in the Governor's tax proposal. Some adjustments are being made and it is very likely that it will move be presented to the House Tax Committee.

LCMR Effectiveness Monitoring Proposal

LCMR has recommended \$200,000 for beginning implementation of the effectiveness monitoring study. The recommended language suggests that this is the first of a five biennia project.

MFRC's Assessment of Minnesota's Most Recent Forest Inventory Data

The MFRC will contract to have an analysis of the 1999 and 1990 FIA data. This information provides an opportunity to examine trends and conditions of MN's forest resource. The report would be completed late this summer.

Harvesting Data on IIC Website

In response to concerns raised at a prior MFRC meeting you can now access on-line the DNR's Forest Resources Report and the USDA Forest Service's NCRS Pulpwood Production Report.

MFRC Meeting Dates

- March 27, 2001 in St. Paul, MN
- May 22, 2001 in Cloquet, MN

Committee Reports

Forest Resources Information Management (Chris Edgar reporting)

Also, the FRIM has been working with the Irland Group to determine that the availability and accuracy of information about forests in Minnesota. This review centers on two significant questions: 1) Are Minnesota's data collection efforts gathering the right data to meet the information needs for effective forest resource planning and management? 2) Is the information sufficient for a comprehensive understanding of the overall status and condition of Minnesota's forest resources?

Landscape Planning/Coordination (Ron Nargang reporting)

- The landscape committee has not met since the last council meeting. Once the committee receives information and recommendations from the spatial analysis team a meeting will be scheduled.
- The Spatial Analysis Project Technical Team met on 12/15/00 to further consider the modeling component of the spatial analysis project.
- The RFP has been published for the Air photo interpretation.
- There is a contract with the University of Minnesota Duluth to update the economic diversity data from the GEIS in 1986 to 1998 for the both the north central and the northeast landscapes.
- The north central has begun to outline their desired future conditions.
- The ecological mapping and matrix development is complete for the northeast. Next they move to develop goals and establish desired future conditions

Guideline Implementation Monitoring (Dave Parent reporting)

The Committee did not meet between the November and January Council meetings. To date there have been 130 identified for the 2 phase of year 2 of guideline implementation monitoring.

Personnel and Finance

Minutes of the 12/19/00 committee meeting were included in the January meeting packet. The issue of SFRA funding priorities will be taken up as a separate agenda item later in the meeting.

Public Input/Communication to the MFRC None

Sierra Club Policy Proposal

Mr. Clyde Hanson from the Sierra Club discussed the Sierra Club's concern over the loss of white pine as a result of the July 4, 1999 blowdown storm in northern Minnesota, particularly the Boundary Water Canoes Area Wilderness. In addition, the Sierra Club asked the MFRC to consider the adoption of a resolution to stop logging of white pine on all ownership across the state until an accurate inventory is completed and the lost inventory is replaced with equal quality and quantity.

The MFRC discussed at length the Sierra Club's information and request. Several members questioned the accuracy of the white pine information presented and requested additional information on the state's white pine resources.

Motion: Brad Moore moved that further investigation to consider the white pine issue was necessary and the MFRC Landscape Committee study the issue in detail and come back with recommendations to the council. Ron Nargang seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sustain Forest Resources Act Funding Priorities (Gene Merriam reporting)

The Personnel and Finance Committee reviewed the various mandates of the MFRC as directed by the SFRA. A one-page table and description indicating the committees' recommendations for allocating SFRA funding under four different scenarios (\$375,000, \$500,000, \$700,000, and \$1,147,000 per year) was developed and reviewed with the Council.

Motion: Wayne Brandt moved for the approval of the SFRA funding priorities as recommended by the Personnel and Finance. Jan Green seconded the motion. They motion passed.

Approval of the MFRC 2000 Annual Report

Amie Brown presented the MFRC's 2000 annual report to the Council for approval. During this presentation, timelines for printing the report and distribution plans were laid out. She also requested MFRC members to let her know if they would like additional copies.

Motion: Dave Parent moved to approve the annual report. Ron Nargang seconded the motion. They motion passed.

Guideline Implementation Monitoring Report (Mike Phillips reporting)

Mike Phillips provided an overview of the first round of guideline implementation monitoring and described both the monitoring processes used to collect the data and the results. Due to time constraints, Mike was unable to complete the presentation and will finish his presentation at the March Council meeting. Council Members were asked to supply any comments or question in by February 6, 2001. The printed report will be available March 16, 2001.

DNR Forestry Summit

DNR Commissioner Allen Garber presented a statement regarding his idea for a Forestry Summit and demonstration forest as a result of his trip to Finland. His presentation outlined the following: (1) reduced dependence on aspen; (2) greater presence of longer-lived conifers; (3) greater proportion of harvest volume from thinning and selective harvesting; (4) greater proportion of harvest volume from saw timber; (5) hybrid polar to help supplement wood supply; (6) greater cooperation and consensus; and (7) a demonstration forest. The Commissioner indicated that he Summit will be held in northern Minnesota in late May, and that he would welcome summit co-sponsors.

Motion: Ron Nargang moved that MFRC be a co-sponsor of the Forestry Summit. Wayne Brandt seconded the motion. They motion passed

Future Agenda Items

Norm Moody asked to be placed on the March 27 agenda to discuss a forest easement proposal.

Public Input/Comments to the MFRC None

Council Member Comments

- Dave Parent brought copies of the *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, Department of Natural Resources, January/February 2001 for the Council. In particular the article on global warming was of interest.
- Wayne Brandt thought it was important that the MFRC have a process in place to priority issues to be presented and addressed by the Council.
- Shawn Perich raised the Council's awareness of the difficult economic conditions in northern Minnesota.
- Norm Moody indicated that Cass County's county administered forests have been certified by SmartWood Program. A brochure describing the certification process was distributed.

Adjourn Gene Merriam adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Amie Brown