

**Minnesota Forest Resources Council Meeting Minutes
Itasca State Park
September 25, 2001**

Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC or Council) Members Present

Wayne Brandt, Janet Green, Wayne Hammer, Steven Daley Laursen, Greg Damlo, Betsy Daub, Rich Holm, Gene Merriam (Chair), Norm Moody, Brad Moore, Bob Oswold, Dave Parent, Jim Sanders, and Dave Sterr

Council Member Absent Roger Scherer, Ron Nargang, and Shawn Perich

Staff Present Amie Brown, Jacob Donnay, Jim Manolis, Dave Miller, Mike Phillips and Chad Skally

Welcome/Chair's Remarks

Gene Merriam welcomed members of the public and introductions were made.

Public Input/Communication to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) None.

Approval of July 24, 2001 Meeting Minutes

Correction on page 3, under the heading FY 2002-03 SFRA Implementation Work and Spending Plans, the motion should read "Ron Nargang moved that the Minnesota Forest Resources Council Proposed FY 2002-03 Spending Plan, June 2001 be amended to reduce from budget activity 1, \$3,500 from Special Studies (remaining total \$11,500) to be will be allocated to activity 2, the guideline review (new total \$15,500). Dave Parent seconded the motion. The motion passed."

Also on page 4, under the heading Timber Harvesting/Forest Management Guidebook Review Process, the motion should read "Wayne Brandt moved that staff come back to the council with a refined streamlined process for guideline revision. The proposal should include a list of issues that have been identified by the GIMTC for review and an outline for the public comment process at the next meeting. Jan seconded and a friendly amendment was made to include staff bring back options for getting public input. Motion passed. Shawn Perich had a ~~deseending~~ dissenting vote."

Motion: Jan Green moved to approve the May 22, 2001 meeting minutes as corrected. Dave Parent seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approval of September 25, 2001 Meeting Agenda

Motion: Dave Parent moved to approve the July 24, 2001 meeting agenda as amended. Jim Sanders seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Landscape Program Presentation (Dave Miller)

The MFRC engaged in a discussion of about the economic, ecological, and social components to the Landscape Program. The flow chart dated 8/01 and the titled the *Landscape Planning Process, NC Landscape*, was discussed at length. Points of interest included the following.

The flow chart seems to represent that the ecological component is more weighted than the economic and social data components.

It is correct that early in the process the landscape committees focused on the ecological/forest condition and available data. However, social and economic aspects of the landscapes have not gone unnoticed. Included in the packet presented by Dave Miller is an economic study that the MFRC sponsored to assess to assess the economic contributions of the forest product industries in northern Minnesota. While there is additional data that the MFRC landscape program would like to have a limited budget curtails the purchase of this information. It was suggested that the landscape program use available economic models in its approach. Another suggestion was that economic and social goals should be identified in addition to the desired future forest condition.

A feedback loop is a necessary part of the landscape planning process.

Council members affirmed the need have a feedback loop in the planning process. Once a desired future forest condition is established by the landscape committee a set of goals and strategies to a achieve that end must be designed. To carry out this design coordination and outreach efforts will be pursued. Implementation of these efforts will be monitored and evaluated and results brought back to the MFRC. It is at this point that the feedback loop is complete. A decision can be made based on new information about the implementation of the desired future forest condition.

What does the MFRC want the Landscape Regional Committees to accomplish?

There was a general consensus that the Landscape Committee should examine where the regional landscape committees stand currently. It was suggested that an outline of goals and expectations for the committees already established and the committees that will come on line over the next year and a half be completed.

Spatial Analysis Update (Jim Manolis)

Jim Manolis provided an overview and update of the MFRC's Spatial Analysis Project. His presentation addressed the definition of spatial patterns and why they are important here in Minnesota. A timeline was presented to apprise the MFRC on the project's progress to date. The project's budget was reviewed. The capability of models to provide information and the different types of models that the spatial analysis project teams have considered was discussed. A handout of the presentation was provided.

Executive Director's Update (Amie Brown)

- Amie Brown thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and the landscape tour yesterday afternoon. She congratulated Chad Skally and Dave Miller on their good work and thanked them for preparing the field tour and the landscape committee update. She also thanked Jim Manolis for his spatial analysis presentation to the MFRC. This was Jim's first presentation to the MFRC and we are glad to have him on board.
- MAPE, AFSCME Council 6, and the state have come together with the mediator to postpone mediation until Sept. 27, 28 and 29, 2001. The new strike deadline set by the unions is 6 a.m. Monday, October 1, 2001. If a strike occurs MFRC employees are part of the MAPE union. The strike will slow down some of the MFRC's activities. More information is available at <http://www.mape.org/>

Upcoming meetings

- Tuesday, November 13, 2001, MFRC Meeting
- **Research Reports** Council Members should have received four recent research reports. These are research reports sponsored by the MFRC. Later in the day when Mike Phillips refers to in the MFRC research used in the GIMTC recommendations during the guideline review process

discussion. These are the reports he is referring to.

- **Public Concern Registration Process (PCRP)** The MFRC has a new contractor to carry out the PCRP contract. Bruce Zumbahlen is our new contractor. One concern was registered in August. Regarding a timber harvest in Cass County.

Outreach

- **State Fair** – The MFRC display brochures at the state fair this year at the DNR's booth.
- **Gary Johnson** – I will meet with Gary Johnson, a University of Minnesota urban forestry professor, to discuss the urban forest issues and how they may relate to the MFRC's work.
- **Riparian management field key workshop** – The University of Minnesota, College of Natural Resources, Center for Continuing Education will hold a pilot workshop to use the MFRC's Riparian Management Field Key on October 2, 2001.
- **Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR)** – On October 16, 2001 the LCMR has invited the MRC to participate in a panel discussion to present what we see as forest research priorities and needs.
- **Research Advisory Committee (RAC)** – The will hold a meeting at the end of October. The RAC agenda includes 3 items. The RAC would like to co-sponsoring a Forest Research Review (\$1,000). This is a one-day workshop will feature recently completed, new, and on-going research to be completed within the next 12 months. Topics covered include disturbance ecology, range of natural variability, silviculture, wildlife, forest hydrology, forest policy, and forest management. The RAC will discuss what role it may play in the Demonstration Forest. Lastly, a letter from the RAC outlining forest research priorities will be drafted for the LCMR citizen advisory committee.

Written Comments to the MFRC None.

Committee Reports

Guideline Implementation Monitoring Committee

Dave Parent reported that the DNR will be using a different sampling method for this year's guideline implementation monitoring. Satellite data will be used instead of aerial photography. However, the Committee has been reassured that the timing and random selection of the plots will not be jeopardized. The satellite data will also be used to provide the riparian area monitoring.

Personnel and Finance Committee

Gene Merriam reported that the P&FC met to review the application for the executive director's search. Eleven applicants applied. Of these eleven applicants, four were chosen to interview. Based on the interviews finalists will be chosen and asked to attend a next Council meeting. The P&FC would also recommend that the MFRC reschedule its December 11, 2001 meeting. It is suggested that this meeting date be moved up to November 13, 2001. The MFRC accepted this change.

Forest Resources Information Management Committee

Norm Moody reported that he had been in contact with Cameron Gerarden. Mr. Gerarden is a temporary employee assigned to completing the IMC's phase II report. A rough draft will soon be presented to the committee.

Landscape Committee

Dave Miller reported that the Landscape committees are moving forward to establish their desire future forest condition goal and that a contract has been executed to begin exploring partnership in the west

central and east central landscape regions.

Guideline Review Process (Amie Brown and Mike Phillips)

Amie Brown presented a proposed guideline review process. Council member expressed an interest in adding the items listed below to the proposal presented.

- An additional meeting will be held in February 2002.
- A second public comment process will begin in September 2002.
- In 2003 an extra meeting will be held in April.
- It was also suggested that Sandy Verry be asked to serve on the Guideline Review Technical Committee.
- A request was made that information be provided to the MFRC about the issues identified as mind fields by the Guideline Review Technical Committee.

Dave Parent moved that the Guideline Review Technical Committee begin to develop the proposed language changes for the first two categories of suggestions (those that need little discussion and those that are doable with some discussion). Wayne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

MFRC Research Due to time constraints this agenda item was tabled until the November 13, 2001 MFRC meeting.

SFRA Issues Update

Amie Brown presented the basics of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy versus the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Boise Cascade Corporation. The Supreme Court will likely decide whether to hear the case in mid-October. Council members discussed the following items.

- The role and rules of the Environmental Quality Board were discussed.
- The role of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council as specified by the Sustainable Forest Resources Act was discussed.
- A question was raised regarding the court records accuracy and inclusion of MFRC information. The Council has made a great deal of progress and that does not seem to be reflected in the Appeals Court decision.
- A resolution to support the MPCA was presented and withdrawn.
- Implications of the court case were discussed but no consensus was reached.
- Wayne Brandt requested that the court decisions be a part of the November meeting agenda.

Public Comment to the MFRC None.

Council Member Comments

Jan Green provided some information about Maine's forest products industry.

Jan Green also provided some information about the lynx.

Could we receive information about harvest rates and forest conditions from USFS North Central.

Adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amie Brown