

# NORTH CENTRAL LANDSCAPE SUMMARY DEEP PORTAGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER JUNE 20, 2001

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Clair Fetzer, Rick Horton, Verne Tollefson, Jack Shaffer, Steve Mortenson, Kern Ridlington, Chris Brokl, Dick Rossman, Thom Soule, Jeff Asfoor, Mark Lohmeier, Mike Chapman, Kara Dunning, Garrett Ous, Hal Rime, Harry Hutchins, Ed Patrias, Jerry Larson, Ron Rude, Janet Boe, Mike Wadman, Dick Lueben and Bob Newcomb

**GUESTS:** Norm Moody, Clyde Hanson, Logan Lee, Jason Sable, Chris Dunham, Al Mattson

**STAFF:** David Miller, Julie Heinz, Chad Skally, Amie Brown

**SPEAKERS:** Rich Lichty, Director, Bureau of Business and Economic Research  
John Powers, KPA Consultants

## Economic Data

Rich Lichty presented the report on current economic conditions to the Committee for the second time. The report was modified based on the feedback received from the first presentation:

- the county areas were changed to disregard the RedRiver Valley area and the metro area.
- some further checking on **tourism** was completed and unfortunately there are just no accurate studies available that would support figures he could use in his presentation. The figures would be hotel receipts but that does not give a breakdown of local vs visitors. He said he would encourage some organization to do a complete study as it would be very beneficial, however, it would be very expensive as you would have to do surveys in order to get data that would be accurate.

Some additional point and questions:

- Question was presented to Rick on **Harwood Dimension and Flooring Mills** why that would be so high in Orr? He said he would check on it and get back to the group. He did indicate that data is collected by place of employment.
- Kara also pointed out a **possible error in the diagram vs the numbers** and Rick said he would check that out too.
- Rick explained that our region **lost a lot of manufacturing in the early 80's** to other countries, as well as the south region.
- He pointed out that the Medical Field rates very high in our region.

- Question of whether the study included **the impact of the fur industry**. Rick said the fur industry was not looked at.

The report provides the baseline economic information that the Committee can use to measure impacts on the economy of changes in forest management. The committee will need to decide how to do the impact analysis using this report and the IMPLAN model. Actual figures could be used once the landscape goals, objectives and strategies are completed or scenario's can be developed to show the potential impacts given a certain set of conditions.

The report will be finalized in the next few weeks and sent to all Committee members. Information presented to date and the final report can be found on the following web site:

<http://sbe.d.umn.edu/ced/BBER/projects/projects.htm> under the title "Northern Minnesota Forestry Analysis Final Report

### **Aitkin County Forest Mgmt Planning**

Mark Jacobs was unable to attend the meeting so John Powers, consultant working for Aitkin County, gave a brief overview of their process. Their basic philosophy is to manage the land using natural succession and site potential as the guide. This will reduce the aspen acreage by 14,000 acres over the planning period (100 yrs) and increase the conifer acreage. Older successional stages will also increase. Public meetings will be held this summer.

### **Goals/Strategies**

Kara Dunning, Cheryl Adams, Chris Brokl and Rick Horton gave a brief presentation of their own workup to show the dfc.

**Cheryl** illustrated a cycle relating to Lyme's disease to illustrate how a cycle works but we don't realize it until we loose part of the cycle and things get off balance.

She went on with her own graphic illustration of wearing two different hats:

1. an ecologist that she is and
2. an employee of the paper industry....she demonstrated how she raised and lowered elements in her graph. She wanted aspens to be at a comfortable level plus she varied the hardwood part of the graph. The end result was within at a comfortable level for both her hats.

Kara shared her illustration with the group using 30% matrix. She explained to the group she feels we don't have to go back to historic range to have a healthy forest, for example Boise Cascade would start at the 10% range.

Members seem to agree that Kara and Cheryl's illustrations, though they hadn't discussed it, were very similar.

**Rick Horton** shared his thoughts and concerns...he read a portion of an article that indicated the R&V model is flawed as it is ideal and not reality. Reality is economic and social.

**Chris Brokl** gave his presentation on increasing conifers. The western part of Minnesota is a dryer sandier plant community. He showed a graph where reality is that many of Minnesota jack pines are just growing old and dying of natural mortality. When they die, the stands are turning into hazelbrush, bur oak and some northern hardwoods. Most won't come back to a forest, we as a group will have to take steps to ensure that. He said you can compare a life of a jack pine to a human being. Then, the discussion of planting trees and how to protect them from the deer population.

Suggestion of bringing some creative ideas along with the planting plan suggest creative hunting plans for deer in those designated planted areas.

## **GARRETT OUS**

Outlined the progress that the road group has made. They have met with Chippewa National Forest, most county land departments and will work with DNR, Forest Service and actually sit down with the different participants to obtain the most accurate information so that the GIS layer will be functional and useable for all nc participants. It includes all roads of the forest. Chad has been assisting with the gis layer and developing strategies. Discussion was held on roads and ohv's ...how to deal with.

A member indicated his concern that we need to stay focused that we are of no authority. Our job to make specifications, recommendations or implementations for the state, federal and county and sell them on it. Our job is to see what they want.

Desired future conditions will be different in each county/ownership...think of value that portrays of how we want to operate R&V, natural succession and timber types.

**Dave Miller** introduced Amy Brown, the interim director of the commission as Mike Kilgore has stepped down to accept a professor position at the U of M teach economics.

Dave put up the draft of the desired future forest condition statement that was worked on several months ago.

He wondered if members felt it was necessary to have a social scientist come and visit the group. The group indicated they have had several groups represented at different meetings, plus the fact that the room's members probably have an association of that nature they belong to.

Discussed of ways to come up with objectives and strategies.

Meeting more often...small groups, large groups...

Members felt that the ball was rolling and should keep it rolling so decided to meet in a large meeting the first part of August and that Dave would assign smaller working groups...more geographical (to make it easier) to get some ideas for the objectives and strategies and then bring them back to the large group meeting.

Kara pointed out that she thinks the fewer options we have, the better we can deal with them.

Dave will organize and implement the groups and advise the members of each group. He will also organize some scenarios to work with the implan model.

The group was interested in seeing those flip charts that we worked on a few months ago...Dave will make them available to the group.

Logan liked the idea of running scenarios, more educated, rather than a gut reaction.

The group agreed that meeting throughout the summer was a good idea as attendance is more well represented and it is easier for people to get places.

The next large meeting will be AUGUST 16, 2001 at Itasca Community College, Grand Rapids, MN