

**NORTH CENTRAL LANDSCAPE
SUMMARY
COURAGE NORTH
SEPTEMBER 27, 2001**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kara Dunning, George Maxson, Steve Ludwig, Don Rees, Jack Shaffer, Greg Snyder, Bob Newcomb, Janet Boe, Verne Tollefson, Bob Schererl, Mike Wadman, Harold Cotant, Steve Mortensen, Cheryl Adams and Chris Brokl

STAFF PRESENT: Dave Miller and Julie Heinz

GUESTS: Jason Sable, Sharyll Spandau,

MANAGING BY NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES

Cheryl Adams presented the concept of managing plant communities using plant succession as the guide. This concept allows for more entries into the plant community over time for a variety of products. She also illustrated that at the older plant community ages the stand is still managed and products harvested (this is counter to the common believe that old growth is a reserve that is not to be managed). Concept calls for more partial cutting and intermediate cutting over clear cutting although clear cutting is used, as appropriate, in the successional pathway of the community. Private landowners may need some incentives or options to manage this way in the long term since it may be difficult for them to harvest in a new way.

Cheryl stated that Blandin is beginning to shift their management to this concept. They are now under planting spruce rather than clear cutting and planting for example. Landscape committee identified the desire to increase the white pine component in the landscape and Blandin is ordering 5,000 seedlings for next spring and is going to try under planting in the appropriate plant community types.

DISCUSSION OF RNV:

- Concern about R&V, not ready to take the options of buying off/on.
- It is not a goal-unless you want it to be.
- It is a tool that is published, peered, reviewed, and considers biodiversity. RNV is a baseline figure—you don't have to increase/decrease but you must consider (SFRA).

- Committee agrees that more conifers are wanted - RNV indicates more conifers are needed also.

Dave cautioned participants to please don't let RNV cloud what you want to do on the landscape. Address it in the future as part of the natural succession discussion.

DISCUSSION OF DESIRED FUTURE FOREST CONDITION STATEMENT

Reviewed the small group work on the desired future forest condition statement. The following was agreed to:

- Change the first bullet to: *There will be an increased component of red, white and jack pine, cedar, tamarack, spruce and fir.*
- The second bullet was re-worded into three possibilities for future consideration:
 - *Promote species and age class diversity across the landscape according to natural plant community variability and succession.*
 - *Manage (or address, or manipulate) within-stand and landscape plant diversity patch sizes and age classes to mimic natural community function and provide a full range of habitat types across the landscape.*
 - *Promote species and age class diversity by managing forest stands across the landscape to resemble native plant community distribution, variability and succession.*
- The third bullet was not discussed, but time needs to be made available at next meeting to discuss more fully.

NEW ACREAGE INFORMATION

Mapping of the native plant communities for the entire NC landscape (both public and private lands) is completed. Draft acreage summaries showing species by age groups since disturbance were handed out for review. This information was received right before the meeting so no analysis had been completed. The information needs to be analyzed in light of the small group summary and discussed at our next meeting. New ways of displaying the information to make it more understandable to the committee are being explored. If you want the draft acreage summary let Julie or I know and we will send you one. A re-formatted summary will be sent out for the Nov. 29th meeting.

DISCUSSION OF ECONOMICS

Dave shared concern that were discussed at the Council meeting last Tuesday (Sept 25)—that of not spending enough time dealing with the social and economic parts of the process. No suggestions were made on how to do that, but Dave would like to try a visioning process that talks about a 20 yr vision for the social/economic future of the landscape.

Proposed visioning process:

- Each member of the NC Landscape Committee would be asked to ***“Project yourself 20 yrs into the future and describe what you see the NC landscape looking like using the following areas as a guide:”***
 - INFRASTRUCTURE (Roads, Trails, Utilities)
 - RECREATION USES
 - NATURAL SETTING/RESOURCES
 - INDUSTRY (Employment/jobs)
 - PUBLIC SERVICES (Healthcare, Education and Government)
 - DEVELOPMENT/LANDUSE
 - OTHER
- The information collected above would be summarized and shared with the landscape committee at their November 29th meeting.
- The committee could then look at how compatible the ecological information is compared to the visioning information.
- This is not a scientific method, but it would give everyone a chance to see how close or far apart committee members are in their values.

In addition to the visioning exercise we are currently exploring several economic analysis that may be helpful in the short term.

There was general acceptance about doing this type of a survey, but several other options were generated as to who should be surveyed:

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| OPTION 1 (6)* | NC COMMITTEE FILL |
| OPTION 2 (3) | NC COMMITTEE PLUS 10/MEMBER |
| OPTION 3 | DO NOTHING NOW |
| OPTION 4 (2) | NC COMMITTEE & GROUPS (50-100 in all) |
| OPTION 5 | SAMPLE OF LANDOWNERS (500 OR MORE) |
| OPTION 6 (1) | DO STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY |
| OPTION 7 (3) | NC COMMITTEE PLUS NEWSPAPER AD |

* poll of committee to see preference

Option 1 was selected for a trial run. Dave will send out the survey form before the next meeting to all NC landscape committee members and have the results summarized for the meeting. The committee can evaluate the results and decide if more information needs to be collected. Dave will also get some estimate of the time and money it would take to do a statistically valid survey

DEMONSTRATION FOREST PROPOSAL

Rick Horton reviewed the information on establishing a new group called *“stakeholders”* for the Demonstration Forest. Rick had to leave early and asked members to let him know if they would consider donating some additional time participating on the *stakeholders group* since it shares common knowledge and goals with the NC Landscape Committee.

Many of the landscape committee members present are already involved with the various groups for the Demonstration Forest. There was not much interest in having the landscape committee form a sub-committee for the stakeholders group. It was decided instead to have Dave Miller represent the NC Landscape Committee on the stakeholder group when it is formed as well as have any committee members that are interested serve as well. Vern Tollefson did volunteer to participate on the stakeholders group. If anyone else is interested contact Dave Miller.

Note: After the Committee adjourned, Jon Nelson, DNR, arrived and Dave discussed the above decision with Jon. Jon thought this would work and would tie the landscape goals in the NC landscape to the Demonstration Forest.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday November 29, 2001 at Grand Rapids Public Library (across the river from Blandin Foundation Building), Grand Rapids; from 9:30 to 3:30.

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