

Meeting Summary

Southeast Regional Landscape Committee

July 24, 2002
9am to 2:30 pm
Whitewater State Park

Attendees:

Ann Pierce, Bill Bruins, Bill Thompson, Charles Schmitt, Dan Johnson, Dick Broeker, Gary Holthaus, Larry Gates, Linda Dahl, Melvin Baughman, Mike Majeski, Peggy Backup, Roger Steinberg, Tim Yager, and Tom McMillin

Staff:

Chad Skally, Dave Miller, and Dave Zumeta

Agenda topics

9:15 to 10:00

Introductions / Background

Chad / Larry/ Dave M.

Discussion:

- Chad Skally welcomed everyone to the meeting, and the group went around and introduced themselves.
- Larry Gates gave a brief background on the Experiment in Rural Cooperation. He talked about the development of questions and topics for identifying UMN research efforts that the Experiment could fund. He also mentioned one area that was brought up was lack of coordination and that this effort (landscape planning) could assist in that.
- Dave Miller gave a presentation on the how forest landscape planning was developed in the state through the GEIS, Sustainable Forest Resources Act of 1995, and the MN Forest Resources Council.

Conclusions: n/a

Action items: n/a

Person responsible: n/a

Deadline:

10:00 to 11:00

Landscape planning process in Southeast MN

Chad

Discussion:

- Chad gave a presentation on the proposed landscape planning process in Southeast MN. He summarized the reasons, methods, and findings of the *Forest Resource Management in Southeast Minnesota A Landscape Perspective* document.
- Group discussion and agreement was reached on focusing the landscape planning in the Rochester Plateau and Blufflands subsections of the Southeast landscape and deferring the Big Woods and Oak Savanna to other individuals.
- There was discussion on the importance of not only using subsection boundaries but also working with watershed boundaries.
- The group felt comfortable with the proposed planning process.
- The group discussed the common theme statement example provided in the document. There were

several changes recommended including adding public agencies to receive professional assistance, expanding the definition of forest management, finding a better explanation for incentive programs to include tax breaks, add developers to the audience, and directly mention the focus on people working towards sustainability. The revised statement will be incorporated in an updated Southeast Landscape Planning document that will be sent out with this summary and posted on the MFRC website (<http://www.frc.state.mn.us>).

Conclusions:

- Continue with landscape planning process as proposed.
- Focus efforts on Rochester Plateau and Blufflands subsections.

Action items:

- Revise common theme statement.

Person responsible:

Chad Skally

Deadline:

8/15/02

11:00 to 2:00

Goals and strategies discussion

Small Groups

Discussion:

- Three small groups of 5 were formed to discuss the goals and strategies in the landscape perspective document. Each group looked at a different set of visions (biodiversity, education and outreach, and forest management). The purpose was to select and add important goals and strategies. Also to add as much specificity as possible.
- Each group gave a brief summary of the ideas they discussed: create connections between existing efforts and the public, various editing comments for removing overlap and grouping items, add developers to language, and need more education, outreach, and coordination.
- The revised visions, goals and strategies will be incorporated in an updated Southeast Landscape Planning document that will be sent out with this summary and posted on the MFRC website (<http://www.frc.state.mn.us>).

Conclusions:

- Each group gave a copy of landscape perspective document with their comments to Chad.

Action items:

- Revise landscape visions, goals and strategies.

Person responsible:

Chad Skally

Deadline:

8/15/02

2:00 to 2:30

Next steps

Chad

Discussion:

Several ideas were presented during the meeting to be considered for future action including:

- write news release
- meet with other groups (e.g., IWL, county boards, watershed groups, non-profits) and have them formally adopt landscape goals
- create package for local groups that people on the landscape committee can present (e.g., self-discussion guide, information folder)
- examine county and city comprehensive plans to see where they can be enhanced with regard to forest resource conservation

- get additional public input through the Experiment's Asset Mapping project

Conclusions: n/a

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise common theme statement, visions, goals, and strategies into one document. 	Chad	8/15/02
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up next meeting for late September / early October. 	Chad	9/15/02
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write news release. 	Larry and Chad	9/15/02
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop additional landscape planning outreach and education through the Experiment's Asset Mapping project. 	Larry	9/15/02
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to develop methods for creating and distributing information packets on landscape visions, goals, and strategies. 	Chad and Roger	Next Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce an example product of a specific goal/strategy to assist the group with understanding the process and products. 	Chad	Next Meeting