



Southeast Regional Landscape Committee

November 13, 2003 - 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
Plainview Community Center

Meeting Summary

Attendees: Ann Pierce, Barb Spears, Bill Bruins, Carol Jacobs, Charles Schmitt, Clint Miller, Dave Chura, Doug Rau, Jim Brooks, Jim Heaser, Jon Cole, Katie Hawkins, Lance Sorensen, Larry Gates, and Lou Chicquette

Staff: Chad Skally, Louis Yount

Brief Summary

Meeting Action Items		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Katie (hawk0181@umn.edu) with additional names of any people, organizations, or studies relating to SE MN water (quality, recreation, habitat, etc) and/or how those services change with land use. 	Committee Members	1/1/04
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit State Forester letter, sign and send out. 	Group / Chad / Jim H.	11/28/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let people know about the Media Handbook up on the Web 	Committee Members	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fill out workshop worksheet and email back to Chad (chad.skally@dnr.state.mn.us). 	Committee Members	ASAP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin activation process for the Wabasha Blufflands forest legacy area 	Clint, Larry, and Chad	Ongoing

The next meeting will be at the Plainview Community center (which is the building behind the library), March 2, 2004 from 9:30-3:30.

We will continue our discussions on developing a regional workshop, forest legacy activation, and outreach and education.

Detailed Summary

9:45 to 10:15	Introductions / Current Activities	Group
Discussion:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everyone went around introduced themselves and gave a summary of activities (events in bold):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Jim Heaser: The Hiawatha Sustainable Woods group is sponsoring chainsaw safety course this February/March for people in Houston and Fillmore Counties. Also December 5/6 there will be a collaborative meeting of wood coops in Menomonie WI (see calendar on www.forestrycenter.org).○ Ann Pierce: talked about USFWS grants that are going toward prairie restoration (in the North/North West part of the state), rattlesnake habitat (in the SE), and woodland/blufflands (in the SE); she is in charge of the woodland one and is developing methods for prioritizing areas for easements.○ Jim Brooks: Mentioned that BALMM had a meeting on the 13th that discussed the activities of CREP. There is an issue that some counties are working on reforestation while others are not. There are about 42,500 acres, half of which include tree planting. Also December 10 the Blandin Foundation is holding a one day workshop as a follow up to a workshop held earlier this year entitled Vital Forest Vital Communities (see www.blandinfoundation.org). On February 11/12 there will be a multi-state governors conference (MN, MI, WI), in the twin cities, and issues relating to the forest economy will be discussed (see www.lsfa.org). March 23/24 several states will be holding a conference in Lacrosse to discuss forestry issues. Lastly Jim mentioned a study that was completed 10 years ago on junk wood utilization. If he tracks down a copy we will make it available to committee members. He is working with the Winona Chamber of Commerce to discuss ideas on wood utilization.○ Carol Jacobs: This winter there will be a workshop on tick diseases. February 14 at Eagle Bluff Learning Center there will be a Natural Resource Day.○ Barb Spears: Mentioned that there are a few programs that are developing systems to give carbon credits to landowners. This idea is also being looked at for water quality. It could be a tool to increase the incentive for landowners to plant trees, especially in riparian areas.		

10:15 to 11:00	Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services	Katie Hawkins
Discussion:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Katie Hawkins summarized the key points of her literature review on the Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services. The report is available on the Internet on the Southeast Landscape Page (www.frc.state.mn.us/Landscp/SERRegion.html). Key concepts Katie address include<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The difference between an ecosystem service (involves human values) versus ecosystem functions (biophysical).○ 4 main functions described on pages 2-5.○ Pages 5-11 contain more detailed information on Minnesota Ecosystems.○ There is a graph on page 13 that illustrates the various types of values that are applied to ecosystem services.○ Economic valuation methods are discussed on pages 13-16.○ A listing of studies that have completed economic valuation of ecosystems service (pg 16-21).		

- Katie asked committee members to email her with additional names of any people, organizations, or studies relating to SE MN water (quality, recreation, habitat, etc) and/or how those services change with land use.
- The next step in Katie's research is to complete an economic valuation of an ecosystem service. Right now she is leaning toward value water service tied to forest cover in an area in Southeast MN

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11:00 to 2:30	Landscape Outreach and Education	Group
Discussion:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to State Forester: Chad provided the group with a draft letter to the State Forester that highlighted the concerns about the lack of forestry assistance for private landowners in the region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overall the group thought the letter looked good, there were some suggestions to mention CREP in the letter, remove priority numbering, and make it more positive and looking toward the future. ○ The group decided to have Chad email the letter out to all members of the committee, except DNR Foresters due to a conflict of interest, for comments. Once Chad receives comments and finalizes the letter Jim Heaser will sign it and send it out on behalf of the group. • Media Handbook: Chad gave everyone a copy of the media handbook he put together based on the ideas discussed at the last meeting. The Media Handbook is posted on the Southeast Landscape webpage (www.frc.state.mn.us/Landscp/SERegion.html). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The group had a few minor additions and corrections. Chad decided not to put in names of specific media people due to the fact that these people come and go. • Education Workshop: Louis Yount with the UMN/College of Natural Resources Continuing Education program brought to the committee a proposal on developing an education workshop for the region. The proposal was developed by her along with the Forest Service Experiment Station and MFRC Landscape Program staff. The original intent of the proposal is to bring ecological tools and research to the hands of people who can use it (managers and landowners). Instead of trying to do this on a statewide basis the proposal called for having regional workshops based on the needs and audiences in different parts of the State. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The group discussed many different ideas for key audiences and topics. Overall everyone seemed in favor of holding a workshop or two in the region on ecological concepts. ○ Chad will develop a worksheet for committee members to put their ideas for a workshop on. Committee members should fill out the worksheet and email back to Chad (chad.skally@dnr.state.mn.us). At the next meeting the group can use the information from the worksheets to generate key topic(s) and audience(s). 		

- **Logger Education:** Dave Chura with the Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP) discussed what MLEP was about and their priorities. He passed around a booklet that MLEP encourages all it's members to hand out to private landowners. This booklet goes over guidelines, certification, and other useful items landowners should be aware of. Dave said that currently there are very few loggers in Southeast MN that are members but that one of his priorities is to increase membership. He mentioned many small logger operation do not join because it costs \$175-350. Also there are costs for MLEP members to attend required continuing education workshops. Although continued education is good for sustainable forestry.
 - The group thought it would be a good idea to come up with ideas on letter landowners know that the loggers they hire should be members of MLEP. Making the MLEP directory more visible to landowners could do this.
 - Also future workshops the group is involved with may provide opportunities to work with MLEP to increase logger participation and education. The group would like to assist Dave with increasing MLEP membership in the region.

- **Forest Legacy Areas:**
 - Since the last meeting many committee members talked to foresters and local politicians about activating the Wabasha Blufflands candidate forest legacy area. Even though it looks like in the near future the funding for easements will be difficult to get the committee decided to go ahead with the process to activate the Wabasha Blufflands forest legacy area. The group hopes once this area gets activated there will be more possibilities for funding easements. Plus activating this are will provide a good outreach and education tool for landowners in the region. Clint Miller mentioned that the MN Land Trust would be willing to co-hold land trusts with the DNR. Clint, Larry, and Chad will begin to pull together the information needed to activate the forest legacy area.

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