

Minnesota Forest Resources Council
Personnel & Finance Committee
September 23, 2005
DNR – 6th Floor Commissioner’s office conference room
MEETING SUMMARY

P&F Committee members present: Wayne Brandt, Mike Carroll, Shaun Hamilton, Paige Winebarger

Absent: Al Sullivan

MFRC staff present: Dave Zumeta, Jenna Fletcher

TNC Request for Letter of Support

Dave Zumeta reported that Flannery Delaney from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has requested a letter from MFRC in support of TNC’s application to the Laura Jane Musser Fund to provide financial assistance for a public relations initiative around the Forest Legacy Partnership. This Partnership, which includes the MFRC, supports implementing large-scale forest conservation easements in Itasca County and northern Minnesota. The committee members informally approved of Dave Zumeta writing a letter of support.

Approve FY06 Workplan*

Wayne Brandt moved to approve the workplan, Shaun Hamilton seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Paige Winebarger asked: What would we do with additional budget? Dave Zumeta responded MFRC could use more staff support, and Wayne Brandt agreed that budget is needed to re-energize the Research Advisory Committee, and that budget could help the Interagency Information Cooperative.

Approve FY06 Budget Allocation*

Jenna Fletcher reviewed MFRC’s budget allocation across the various programs and activities of the MFRC. Wayne suggested that \$2,000 be moved from the Council Operations to support a meeting of the Research Advisory Committee. With that change, Wayne moved to approve the budget allocation. Paige Winebarger seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The committee reviewed expenditures through August 31st.

Personnel: Proposal to Hire an Information Specialist*

Dave Zumeta proposed hiring a ¼ time Information Specialist to assist in the office with administrative and information management support. The estimated cost for this position is \$11,250/year with no additional fringe benefits provided. The committee approved the hiring.

Discussion: should all committee meetings be published in EQB Monitor?

Dave and Jenna described the state Open Meeting Law that requires meetings to be publicly announced. Currently, all full MFRC meetings comply, but there is inconsistent compliance for committee meetings. The P&F members agreed that all MFRC committee meetings should comply by posting advance notice of the meetings in the EQB Monitor.

MFA’s response letter re: SFIA funding request

MFA responded to this committee’s request for more information related to their funding request to support creation and operation of an SFIA workgroup. Specifically, MFA clarified what the proposed workgroup would accomplish. Given MFRC’s flat budget that is actually eroding due to inflation, the committee decided to not provide funding to MFA for this project. Committee members feel that other sources of funding are available.