

Minnesota Forest Resources Council
Personnel & Finance Committee
January 6, 2005
220 Skok Hall, St. Paul Campus - University of Minnesota

P&F Committee members present: Al Sullivan - Chair, Mike Carroll (via speakerphone), Shaun Hamilton, Paige Winebarger, Wayne Brandt.

MFRC staff present: Dave Zumeta, Jenna Fletcher

Review of FY 05 MFRC expenditures to date and remaining budget activities

Jenna Fletcher and Dave Zumeta provided a spreadsheet showing FY05 budget allocations and expenditures through December. Because the end of the fiscal year is June 30th, and no carryovers will occur, MFRC staff will actively manage the remaining balance. To do so, anticipated expenditures over the next six months were discussed for each of the three major program areas: Policy/Council Operations; Landscape Program and the Site-Level Program. P&F members expressed confidence that the budget is being managed well.

Discussion and development of recommendations regarding policy topics to address in 2005.

The P&F Committee discussed the next steps for gaining full MFRC agreement on which policy topics to address in 2005. The motion that was approved at the November MFRC meeting laid out the process:

- 1) *MFRC Committees are requested to forward broad policy issues for consideration by P&F.*
- 2) *P&F will create a list of policy topic areas to be addressed by the MFRC from the following categories:*
 - A) *educate MFRC members*
 - B) *disseminate information beyond the MFRC*
 - C) *address current shorter term issues;*
 - D) *fulfill MFRC's role to advise policy makers on broad, significant issues*
- 3) *P&F report back to full MFRC with recommendations on which policy issue areas should be addressed by MFRC. The recommendations will be brought to the MFRC meeting in March 2005.*

During this meeting, the committee members reviewed a document entitled "Discussion of Policy Issues and Possible Actions" that contained a matrix showing the ten policy issues and the above four categories for action. The committee reprioritized the ten policies, by moving #6 Impacts of "wood waste" up to #3. Also, the P&F learned that the Landscape Committee had met a few days earlier and had discussed the policy issues. The Landscape Committee recommended that MFRC focus on (in priority order): 1) Forest landscape health, 2) forestland loss and parcelization, 3) impacts of "wood waste" use and, 4) a new issue – the need for increased recruitment of labor into the forestry profession. It was agreed that this new issue will be added to the matrix for discussion at the MFRC meeting on January 19th.

Paige Winebarger suggested that the MFRC needs to take immediate action in order to avoid "leaving money on the table" from the federal funding available for Forest Legacy Program, as discussed at the November 30th MFRC meeting. This would entail encouraging the state to ensure adequate state matching funds in order to effectively compete for the federal Forest Legacy Program funds.

Therefore, it was suggested that a Resolution of Support be developed that can then be proposed as an action item for the MFRC at its January 19th meeting. The purpose of the Resolution of Support is to support MFRC members during conversations with legislators and the Congressional delegation. Jenna agreed to draft the Resolution of Support with input from P&F members. It was agreed that approval of the proposed resolution will be sought at the January 19th MFRC meeting.

Update on the idea of a Metro Landscape Plan

Dave Zumeta shared the results of the January 4, 2005 Landscape Committee meeting where a decision was made to not make a formal recommendation to the MFRC about the MFRC playing a lead role in preparing a landscape plan for the Metro region. The main reason for this relates to budget and staff constraints.

Request for financial support for proposal creation – *Half hour Series Special on Minnesota's Forests*

Dave Zumeta discussed the proposal received from the University of Minnesota College of Natural Resources asking MFRC to fund \$4,992 for creation of a proposal for a television program on sustainable forests. This episode would showcase Minnesota's forests, leveraging existing footage remaining after recent completion of a 4-hour television series entitled *Minnesota: A History of the Land*. Several committee members expressed concerns about the MFRC funding this first step in a very large project to create a television program, given other funding sources and the availability of other funding sources for proposal development.

Update on Landscape Program staffing

Dave Zumeta shared that Dave Miller plans to retire on June 30th, 2005. Also, Lindberg Ekola's half-time position will end on the same date. Dave Zumeta plans to post a new position that will be responsible for Landscape Plan Coordination. Al Sullivan requested that this topic will be the first item on the agenda for the next P&F Committee meeting.