

MFRC Site-level Committee Meeting Minutes February 24, 2005

In attendance: Dave Parent, Shawn Perich, Bob Lintelmann, Dick Walsh, Kathy Manteuffel, Bob Oswald Mike Phillips

Guests: Tim Aunan, Steve Gallay

Dave Parent called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Mike Phillips handed out the following materials:

1. Meeting agenda.
2. Draft MFRC Site-level Committee meeting protocols
3. Draft MFRC Site-level Committee charter
4. Table showing tree species windfirmness based on comparison between Table GG-7 in the timber harvest guidebook, analysis of Pokegama study data (Clarence Turner), and survey of resource managers (Jeremy Steil)
5. Power point presentation handouts on Riparian Science Technical Committee process

Guideline implementation goals

Dave parent raised the need to revisit the timber harvesting and forest management implementation goals established by the MFRC in 1998. Dave questioned whether the MFRC has done an adequate job of outreach to the NIPF landowners, particularly in southeastern Minnesota. Mike Phillips indicated that the MFRC had agreed to evaluate progress in attaining those goals in 2000 and 2002. The evaluation was completed for 2000, but due to other priorities and resource limitations, the 2002 analysis was never initiated. Dave stated that his main concern is that the MFRC has not communicated with the NIPF landowners to the extent that is needed to promote sustainable forest management. He described his measure for implementing the goal of communicating with NIPF landowners as the number of brochures provided to them. Dave asked Mike to evaluate the information on the numbers of guideline brochures and their distribution to NIPF landowners as part of his update at the march 16, 2005 MFRC meeting.

Draft meeting protocols and Site-level Committee charter

Both the meeting protocols and Site-level Committee charter were agreed to unanimously after some discussion. Shawn Perich asked whether it would be appropriate for the issue of certification to be added to the charter for the Site-level Committee. Mike explained that the MFRC had discussed and considered certification as part of its work when the MFRC was first convened, but it never became an issue the MFRC put much effort in. The Site-level Committee agreed that certification should not be part of the committee charter, but there was consensus that Shawn should raise the issue at the March 16 MFRC meeting when Dave provides the committee update.

Guideline revisions

Mike discussed progress to date in publishing the revised MFRC timber harvesting and forest management guidebook. He mentioned that Linda Schroeder was the contractor selected to update the guidebook and that the revised guidebook was scheduled to be published by June 30, 2005. Shawn asked whether the inserts would be provided to replace the text in the old guidebook cover and how the revised guidebook would be distinguished from the original. Mike indicated that our intent is to publish a complete new guidebook with a cover that is different from the original. Shawn suggested, and Kathy Manteuffel agreed, that there should be language on the cover, such as “2nd edition” or “updated version” that clearly distinguishes the revision from the original. The committee agreed and asked Mike to ensure that this suggestion gets incorporated into the cover of the guidebook.

Mike also reviewed the results of the analysis by Clarence Turner and Jeremy Steil on the windfirmness of tree species as they relate to guideline recommendations given in Table GG-7. The results from these analyses suggest that Table GG-7 is correct for the most part and that there is no need to revise the table as currently written. The committee agreed unanimously to leave Table GG-7 as written.

Implementation monitoring overview

Rick Dahlman was unable to attend the meeting, so Mike provided the update. He discussed who had been the successful bidder for the contract, problems with contacting landowners, the potential location and timing of the calibration workshop, and continued difficulties with the computer program for entering and analyzing the implementation monitoring data. Rick will provide a more detailed overview of the implementation monitoring program at the next meeting of the Site-level Committee.

Resource Assessment Overview

Tim Aunan and Steve Gallay provided an overview of the assistance that Resource assessment has provided to the MFRC in implementing the SFRA. Tim discussed the evolution in the use of technology by the Resource Assessment unit and how that evolving process has taken us from identifying implementation monitoring sites from the use of aerial photography of townships, to the combination of employing satellite imagery and aerial photography to identify these sites. Tim and Steve also reviewed their work in determining the levels of harvest in riparian areas in Minnesota and in evaluating forest land use change statewide. It was also emphasized that the relationship between the MFRC and the Resource Assessment unit is critically important to the continued success in achieving the MFRC’s goals. Shawn asked what Tim and Steve thought were the big changes in the landscape that they have noted over the years as they have flown and photographed those landscapes. Steve indicated that the change that has left an indelible impression with him is the expansion of beaver flooding over the northern portion of the state. Steve’s other observed landscape change is the extent of road upgrades.

Update on the RSTC process

Mike reviewed the status to date with the Riparian Science Technical Committee. He gave the power point presentation that was shown by Jenna Fletcher at an earlier DNR Fisheries conference. Points highlighted included:

- Identification of functions, subfunctions, and indicators that will be assessed by the RSTC
- Overview of the graphical representation of the RSTC output as proposed
- Status of water bodies to be considered for riparian review
- Current thinking on the structure of the economic review of the RSTC output
- Assistance of the Wisconsin DNR in funding the economic analysis (\$25,000 proposed)

Mike asked Dave and Shawn to provide their perspectives on the three meetings of the RSTC to date. Dave said that he was impressed with the mutual respect shown among RSTC members as they work through these difficult issues. Shawn agreed and added that he felt the committee process was well run.

Riparian Project Research Update

Mike provided a brief update on the status of the LCMR funded research project. Points highlighted included:

- Each site includes 1) a riparian control (upland clearcut with no harvesting in the RMZ) and 2) a site with varying levels of harvest within the RMZ
- Seven of 8-paired treatments were harvested in the winter of 2003-2004. Immediate post-treatment data for those sites was collected in the spring, summer, and fall of 2004 and the data is being processed
- The 8th paired site is currently being harvested

Adjourn

No date was set for the next Site-level Committee meeting and Dave Parent adjourned the GIMC meeting at 2:15 p.m.