

MINNESOTA FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL

Site-Level Committee

Notes

1:00 – 3:00 pm, Friday, October 1

Zoom Link: <https://umn.zoom.us/j/95097038650>

Members present: Kory Cease, Scott Pittacks, Katie Fernholz, Rick Horton

Members absent: Deb Theisen

Staff present: Eric Schenck, Sadie Mathison, Dick Rossman

1. Meeting convenes & introductions (as needed)
2. Brief review of SLC Strategic Plan Goal, Strategies, and Objectives – Eric

Eric reviewed the strategic plan for the Site-level Committee, which includes a focus on making recommendations to the Council and to facilitate the review of the FMGs and based on that review, make any revisions deemed necessary.

Eric commended the committee on the progress made.

3. FMG Review Process

a. Status of FMG review

i. Survey Overview document

Revisions have been made to this document based on Council input and it is now posted on the website.

ii. Monitoring review is close to completion. Dick said he will need to touch base with David Wilson for a final report/product they can put together and finalize it.

iii. FMG Literature Review: Bibliography

This portion of the review has yet to begin.

Further discussion of the review process included the following:

- MLEP is in the process of hiring a new ED and this might be an opportunity to improve education.
- There was a strong recommendation to get back into training. Boots on the ground, in the field type training, rather than classroom.
- It is important that the committee show and document the work they've done in this review.
- There was recommendation for an all-day in-person meeting to work through the trends to determine whether the guidelines are working or if they need revision. Prior to that, all three steps need to be complete, especially the literature review.

- b. UMN Contracted Staff – Eric asked that we talk about what the needs might be for a person to fill this role, especially around the literature review.
The committee asked that Eric take on the task of creating a scoping document for the contract staff role.

4. Status of “Forest Scientist” position

Eric has been working on the position descriptions for the open positions and is finding that they are more complex than he had anticipated. He went over the roles, tasks, and responsibilities of the “Forest Scientist” position as they are stated now and asked the committee for input. Requests from the group:

- Task of closing the MLEP feedback loop. Liaison with MLEP to address gaps in the FMG training.
- Coordination with SFEC and the Lakes States Cooperative.
- Dissemination of guideline implementation reports.
- Review the guidelines are utilized effectively. Education, training, communication.
- This person should not be conducting research but utilizing research, interpreting, and communicating.
- Acquire funding for research, not necessarily administering the grant work, but coordinating partners to acquire the funding.

5. Updated FMG document with hyperlinks

The committee reviewed the hyperlinked table of contents that Sadie added to the FMG document. The committee liked this new feature and discussed further expansion to make the full document as well as the field guide more easily used in electronic format.

6. FMG Field Workshop at November 17-18 Council meeting

Eric talked about utilizing the FMGs to explore forest conditions in the field during the November meeting. A goal would be to provide more experience with the guidelines and to solicit more feedback from participants.

Discussion yielded the following ideas:

- Every site is different and requires professional judgement to apply the guidelines. There is a common misconception that this can be done from a desk.
- Recommendation that a forester (logger?) talk to the group about what decisions were made during the setup of the management plan/prospectus, before going out into the field.
- The introduction to the guidelines will be required reading before the meeting.
- Have several perspectives presented such as from a logger, forester, private landowner, resort owner, etc.
- Include water quality element, and since Cloquet is on native lands, cultural considerations should be brought into the conversation.

Dick will work with Eli to customize the program based on the discussion.