

MINNESOTA FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL

Personnel and Finance Committee

1:00 – 3:00 pm, Tuesday, February 7, 2023

NOTES

PRESENT: Pete Aube – Chair, Jim Manolis, Patty Theilen, Mike Kilgore, Kim Berns-Melhus, Rick Horton

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Eric Schenck, Sadie Mathison, Anna Stockstad

GUESTS: Katie Fernholz

Introductory Remarks and Roll Call—Pete Aube, Chair

Pete recommended that the disposal of the Cloquet Forestry Center be added at the end of agenda. The group agreed to add this topic to the agenda.

Review Process for Carbon Baseline & LCA Proposals—Eric Schenck & Anna Stockstad

Eric provided a background on the RFP review up until this point. He stated that the scores were close. He hopes that the interview process today will make the decision. He then explained the process. There was a suggestion to have the original review panel review the supplemental information that was received for the purpose of this meeting. Mike Kilgore recused himself from voting due to his relationship with all members of one of the teams. Katie also recused herself because she is unable to be present for the entirety of the interviews.

The interviews included non-public data and will not be recorded in these minutes.

RFP Application decision—All

The two applicants for the RFP presented separately to the group. After brief discussion, the group unanimously (Mike Kilgore and Katie Fernholz abstained) agreed to support candidate number one. Staff will move forward with DNR Contracting before making an announcement. The committee agreed that the second-choice team is also capable if the first choice is unable to enter into a contract for some reason. The decision will therefore be kept confidential until contracting staff gives the go-ahead.

The upcoming UMN Regent's meeting cites an agenda item for the consideration of turning the Cloquet Forestry Center over to the Fond du Lac Tribe

<https://twin-cities.umn.edu/news-events/background-intentions-cloquet-forestry-center>

Pete expressed concern over the transfer of the CFC as it affects sustainable forestry in the state of Minnesota. Mike provided an overview of the history of the forest and the on-going research that is happening in the CFC forest. The Regents stated that the University will be looking for different facilities at which to conduct research and education activities.

Manager's Financial Report, FY23 Budget Status

Eric provided a rough estimate of funds to be left over for the fiscal year. He has had discussions with the Northern Regional Landscape committee to get a jumpstart on utilizing some of those funds to start the plan update process. They have provided a proposal and budget. The Committee agreed that staff should continue to develop and initiate a grant agreement with the Koochiching SWCD using available FY23 funding and add this as an informational or action item for the March 21 Council meeting.

MFRC Personnel Updates

HR has provided a draft position posting for the final open Policy Position. It will post soon.

David Wilson will start his role as MFRC Applied Forest Science Coordinator on March 1st.

Dick Rossman's PRO has been updated through June 30th.

Other/Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:05pm