

MINNESOTA FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL
Personnel and Finance Committee
1:00 – 4:30 pm, Tuesday, June 7, 2022
Green Hall Room 220A
1530 Cleveland Avenue North, St. Paul, MN

Members present: Pete Aube – Chair, Jim Manolis, Mike Kilgore,

Members absent: Forrest Boe, Kim Berns-Melhus, Rick Horton

Staff present: Eric Schenck, Sadie Mathison

Managers Financial Report 5/31/22—Eric Schenck (5 minutes)

Eric pointed to the Manager's Financial Report which was included in the meeting materials. Currently MFRC has more available funds than what is typical because of open staff positions. Because of this, discussing available resources is not as important as it will be when the positions are full.

Eric presented the Forest Science Coordinator Position Description. He is currently working to refine the document in preparation of posting the position. Group discussion of the position yielded the following:

- A desire that the person in this position manage grants and contracts.
- A shift away from active research and a focus on collaboration and direction.
- A visionary component and an ability to think ahead 50- years plus and to be proactive rather than reactive.
- Good working knowledge of forest management technologies, site-level management, and the FMGs.

Eric is in the process of finishing this PD and asked that any lingering thoughts be submitted to him ASAP.

Eric shifted attention to the vacant Forest Policy and Program Specialist. This will be the third staff position to be posted. There is a desire for the person in this position to be comfortable building relationships with stakeholder groups. The question is whether or not there is justification to change the position to a higher level classification.

At the most recent meeting of the full Council, Matt Russel presented on the nearly finished Minnesota Forest Carbon Report. Eric pointed the top three information needs ranked by RAC and Council members. Considering the Governor's Climate Action Framework and the DNR's mandated carbon report, it is timely that the MFRC make a recommendation on what baselines are important and should be perused. The MFRC is statutorily bound to provide guidance. Eric proposed a facilitated session to review and discuss different baseline options. He would like the P&F

committee to approve moving forward towards the goal of making baseline priority selections and presenting those to the Commissioner.

After discussion, the P&F Committee determined that the best strategy be to hand pick an ad hoc committee to mold the baseline compilation and present the recommendations to the full Council at the July meeting. The Council has \$350k to commission the resulting work needed.

Next steps include life cycle assessments and a study of the carbon outcomes of different management treatments and products.

Eric announced the beginning of the MFRC budget request cycle. He then presented some examples of budget proposal items for discussion.

The conversation moved to the request that Senator Igo presented to the Council in March regarding a potential carbon market bill. The committee determined that it is important that MFRC provide guidance on this issue and decided that the topic move to the Policy Committee's upcoming agenda.

Eric plans to engage Matt Russell around his expectations with the three priority recommendations.

Meeting adjourned.