

**MINNESOTA FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL**  
Landscape Advisory Committee  
10:00 am– 12:00 pm, Wednesday, May 8, 2022

**Present:** Jim Manolis – *Chair*, Keith Karnes, Craig Engwall, Rick Horton, Doug Tillma

**Absent:** Connie Cummins, Deb Theisen, Doug Tillma, Forrest Boe, Janet Erdman, Kim Berns-Melhus

**Staff present:** Eric Schenck, Sadie Mathison

The meeting began with an announcement from Eric that the two final candidates for Landscape Coordinator were interviewed by the P&F Committee. Eric is very close to making a decision and expects to make the announcement by the end of the week.

Jim brought forth the topic of areas of focus for the incoming Landscape Coordinator. Eric mentioned a need to look at the makeup of the regional landscape committees going forward. Jim asked for input from the group. Discussion points:

- Regional committees be informed that the new person will not be on the road and in person as much as the former Coordinator. However, the new person should be in-person for the early meetings. Committee chairs and co-chairs should take responsibility for providing committee leadership.
- Decision makers will not be at the meetings and that is a disadvantage.
- The new person should read the plans and then meet with the contractors involved with the planning process.
- Each committee should have one flagship project to help with motivation and value.
- A discussion with key landowners to talk about the landscape plan implementation, perhaps the counties.
- There could also be some effort to find out if landscape plans have been cited when acquiring the funding. Have a conversation with Mark Johnson (Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council).
- Ask County Land Commissioners how the plans influence their work.
- There should be a private land component for which Janet and Kathleen should be engaged.
- There was a request to ask the new Coordinator to do the regional landscape portion of the biennial report.

The P&F Committee met the day prior. Eric provided a review of the forest carbon strategic plan discussion that happened. He mentioned the priorities that have come out of the Forest Carbon Strategic Plan that will be complete this month. He stated the statutory responsibility of the MFRC to guide resource monitoring and the Council should recommend the important, common baselines to be used in the state of Minnesota to track carbon and carbon emissions. Lifecycle assessments should be completed to use as a tool to guide management and to understand the carbon outcomes of different forest products. The P&F Committee discussed moving forward on these strategies by first assembling an ad hoc committee to formulate next steps around the priorities that came from the forest carbon report, refine recommended steps, and bring to the full Council.

Eric also mentioned the concept of a mixed woods as a carbon and/or ecological strategy. Blandin is looking to fund a graduate student to conduct the study. Blandin is providing base funding support and MFRC P&F Committee approved \$10,000 for this purpose.

Eric expressed his need for knowledgeable members of the MFRC circle to help direct the Council's next steps and to figure out a solution to MFRC's capacity difficulty.

A suggested topic for the next meeting was to invite the new Coordinator to go over the priority topics discussed above.

Eric shared his takeaways from site visits he took with Pete and Keith on the Chippewa National Forest. He wondered if visits like this might be valuable in influencing action based on landscape plans. There was discussion of tying a site visit into the onboarding of the new Coordinator.

Meeting adjourned.