**MFRC Resolution 2022-1: “Supporting Minnesota’s Climate Change Goals**

**Through Development of Sustainable Forest Products Markets”**

**2022-1 Action and Communications Strategy**

**Goal: Align new market development and sustainable forest management of “woody biomass” and “forest residuals” to support Minnesota’s climate change goals.**

Objective A. Referring directly to Resolution 2022-1 and the Governor’s draft climate change framework, and citing “MFRC’s Climate Change and Minnesota’s Forests” or other relevant sources, briefly summarize how development of sustainable forest product markets for “woody biomass” or “forest residuals” supports Minnesota’s climate change goals.

Communication 1. Post summary on MFRC’s website.

Communication 2. Incorporate summary highlights in talking points for Governor and MFRC chair for the March 15 Capitol event.

Objective B. Evaluate appropriate sources of material that could be considered “woody biomass” or “forest residuals” such as mill residuals, harvest residuals, wood waste, diseased wood, unmerchantable wood, and other material removed for fuel reduction.

Action 1. Review and cite existing federal and state definitions for “woody biomass,” “forest residuals” and related terms.

Action 2. Assemble Minnesota assessments/reports of “woody biomass” and “forest residuals” including past harvest quantities and current estimates of availability.

Action 3. Policy Committee hosts stakeholder forum to review and discuss definitions, sources, availability, and market uses of “woody biomass” and “forest residuals.”

Action 4. Policy Committee makes recommendation for MFRC action.

Communication 1. Recruit MFRC stakeholder representative to present Minnesota’s historic and current market use of “woody biomass” and “forest residuals” to Council.

Communication 2. Develop case study examples (historic or current) of “woody biomass” and “forest residuals” market uses such as Ever-Green Energy/St Paul Co-Generation.

Communication 3. Assemble MFRC library of citations/reports of carbon/emission assessments associated with “woody biomass” or “forest residuals” within forests, and/or when woody biomass is used as a source of bio-energy.

Objective C. Describe how harvesting of harvesting of “woody biomass” and “forest residual” materials acknowledges Tribal treaty rights while integrating with existing forest management plans, timber harvesting guidelines, and forest certification standards.

Action 1. Request MIAC Council representative provide a summary of Tribal treaty rights with description of how such rights apply to “woody biomass” and “forest residual” harvest.

Action 2. Request USFS, DNR, and MACLC Council representatives provide descriptions of “woody biomass” and “forest residual” harvest on the lands they manage and how such harvest is integrated in their forest management plans.

Action 3. Request summary of “woody biomass” and “forest residual” harvest certification standards from Minnesota FSC and SFI representatives, along with report of forest acres under FSC/SFI certification in the state.

Communication 1. MFRC staff provides presentation to Council on FMG biomass harvest guideline history and overview.

Objective D. Recommend policies and strategies for attracting new markets that align with the state’s management objectives, to potentially include energy products (e.g commercial and residential heating, pellets, biofuels) and non-energy products (e.g thermally-modified wood, biochar, activated carbon, biobased chemicals and extractives, and engineered and specialty wood products).

Recommendation 1. Include woody feedstocks in statewide fuel or energy standards.

Action 1. ????

Communication 1. Provide talking points for Governor and MFRC Chair for March 15 Capitol event.

Recommendation 2. Offer broadly available production incentives for low carbon renewable biofuels derived from woody biomass or other bioenergy feedstocks

Action 1. ????

Communication 1. Provide talking points for Governor and MFRC Chair for March 15 Capitol event.