

# MINNESOTA FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL

## Communication Committee

Wednesday, October 26, 2022, 1pm – 3pm

Members Present: Kathleen Preece – Chair, Janet Erdman, Deb Theisen, Kim Berns-Melhus, Tim Wegner

Members Absent: Bob Owens

Staff Present: Eric Schenck, Sadie Mathison

## AGENDA

Kathleen welcomed the group and asked for approval or discussion of August Communication Committee meeting notes. There was no discussion, and the group approved the notes.

Kathleen asked if there were any updates on the Council member stakeholder group communications. There have not been any communications. Kathleen asked members of the committee to mention the stakeholder group contact list when in conversation with other Council members.

There have been some suggestions that the Communications Committee carry forward the end products of the Private Lands Working Group meeting. Kathleen asked the group if they felt that this responsibility lies within the purview of this committee. The committee discussed and agreed this does not fall within the responsibilities of this committee.

Kathleen asked the group if the “Eli Proposal” is something this committee supports. Again there was agreement that approval of this proposal this is not the responsibility of this committee. It should go to the full Council for vote. Eric hoped that a version which does not require any further wordsmithing could go to the Council for full approval.

After review of the evolution of the proposal, the committee decided that the unofficial Private Lands Working Group can look it over at their upcoming meeting, prior to presentation to the full Council.

Tim Wegner reported that he and Jaimé attended the recent Northern Regional Landscape committee meeting. There was discussion around the needs of the committee. Tim reported that the committee's biggest ask was for funding from the Council for projects. Eric reported on the status of the efforts to create funding dedicated to Regional Landscape projects. There is a desire and proposal for funding, however before moving forward, Eric would like more Council buy-in, protocols set in place, and dedicated available funding before moving forward.

Kathleen suggested that having a Council member at each of the Regional Committee meetings would be a great way to keep the lines of communication open.

Eric provided an update on the status of the Applied Forest Science Coordinator hiring process. Due to the panel scoring of the candidates on their initial interviews, DNR HR is requiring another round of interviews for three of the four finalists. Eric is currently working to put together a second panel for this task and hopes to hold the interviews prior to the November meeting of the Council.

Eric also reported that the Position Description has been drafted for the vacant Policy Analyst position. The position will post for 30 days. It is ready to go but has not yet been posted.

Kathleen mentioned the ongoing effort to assist regional landscape committees in the use of their individual web pages. Since Tim was present and plans to continue to attend Northern Regional Landscape Committee meetings, Kathleen asked that he talk to the Regional committees about their needs for the website.

Regarding the suggestion from Bob Owens to develop a bulletin type communication for secondary wood manufacturers, Kathleen suggested that we push this back to Bob to create a draft. Eric suggested DNR might already have an email newsletter on this topic. Kathleen suggested that the creators of the publication might consider giving MFRC a corner of their bulletin to share information when it is pertinent to that stakeholder group.

Eric then shared a photo (below) of a Black Swan Cooperage whiskey barrel made in Park Rapids, MN. He then suggested that a photo such as this might be a compelling addition to the biennial report as an example of Minnesota secondary wood products.

Meeting adjourned.



TANDARD

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