

MINNESOTA FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL

Personnel and Finance Committee

1:00 – 3:00 pm, Tuesday, August 2, 2022

<https://umn.zoom.us/j/98702160640>

Meeting ID: 987 0216 0640

Members present: Pete Aube, Kim Berns Melhus, Rick Horton, Mike Kilgore

Members absent: Jim Manolis

Staff present: Eric Schenck, Anna Stockstad

Eric began the meeting by sharing the Managers Financial Report FY22. The report showed unexpended funds that will roll forward to FY23 and Eric emphasized the need for the Committee to discuss potential uses of these available funds.

Eric then updated the Committee on the personnel hiring status. Applications for the Applied Forest Science Coordinator close at midnight on August 2nd, 2022. Applications have already been received. Eric has been setting up interview questions and an interview committee. Interviews would ideally begin as soon as possible. Interview committee members would consist of DNR employee(s) and P&F Committee members. Eric also shared the proposed job responsibilities and qualifications for the Forest Policy and Program Specialist. It was suggested that the “Forest Policy Analysis and Reports” responsibility of the role should be increased to 35% or 40% of the role, with a decrease in the time commitment of the “Stakeholder Liaison and Coordination/Communication” and “MFRC Team Support” responsibilities. The group proposed that “Project Management Experience”, “Organizing and Coordinating Skills”, “Written and Oral Communication Skills”, and “Knowledge and Understanding of Legislative Processes” should be added as qualifications for the role.

The discussion shifted to focus on interviews for the DNR Forestry Division Director. It was suggested that it may be beneficial for the top three candidates to interview with the MFRC/P&F Committee to clearly communicate MFRC expectations for the next Division Director. The Committee reached consensus and agreed to recommend to the DNR Commissioner that the MFRC be involved in the interview process in some capacity and that the top three candidates meet with the MFRC/P&F. This recommendation would come from the Chair.

Pete transitioned the conversation to the creation of the Climate Change & Carbon Ad Hoc Committee. The goal would be for this Committee to meet once per month with the objectives of better understanding carbon baselines, conducting life cycle assessments of timber harvesting with focus on carbon, and evaluating the long-term impacts of lands enrolled in carbon programs on harvested wood. Pete recommended that the ad hoc Committee should be ready to make recommendations by the January 2023 meeting. Members of the Committee should have interest and research expertise in climate change/carbon. Katie Fernholz agreed to serve as chair of the ad hoc Committee. A DNR representative would serve as vice chair. Rick Horton and Mike Kilgore were asked to serve. Keith Karnes, or another Tribal representative, would also serve on the ad hoc Committee. Brendan Jordan was also asked to serve. Grant Domke and Rick Bergman (USDA Forest

Service) were asked to be part of the ad hoc Committee. Anna Stockstad will serve as the staff liaison to the ad hoc Committee.

Eric brought up an upcoming meeting with Rick Bergman (USDA Forest Service Wood Products Laboratory) focused on technoeconomic analyses and/or LCA's of bioproducts as recommended in MFRC Resolution 2022-1. The USDA Forest Service Wood Products Laboratory may be a natural collaborator for the MFRC when pursuing LCAs and other socioeconomic analyses of timber harvesting and wood products. This could lead to a MFRC Request for Proposals (RFP).

The discussion transitioned to a harvested wood RFP. This reason for this RFP is that the USDA Forest Service FIA carbon baseline does not include a carbon pool estimate for harvested wood. The goal of this research would be to assess the carbon impacts of Minnesota wood after it leaves the stump. The Forest Service has created a predictive model of emissions and removals from harvested wood at the national scale, but not at a state scale. The goal of the RFP would be to create establish a methodology for the annual monitoring and estimation of net carbon flux from harvested wood, in addition to the monitoring of other carbon pools at the state scale.

Eric then discussed the Forest Landowner Education Proposal, developed by Eli Sagor. A major part of this proposal involves communication and outreach. This project would aim to better understand woodland owner demographics, motivations, and outcomes of landowner assistance programs. This project would also develop a five-year system-level vision for MN forest landowner education. It was suggested that the proposal should be brought to the Landscape Advisory Committee.

Meeting adjourned.