

# MINNESOTA FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL

## Personnel and Finance Committee

1:00 – 3:00 pm, Tuesday, April 5, 2022

<https://umn.zoom.us/j/95990325332>

**Members present:** Pete Aube - Chair, Jim Manolis, Forrest Boe, Mike Kilgore, Kim Berns-Melhus, Rick Horton

**Absent:** None

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

**Guests:** None

Pete opened the meeting by asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Hearing none, he thanked the group for taking the time to attend.

After a quick overview of the budget Eric provided an update on the hiring status for the Forest Planning and Coordination Administrator. He provided an overview of the four applicants that have been recommended for an interview, gave the names of the members of the interview panel, and provided the tentative interview schedule and process. There was an agreement to have the second informal interview of the preferred candidate(s) with the P&F Committee. This should be scheduled soon while calendars are still flexible.

Eric presented the draft position responsibilities for the Applied Forest Science Coordinator he has crafted. There was discussion of the minimum requirements for this position as well as some of the tweaks to responsibilities. The target period for posting the position is April 15-May 15. There was a request that the posting be distributed to the P&F Committee for comment prior to finalizing. Forrest stated that the posting comes right from the position description and there is not much flexibility to make any changes to the position description. There was further discussion of outreach once the position has been posted.

Eric reviewed the \$75k IIC Grant Agreement for a Forest Carbon Strategic Plan, soon to be complete, and stated that the agreement expires at the end of June. There will be an opportunity to suggest other work needs in the context of continuing work with forest carbon. Eric recommends a new grant agreement to complete further work through another fiscal year. He requested the committee give this some thought and expressed hope for guidance from the RAC. There was discussion around the administrative details of grant agreements with IIC.

The FY22 MAD Interagency Agreement is the contract for completing Position Descriptions and creating postings and interview questions. This has had several delays, but Eric does not anticipate further issues. Because the policy position is of a different caliber than the others, there is a need for discussion

of a possible reclassification. The P&F should move on coming to consensus over what the desired role is for this position ASAP. Eric expressed a desire that a responsibility of this position be to assist Council members to nurture and build relationships with their stakeholder groups.

Eric offered to send out a comparison of existing position description for this position with a revised version to assist the gather input from this committee.

The FY22 Joint Powers Agreement with UMN has been ongoing on for some time. Funds cannot carry across the biennium, but amendments have been made to it. Funds have been encumbered to cover some of Anna's time. Eric proposed another 2-day meeting at Cloquet be added, more funding for Anna to continue, and funds to be used for edits to the FMGs. There was discussion around proactive attention to endangered species within the FMGs. Pete asked that this discussion should continue withing the Site-level Committee. Eric also mentioned utilizing funds for educational tools.

Pete asked if any committee members were opposed to a further \$25k amendment to the agreement. No members were opposed.

After presenting a series of carbon graphs from the MPCA website, Eric proposed that that MN develop harvested wood estimates/CO2 assessment like some other states have done. He drafted an RFP for this work and shared it with the committee as a potential carbon strategic plan project. Eric sees this project as an opportunity to take a leadership position in forest carbon. There was a request from the committee to hold on to this and wait until the Forest Carbon strategic plan is complete and then review the needs identified by that work.

Eric drew attention to the draft agenda for the May 24 - 25 Council meeting and gave an overview of the agenda items. There was discussion, including some disagreement, around the order of the meeting regarding the presentation of information as it relates to action items.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.