



Policy Committee Meeting

NOTES

Thursday, August 25, 2022 | 10:00am – 12:00pm

Present: Katie Fernholz, Pete Aube, Keith Karnes, Amber Ellering, Molly Jansen, Rick Horton

Absent: Craig Engwall, Bob Owens, Mike Kilgore, Jim Manolis, Brendan Jordan,

Staff present: Eric Schenck, Sadie Mathison

Welcome/Introductions (5 min) – Craig Engwall, Chair

Rick Horton opened the meeting in Craig's stead.

MFRC Update (15 min)– Eric Schenck, Executive Director

Eric provided an update on the status of the Applied Forest Science Coordinator hiring process.

He also mentioned the Climate Change Ad Hoc committee although an update was not necessary as all in attendance had also been present at that meeting.

Janet Erdman and Kathleen Preece have been working with Eric and others to develop the Private Forest Landowner Working Group. He stated the purpose to reconvene those involved with the development of the 2015 system framework, increase framework awareness and networking, engage the representatives of those responsible for private landowner outreach, and to help the Council develop actions that move the needle on private forest management.

Pete mentioned that Craig Engwall will continue to represent his stakeholder group in his new role with BWSR, but he will be stepping down as the Policy Committee Chair. Craig will remain on the Policy Committee and Pete will be seeking a new chair.

Eric shared that Joe Birkholz, Policy Advisory for the Governor, has been invited to our September Council meeting.

Forest Policy Analysis and Program Coordinator PD (20 min) – Eric Schenck, Executive Director

Eric presented a draft Position Description for the Forest Policy Analysis and Program Coordinator position to the group. A robust discussion yielded adjustments to duties and responsibilities. Eric will confer with HR then adjust and wordsmith the PD to reflect the outcomes of this discussion and guidance from HR.

There was strong encouragement to adjust the minimum qualifications, but also a note that MAPE union will have rules and guidance on this as well. The committee agreed to keep the position classified as it is. Eric will confer with HR about minimum qualifications as they relate to classification.

Policy Issue Updates (15 min) – Round Table

Rick has heard that the Superior National Forest has hired a new Supervisor, Tom Hall.

Jennifer Youngblood, Deputy Forest Supervisor will be leaving the Chippewa National Forest.

Senator Tomasoni has passed away.

There is an increased chance of an executive session related to President Biden's student loan forgiveness as it relates to state income tax. There will be a push to approve a bonding bill if that special session happens.

Other

Pete drew attention to the push for the Council to bring issues forward to the Legislature. There was a suggestion that if there cannot be consensus, then MFRC should serve in an advisory role.

Meeting adjourned.