

MINNESOTA FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL

Research Advisory Committee

2:30 – 4:30 pm, Tuesday, April 19, 2022

NOTES

Members present: Mike Kilgore - Chair, Erik Schilling, Rolf Weberg, Bob Haight

Members absent: Ann Pierce, Peter Reich

Staff present: Sadie Mathison, Eric Schenck, Dick Rossman, Anna Stockstad

Guests: Matt Russell, Chris Edgar, John Duplissis, Amber Ellering (MFRC, alternate), Lucinda Johnson, Katie Fernholz (MFRC), Rick Horton (MFRC), Craig Engwall (MFRC), Brendan Jordan (MFRC, alternate), Keith Karnes, Pete Aube (MFRC)

The meeting opened with a round of introductions and Mike reminded the group of the agenda and draft Minnesota Forest Carbon Strategic Plan/Report. Matt Russell began with a presentation “Carbon in Minnesota’s forests: current status and future opportunities”, which summarized the Minnesota Forest Carbon Strategic Plan/Report. The goal of this report is to assemble and disseminate existing information on MN forest carbon resources and is designed as a scoping document more so than a strategic plan. Nine thematic information needs and opportunities were identified in this report, related to markets, forest management, and data and technology. Matt stated that the goal is to have the final version of the report and the forest carbon dashboard finished by June 2022.

After finishing the presentation, a question was brought up regarding the use of other datasets to supplement FIA data with shorter measurement periods, but Matt stated that the FIA data is sufficient due to double sampling and slow growth rates in MN. Matt identified a gap in the inclusion of afforestation in carbon policies in response to a question about carbon policies regarding land use change (afforestation). A strong need for a comprehensive life cycle assessment was identified by several members of the group, as well as the effect of forest pests such as EAB on carbon stocks in the long-term. Another suggestion was for a 10th recommendation to be added to the report: quantifying the substitution effect for common commodities (using biogenic carbon instead of fossil fuels) for transportation fuels, energy, building materials, etc. Other recommendations included an ask that the report consider the trade-offs of carbon policies and forest management, and a need to clarify the language of the title of the document to identify the report as a scoping document with the goal of leading to an action plan instead of a strategic plan itself. Multiple

attendees emphasized the need to identify a forest carbon baseline in Minnesota and another suggested the addition of more detail on the FVS models in the report.

Mike moved to wrap up the meeting. Comments from the RAC will be forwarded to the Policy Committee to revise and add to the report, and to identify key recommendations for consideration by the Council. Amber emphasized the need to refine the language of the report to make the purpose/goal of the report clearer. Eric concluded by asking the RAC to start thinking about next steps for after the June 30th deadline.

Meeting Adjourned