

# MINNESOTA FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL

## Site-Level Committee

1:00 – 3:00 pm, Friday, April 1, 2022

### NOTES

Members present: Kory Cease, Scott Pittack, Rick Horton, Katie Fernholz, David Wilson, Rick Horton

Members absent: Deb Theisen

Staff present: Eric Schenck, Dick Rossman, Anna Stockstad

Guests: None

Dick began the meeting with a recap of a conversation with SFEC and MLEP regarding guideline training. After the November Council meeting, there was a call for comprehensive FMG training, but specific needs for this training have to be identified. It was suggested that training should take place following the revision process so that the training is as up to date as possible. David said a survey related to training needs will be released soon. It was noted that the online training should be revisited and potentially improved, and the digital accessibility of the FMGs should also be part of the training. A group of people willing/able to lead this training also needs to be developed. There has been also desire at the county level to develop training programs, both in-person and online.

Anna provided an update of the bibliography – currently, there are 34 citations. David said that there are about 20 citations ready to be listed by the DNR. The April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline should be the final deadline with no extension. Anna will likely organize and create a report of the citations, but the SLC will be responsible for deciding how to engage and proceed with each of the citations. The summary could be limited to the abstract, or a couple sentences of key findings/relevance to FMGs (without jargon), for each citation. This could be done by expanding on the descriptions already provided in the bibliography. Katie emphasized that committee members need to see all citations that are submitted, and staff should verify that the citation submissions are complete. Staff would also organize, sort, and then send to SLC to rate on relevancy. Then based on the SLC's rating of relevancy, it may be beneficial to have the RAC verify the decisions.

Regarding the 2012 proposed invasive species guidelines, the SLC agreed that the document is worth full consideration. It was suggested that the SLC refers to the survey to determine interest/concerns related to invasive species guidelines. The SLC decided to add the draft invasive species guidelines to the bibliography for review.

Eric began a discussion on the relevancy of the biomass harvesting guidelines to carbon, referring to the Domke et al. (2012) paper. The SLC agreed that the issue of carbon is currently larger than the scope of the

FMGs regarding on-the-ground practices but may be possible to include a primer or a discussion in the references of the guidelines. The SLC decided that fully addressing the carbon relevancy topic is currently not realistic for the current guideline revision.

A potential need was identified at the last full council meeting to provide the opportunity for current Council members for a field session related to the biomass harvesting guidelines. Questions and concerns from individual Council members related to biomass harvesting would need to be determined prior to the field training via survey. Rick recommended that the field training could take place near Itasca County to utilize Kory and Scott's expertise, potentially during the September Council meeting. The interim period should be used to create the survey to identify questions and concerns, and the SLC would use the results to identify sites for the field trip.

David brought up the Public Concerns Response Process related to concerns relevant to the Southeast Landscape Committee. Eric described the PCRPP protocol related to responding to such concerns and concludes that their concerns have been adequately addressed. The SLC decided to publicly post PCRPP protocols.

David also reminded the SLC that the USFWS recently recommended to list the northern long-eared bats as federally endangered. Rick added that the state HCP (northern long-eared bat and potentially little brown bat) will likely be approved soon.

Meeting Adjourned