

MINNESOTA FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL

Site-Level Committee

1:00 – 3:00 pm, Friday, February 4, 2022

NOTES

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

Members absent: Scott Pittack, Deb Theisen

Staff present: Eric Schenck, Sadie Mathison, Anna Stockstad

Guests: None

Eric began the meeting by presenting new MFRC contract employee Anna Stockstad who then introduced herself and shared her educational background. The rest of the meeting attendees introduced themselves to Anna.

Eric then brought forward the topic of whether the FWS Endangered Species Listings of Northern Long-Eared Bat (2015) and Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (2017) should be included in the FMG revision bibliography. Anna Stockstad presented background on the status of these species and the impacts of the Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) on forest management. Discussion concluded that the HCPs related to these species should be considered for the bibliography/revision review.

Anna provided an update on the status of the open solicitation for bibliography citations. There have been about 15; 9 of which were submitted by Anna.

Eric asked the group to discuss looking at citations of new (post 2012) FMG's in Wisconsin and Michigan for the bibliography. There was a suggestion to only point to those other states and not reinvent the wheel. Wisconsin has not updated their guidelines recently; however Michigan did so in 2018. Eric also suggested a solicitation of UMN and Applied Forest researchers in MN (or a review/search of post-2012 published FMG related research by UMN scientists).

In a discussion of exploring FSC and SFI certification for new research, it was determined that because of the structure of certification (requiring the use of some guidelines vs. providing guidelines), there would not be scientific information relevant to the FMG bibliography.

The point was made that this is not an area of robust research for the Lakes States region, so we should not be surprised that there is not a lot of new citations.

The Forest Service's Northern Research Station may have done some work on vernal ponds, etc. Kory has agreed to reach out to them or perhaps have them present at the next meeting.

Another suggestion presented was to task the RAC for final look at the research before the SLC come together for the final review process. It was determined that RAC should be asked to make recommendations of experts. Kory suggested that he work with Eric and Anna to draft a message to the RAC and then circulate it with the Site-level Committee before forwarding to the RAC.

David reported that the 2020-2021 Site-level Guideline Monitoring report should be available by the beginning of March.

Meeting Adjourned