

Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council (MoFRAC)

October 30, 2008 Meeting Minutes

FINAL DRAFT

Dr. Gene Garrett, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at the Conservation Department Auditorium. All present were provided a copy of the meeting agenda and the draft minutes from the July 24, 2008 meeting for review. A sign-up sheet was sent around the room and a quorum was determined to be present. Chairman Garrett asked that each person introduce themselves as a good number of visitors were in attendance.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes from July 24, 2008 Meeting

Mr. Richard Stricklin moved the minutes be approved as presented. Mr. Dave Murphy seconded the motion and the Council approved the minutes as presented. The approved

minutes will be posted to the MoFRAC web page.

Communications and Marketing Committee Formation

At the July MoFRAC meeting the Chair was charged to create a standing Communications and Marketing Committee. Dr. Garrett provided Council members with a copy of the memo sent to committee members: Messrs. Doug Wallace, NRCS and committee chair; Steve Westin, MDC; Harlan Palm, Walnut Council; Hank Stelzer, UMC

Extension; and John Dwyer, UMC Forestry. Mr. Wallace distributed a draft committee responsibility statement that included a list of key external and internal activities. Ms. Allen stated that MDC is in the process of hiring a Forestry Communications Specialist, so the formation of this committee will be of benefit to that person once hired. Dr. Peter Becker requested clarification of whether responsibility for posting documents would flow through this committee or through the Executive Committee. In response, it was noted that the Chair of a standing committee is a member of the Executive Committee.

After some

discussion the Council recommended the first sentence of the Committee's Responsibilities statement be amended to read, "The Communications and Marketing Committee is responsible for ensuring that MoFRAC positions, strategies, visions, and decisions are clearly conveyed to interested parties **in a timely manner** ." [Bold wording was added by Council].

Approval of amended wording was moved and Mr. Roy Hengerson seconded. Motion passed. Additional discussion was held regarding the second bulleted item under Internal

Activities: “Monitor forestry-related legislation, public agency policies, and applied research and surveys and keep MoFRAC members informed about them.” Council members agreed that all members should be responsible for forwarding information they receive on such issues and items to Members of the Communications and Marketing Committee for their consideration, and that the committee members will enlist the help of issue experts to provide as complete as possible backgrounding to the committee and Council on such issues.

Establishment of a State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Subcommittee

At the July meeting MoFRAC agreed to serve as the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee for Missouri. Dr. Garrett shared with the Council the memo establishing a subcommittee of MoFRAC to work on this issue and bring items forward to the

Council as a whole when appropriate. Members are: Messrs. Steve Westin, MDC; Doug Enyart, Association of Consulting Foresters of America; Scott Brundage, Missouri Consulting Foresters Association; Brian Brookshire, MFPA; Doug Wallace, NRCS; Paul Strong, MTNF; Martha Clark, Missouri Community Forestry Council and Gene Garrett, Agroforestry Center.

Requirements to Satisfy Carbon Credits Related to Management Plans Developed Under the NRCS 409 Practice

Dr. Garrett stated that this discussion would be tabled until the next Council meeting. Mr. Steve Westin is attempting to determine

how Missouri might develop contracts or specifications that would lead to sufficient data for carbon credit calculations. Some discussion did occur. Ms. Allen explained that the bids for consulting services for this next round of EQIP plan development were already 'on the street' without specifications that would address the issue of

documenting carbon credits in '409' plans. So, plans written this year may be found to not meet requirements for carbon credit documentation. Dr. Becker expressed disappointment with this oversight as it may well lead to some landowners needing to incur additional plan development costs, or miss out on the ability to

access carbon credit markets. Dr. Becker also stated that he believed that relatively minor modification of the existing MDC inventory protocol would satisfy Aggregator specifications regarding sampling intensity and error levels. Dr. Becker reminded the group that a baseline forest inventory is the first requirement of

Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) enrollment and so Missouri needs to be getting such inventories completed for landowners.

Mr. Brundage asked why 100 percent of the cost of the 409 plans is paid by NRCS rather than requiring some cost-share be paid by the landowner. Ms. Allen and Mr. Wallace

provided two reasons. One is that documenting a certain level of cost-share for individual landowners becomes problematic, and the other is that the funding for plan development is being provided in lieu of having a MDC or NRCS forester provide the planning service free of charge. Mr. Mahfood expressed the desire to

see MoFRAC go on record as supporting the provision of as low-cost as possible comprehensive forest management plans for interested landowners. No action was taken.

MDC Director Hoskins Response Letter

Dr. Garrett distributed copies of Mr. Hoskins' response to the Council's May 22 statement regarding selling of carbon credits from MDC fee lands. Ms Allen explained that forest certification is required to market carbon credits on the

CCX and that forestry staff is currently considering whether to attempt to achieve dual certification for these lands under both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Sustainability Council (FSC), or to pursue only FSC

certification. Susan Troxel-Dewitt will be on-site as Wisconsin goes through a FSC audit to see what is entailed. Mr. Brundage asked if MDC is considering assisting Missouri Forest Cropland owners in getting bundled for

carbon credits. Ms. Allen said that is not being pursued at this time, but will be taken under consideration as about 70,000 acres are currently enrolled in this program. Mr. Westin mentioned that Tree Farm certification is another possible

carbon credit certification pathway that can be examined.

Dr. Becker asked whether MDC was prepared to enroll afforestation projects not requiring forest certification in advance of managed forest projects. Ms Allen

responded that MDC preferred to develop both types of projects jointly.

Missouri Woodland Owners' Committee Report

Dr. Stelzer provided the following information on the committee's activities and findings, to date. The committee proposes that a forest landowners' forum be held in

conjunction with the Conservation Federation's (CFM) winter meeting, on February 27. Landowner thought-leaders would be identified by agency personnel and invited to

participate in the forum. Tennessee (TN) operates under the TN Forestry Federation and lets counties decide whether each county wishes to be part of the forestry council. Wisconsin (WI) has

regional forest landowner groups. The concept at this time is to stress to the landowners the opportunity for improved advocacy and assistance that could come to recreational, as well

as commercially oriented, forest landowners.

Someone suggested that a Missouri woodland owners group might organize under CFM to build upon CFM's credibility. Ed Kaiser

and Dave Murphy are working with Dr. Stelzer to develop more details. Mr. Brundage stated that Kentucky (KY) and WI woodland owners associations are seeing their membership

numbers dwindle. They have been discussing the possibility of developing a sort of group membership where a single membership would include a landowner in Tree Farm, Walnut

Council and the Woodland Owners groups. Mr. Gene Brunk suggested using a federation model for woodland owners so they would not have so many separate meetings to attend.

Dr. Stelzer also explained that his committee felt that the cost of absorbing the Tree Farm program into a woodland owners' association would be too high to absorb.

Dr. Becker stated

that he had hoped to receive a written, rather than oral, report on the committee's findings and that he had expected it to cover the four issues identified on the May 22nd

MoFRAC agenda. It was pointed out that Dr. Stelzer had provided a written white paper to members at the July 24 meeting. Dr. Stelzer stated that he would provide a

committee report
that includes
discussion of the
May 22
nd
agenda issues at
the next MoFRAC
meeting.

New Business:

**Qualified Woody
Biomass Forest
Management
Plan –
Certification for**

Ethanol/Biodies el Incentive Funds

Chairman
Garrett provided
handouts of
Senate Bill 931.

Mr. Tony
Stafford,
Missouri
Department of
Agriculture,
provided the
definitions that
pertain to the

woody biomass elements of the bill. Key points are the definition of woody biomass, a forest management plan and a

professional forester. Two facilities will be eligible to receive the production incentive grants through

December 31, 2019. Dr. Becker asked if biomass harvesting BMPs would be referenced.

Mr. Stafford

explained that such details will be included in the administrative rules that will be developed in the near future. He

also stated that a draft of those rules will be provided to MoFRAC for review and input before the final rulemaking is

promulgated. Mr. Brundage added that a group of about 10 professional foresters assisted in developing the

definition of both
forest
management
plans and
professional
foresters.

Dr. Becker asked

if there was a timeline for approval of the final draft biomass harvest BMPs.

Ms. Allen

responded that
the final draft
would be
approved soon.

**Clarification
of the Status
of the “Call**

Before You Cut" Program

**Mr. Steve
Westin, MDC,**

gave a brief
re-cap of what
the Call Before
You Cut
program is. It
began in Ohio
in the hope of

providing
landowners
information on
how to sell
their timber be
fore
they entered

into a timber
harvest
agreement.
Missouri, along
with Iowa,
Illinois,
Indiana, West

Virginia and
Ohio are
participating in
a joint USFS
grant to
improve the
contents of the

Call Before
You Cut
program.
Delaware will
participate next
year. Research
being done

under the
Sustainable
Forestry
Initiative is
being used to
improve the
message

content. The official kick-off for Missouri's Call Before You Cut program will come in the

spring of 2009.
Its mention in a
Missouri
Conservationis
t article was
not intended
as a kick-off.

Development of State-Wide Comprehensi

Positive Harvest and Forest Management BMPs

Dr. Garrett
stated that he
received
several
emails asking
about such a

product.
Some states
have
developed
“Silvicultural
Standards”

such as 'What
is a
shelterwood?'
Does
Missouri have
a need to

develop a set
of defined
silvicultural
practices?

Ms. Allen
stated that if

such practice development is needed, a grant under the NRCS Conservation

Innovations program might be sought. The question of which entity

should seek
the grant
needs to be
answered.

Descriptions
of how to

address issues such as viewsheds, aesthetics, harvest intensity and

pesticide use
could be
developed.

Dr. Becker
said the
Eastern

Ozarks
Forestry
Council
wanted a
document
that could be

cited in a
timber
harvest
contract to
assure a
sustainable

harvest. He stated that Arkansas has a publication that contains a quite

detailed
presentation
of BMPs and
that
Burlington
Vermont has

a procurement contract for its electric generation facility that

contains a lot
of good
wording
regarding
forest harvest
for biomass.

Mr.
Brookshire,
MFPA, feels
that it is the
job of
foresters to

include appropriate silvicultural wording in forest harvest plans and that

Missouri does not need codified silvicultural prescriptions. He added that

MFPA is
initiating the
Master
Logger
Program in
our state and

three loggers
have already
applied for
certification.

Mr. Brunk
agreed that

foresters
should be the
source of
silvicultural
prescriptions
and that the

blue book of
watershed
management
BMPs is
sufficient for
watershed

protection
and road
construction.

Dr. Becker
said that he
feels that

issues related
to sustainable
forestry were
not
addressed
sufficiently by

the blue book.

Dr. Garrett

asked if the

Biomass BMP

Committee

should

re-convene to consider these issues.

Ms. Allen recommended that Messrs.

Stricklin,
Becker, Tuttle
and Enyart
develop an
outline for
review by the

biomass BMP
stakeholder
group
regarding
harvesting
guidelines,

not
silvicultural
guidelines,
and bring a
report back to
MoFRAC for

consideration.
These
individuals
agreed to
proceed with
this task.

Update on Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy (FRAS)

Project

Mr. Gus
Raeker

provided a review and update of this project.

The process attempts to

answer
questions of:
1) What is
the present
status/conditi
on of

Missouri's
forests?, 2)
How did we
get here?, 3
) How do we
want our

forest
resources to
look and
function in
the future? ,
and

4) How do we get there? He provided two handouts - a

**draft
weighting
exercise for
determining
Priority
Forest Areas**

and
Landscapes,
and a draft
list of
forestry
issues which

will be
addressed in
FRAS.

A geospatial
process is

being used
to identify
Missouri's
priority forest
areas and
landscapes

using
several
layers of
data.

Gus

reviewed the draft list of layers with the Council and asked for input

regarding
them, and
any other
data that
might be
considered.

He also
asked for
input into his
draft list of
issues.

The output
of the FRAS
project will
be a
five-year
plan that will

be used to
focus MDC
Forestry
Division's
resources.

MoFRAC's Formal Involvement in the Forestry subcommit

tee of the NRCS State Technical Committee

Doug
Wallace

explained
that Mr.

Roger

Hansen,
NRCS State
Conservatio
nist, is
seeking

formation of
subcommitt
ees to the
NRCS State
Technical

Committee

(STC) and

that a

Forestry

Subcommitt

ee would be
welcome.

Subcommitt

ee

members

must be
members of
the STC.

Dave
Murphy

moved that
a letter be
sent to Mr.
Hansen
requesting

that the
MoFRAC
Chair be
named as a
member of

the NRCS
STC. The
motion was
seconded
and

approved.

Ms. Allen

emphasized

the

importance

of having a
strong
forestry
presence
on the STC

as that is
where we
can
influence
the effort

and funding
potentially
available to
assist
woodland

owners.

MoFRAC

need not

approve the

establishme

nt of the
Forestry
Subcommitt
ee, but
input will be

sought from
all MoFRAC
members
by those
members

who do
serve on
the
Subcommitt
ee once it is

established.

Public Input, Comments

Dr. Garrett
informed
the group
that
Dynamotiv

e no longer
has a
forester on
staff and
that due to

the current
financial
crisis all
their plans
for

developing
a facility in
Missouri
are on
hold. Mr.

Hank Dorst
recommen
ded that
industry
players

should
learn of,
and access
input from
MoFRAC

members
and the
Council as
a whole
when they

begin
considering
establishin
g large
wood-using

facilities. It would be to their benefit to do so. He

also asked

that

MoFRAC

work to

have a

biomass
project
update at
each
meeting.

He has
heard of a
25 to 30
megawatt
electric

power
plant being
discussed
in Perry
County.

Neither Mr.
Dorst nor
any other
members
present

knew of
any details
regarding
such a
project. Mr.

Brunk
announced
the
Missouri
Community

Forestry
Council will
hold its
Annual
Meeting on

March 17,
18 and 19
in
Columbia,
Missouri.

More
information
is available
at: <http://www.mocom>

munitytree

s.com/

Mr. Mike

Brown

provided

an update
on the
emerald
ash borer
(EAB).

Adult EAB
were
caught on
July 25,
2008 at a

Wayne
County,
Missouri
Core of
Engineers

camp site.

This has

resulted in

a

quarantine

being
established
in Wayne
County. No
ash or

hardwood
firewood
may be
moved out
of Wayne

County and
no ash
wood
products
may be

moved
from the
county
unless they
have been

certified as
being
properly
heat
treated.

Finally, Mr.
Doug
Wallace
distributed

information
sheets on
the budget
in the 2008
Farm Bill

and the
2008 Farm
Bill
National
Priorities

for Private
Forest
Conservati
on.

Other

Dr. Garrett

announce
d that
MoFRAC
bylaws
require the

Executive
Committee
establish a
Nominatin
g

Committee
to prepare
a slate of
officers for
considerati

on by the
Council.

Mr. Brian

Brookshire

has

agreed to
Chair this
committee
and
members

are Mr.

Paul

Strong,

and Ms.

Martha

Clark.

They will

bring a

slate of

officers to

the
December
meeting.

The
Council

Chair will
then ask
for
nomination
s from

the floor.

The

election

will then

take place

once all
nominees
are
identified.
New

officers
will begin
their
duties
after the

first of the
Calendar
year.

Next Meeting

The next
meeting
will be
held on
December

November, 2008

at 1:00

p.m. and

the

location

will most
likely be
at the
MDC
Auditoriu

m. That
agenda
will
include a
discussio

n of
developin

g

MoFRAC

letterhead

and a
neutral
mailing
address
for the

Council.

Adjourn ment

Meeting
was
adjourne
d at 4:56

p.m.