

**Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council (MoFRAC) December 11, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

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Dr. Gene Garrett, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. in Room 234, Brady Commons on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus. All present were provided a copy of the meeting agenda and the draft minutes from the October 30, 2008 meeting for review. At Chairman Garrett's request each person introduced themselves. He then made some short opening remarks. He praised the Council for all the work accomplished in its first year as the basic elements of establishment were worked through. In addition the group has begun to address significant issues such as opportunities in carbon credit trading increasing input to state and federal program managers and policy makers. He also asked the Council members to adhere to certain principles as the group moves into its second year. Among these items are to agree to differ and disagree amicably and make sure that all issues are presented for discussion. Tolerance and patience are key to full discussion of the many issues facing Missouri forestry and forest resources and the group will be most effective when the members applaud one another's contributions rather than criticize their shortcomings. If members are overly critical the group could see members cease to participate and this will weaken the Council. Also, all members of the Council serve in addition to their main employment elsewhere. If time does not allow a member to adequately prepare a desired presentation, members should be understanding and not negatively react. Issues brought before the Council deserve adequate research and a full presentation and in some cases such preparation simply will take more time than anyone desires.

**Old Business:**

## **Approval of Minutes from October 30, 2008 Meeting**

Mr. Richard Stricklin moved the October 30, 2008 minutes be approved, seconded by Ms. Martha Clark. Motion passed.

## **MoFRAC's Membership on the USDA-NRCS Missouri State Technical Committee**

Chairman Garrett shared with the Council copies of the email he sent to Mr. Hansen, NRCS State Conservationist, regarding MoFRAC's desire to have our Chair be added as a member of the State Technical Committee (STC), and Mr. Hansen's reply. Mr. Hansen accepted as a new member of the Missouri STC the Chair of MoFRAC. In this way, as new Chairs are elected the new individual will be the person to attend and participate in the STC to represent our joint forest resource interests. Mr. Stricklin, RC&D, asked about having a forestry subcommittee in the STC. Mr. Wallace, NRCS, stated that if a sub-group of the STC wished to create a

forestry subcommittee that Mr. Hansen would be in approval. Mr. Brundage, Missouri Association of Consulting Foresters, expressed his thought that a forestry subcommittee could probably be more of an ad hoc entity. Messrs. Wallace and Garrett agreed that such a subcommittee could be either ad hoc or standing in nature depending on the members' desires. Ms. Allen, MDC Forestry, added that information on the workings of STCs within NRCS is currently available for review in the federal register.

## **Developing greater compatibility between Forest Stewardship Plans written for landowners by professional foresters (MDC, Consultants, etc.)**

Members of the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating sub-Committee (SFSCC) including Steve Westin, MDC; Doug Enyart, Association of Consulting Foresters of America; Scott Brundage, Missouri Consulting Foresters Association; Brian Brookshire, MFPA; Doug Wallace, NRCS; Martha Clark, Missouri Community Forestry Council and Gene Garrett, Agroforestry Center met immediately before this

meeting to discuss this issue. Doug Wallace and Steve Westin will be taking the lead. Terminology is one of the causes of difficulty when foresters working for different employers try to create compatible forest management plans for landowners. A landowner should be able to use a single forest management plan to participate in EQIP, carbon trading and Tree Farm activities as a result of mutually agreed-to plan contents and format. A good discussion was held as to the issues for this group to consider as they move forward on their task. Mr. Wallace mentioned that the collection of inventory information needs to be conducted in such a way as to enhance the ability to make appropriate management prescriptions. Martha Clark moved, and Scott Brundage seconded a motion that: The Forest Stewardship Subcommittee be expanded to include foresters, landowners and other critical stakeholders and then develop a proposal for Council consideration that will create uniformity in forest management plans developed in Missouri, regardless of the affiliation of the forester developing the plan. Motion passed. Chair Garrett mentioned that Dr. Becker gave an excellent seminar on carbon credits and markets and that he should be one of the persons added to the SFSCC. One issue to be kept in mind is that carbon market requirements are still being

developed so forest management plan formats should be developed that best address this state of flux.

## **Missouri Woodland Owners Association Feasibility Committee Report**

Mr. Kurt Homeyer, The Nature Conservancy, filled in for Dr. Stelzer, Forestry Extension, in providing the committee's report. First, Dr. Garrett shared a letter received from the Missouri Tree Farm System (MTFS) regarding their position toward a Missouri Woodland Owner Association. MTFS stated, "The Missouri Tree Farm Committee has no interest in becoming a part or being consumed by a larger entity that may be called a "Missouri Woodland Owners Association" as discussed by MoFRAC." A committee report was passed out to all present for their review. The committee held two conference calls and Chair Stelzer

shared additional information via email. The committee recommended that creation of a MWOA be discussed at a forum being held at the Conservation Federation of Missouri's annual meeting, February 27-28, 2009. Also, the committee encouraged the MTFS to work with the American Tree Farm System to achieve Group Certification under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative so that Missouri landowners can participate in markets that demand sustainably produced wood products. Due to the complexity of issues and the fact that members had only just received the committee report, Mr. Stricklin moved and Mr. Brundage seconded that review and discussion of the report be postponed until the next MoFRAC meeting. The motion also includes a request that the committee convene another meeting to discuss more fully how existing woodland owner groups that join a MWOA would be treated. Motion passed. Ms. Allen mentioned that MoFRAC would benefit from having feedback from the discussion session to

be held at the CFM meeting in late February. Messrs. Stricklin and Brundage requested that committee reports, whenever possible, be posted to the MoFRAC web page at least 10 days prior to meetings to allow adequate time for review and consideration before actual meeting discussion. An email alerting members to the posting of such documents should also be included. Without such lead time the Council will find itself regularly receiving reports at one meeting, only to have to postpone action until a following meeting. Chairman Garrett responded that while this is ideal, it can only occur if the chairman receives the document 10 days prior to a meeting - - often this is not the case.

## **Revised Version of Communication and Marketing Committee Responsibilities**

Chairman Wallace presented a revised wording for the Communication and Marketing Committee's responsibilities as requested at the last Council meeting. The revised wording, accepted by the Council, is in only one item and that wording is now: "Coordinate information dissemination on forestry-related legislation, public agency policy, and applied research to MoFRAC members."

## **New Business:**

**Enhancing “Connectivity” between the Forestry Profession and Woodland Owners of Missouri**

Mr. Brundage pointed out to the Council that states such as Indiana and Ohio have managed to develop publications for their private woodland owners that reach large numbers of those landowners. Although the Green Horizons is a very well produced and beneficial publication it is only getting out to less than one percent of Missouri's private forest owners. Additionally, he has had mailings returned, undelivered, to addresses on that mailing list. His question is how Missouri might create a larger and up-to-date

mailing list of woodland owners so that they might be apprised of the benefits of forest management as well as programs and expertise to help them implement that management. He mentioned that soil and water conservation districts in Indiana had helped in locating woodland owners and constructing mailing lists to contact them. Chairman Garrett identified that Green Horizons currently costs about \$8,000 per year for production and mailing and that gracious support is provided from many organizations,

including MDC, MFPA, consulting foresters, Missouri Nut Growers Assoc., Tree Farm and the Walnut Council. He asked that the Communications and Marketing Committee look into this issue and that they enlist input and assistance from all persons and groups that can provide such help.

## **Update on Forestry Division's Private Forestland Initiative**

Mr. Stuart Miller, MDC, provided a handout containing discussion points to be considered when examining revisions to Missouri's state forestry laws. An initial point in the 1946 forestry law was to provide incentives to landowners to actively manage their forest resources to recover from the abuse this resource had suffered from the 1890's through the depression and war years. The property tax incentives that formed the base of these incentives are now outdated and fairly ineffective. At this point, MDC feels that

guiding points to an MDC managed incentive program must include:

- A voluntary incentive program that protects and conserves all forest resources including soil, water quantity and quality, ecological functioning, ecological diversity and wildlife habitat.

- An incentive program that sustains forest resources required of a strong forest products industry.
- An incentive program that is simple to implement and easy to administer with low overhead costs.

Acceptance and support from the general populace, in addition to the forestry community, will be

needed to get law revisions passed and new incentive and funding mechanisms approved. MDC will work with MoFRAC to develop ideas for such incentive programs and seeks MoFRAC's support in policy circles at both the state and national level. Mr. Brundage mentioned that one possible funding mechanism, rather than tax credits, mentioned in earlier discussions is use of carbon credit income from MDC, and possibly other state lands, to provide incentive payments to landowners. Mr. Miller asked that

all MoFRAC members please provide such ideas to him on all issues regarding improvements to the state forestry law.

Dr. Becker stated that the state of Missouri needs to determine how or whether the state as a whole, or separate agencies within the state might market its/their carbon credits. He expressed a sense that landowners want immediate, tangible, financial returns from their forest management. Dr. Garrett shared some feedback

from Missouri Forest Products Association members that pointed out that some landowners are financially secure enough that they are capable, and willing, to make investments in forest management based upon perceived long-term incentives and returns. Landowners that are well-off financially can take a long-term route and forestry professionals need to get such landowners educated on the potential of their woodland resources. Ms. Allen shared that Mr. Miller is developing various scenarios of

forest management incentive programs based upon a variety of possible funding mechanisms such as carbon credit income and forest yield taxes. Doug Enyart encouraged MDC to reconvene a group of funding stakeholders to see if any new ideas for financing are available from state or federal sources. Dr. Garrett told the group that Mr. Larry Godsey should be back in Missouri and ready to work on forestry issues by March 2009. One of the tasks he will be undertaking is an analysis of Farm Bill sections as they may be of

help to woodland owners. Ms. Sharon Gifford, Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, suggested that the Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission might begin to provide incentives for forest management practices. Dr. Becker stated that attempts to get a forestry-oriented Special Area Land Treatment watershed project, or forestry oriented Conservation Innovation Grant projects, implemented have been unsuccessful to date, but might fare better with support from

# MoFRAC.

Ms. Allen mentioned that the Wisconsin Managed Forest Law makes landscape differences. She pointed out that Missouri citizens seem to see their state as one that is full of trees. But, those trees are not perceived as a “state strategic resource” capable of delivering not only woody views, but ecological, social and commercial returns. Until this more comprehensive view is widely accepted, statewide levels of support will not be

sufficient to attain public assistance for quality forest management. It was suggested that MoFRAC might sponsor a Missouri Forestry Day at the Capitol while the legislature is in session. This could provide an opportunity to provide a holistic and consistent message to our legislators regarding the benefits and needs of Missouri forests.

## **Public Input**

Mr. Hank Dorst, Missouri Forest Keepers, presented an idea for consideration and adoption by MoFRAC. After much discussion the motion read as follows: “That the MoFRAC Communications and Marketing Committee write a letter to the incoming Governor and legislators endorsing the concept embodied in Senate Bill 931, the cellulosic ethanol stimulus bill, which states that any government incentives provided to woody biomass

projects must stipulate that the biomass is obtained from land with a qualified, sustainable woody biomass management plan. It is important that agencies with financial assistance capabilities be aware of the importance of stewarding the resource while utilizing woody biomass.” Mr. Doug Enyart made the motion, Mr. Stricklin seconded it and the motion passed. The Committee can create a temporary MoFRAC letterhead

to use in sending this letter. Points of discussion included: Mr. Brundage pointed out that the Missouri Department of Agriculture is continuing to develop proper content for eventual administrative rules to implement the sustainable forestry provisions of SB-931. The original motion mentioned best management practices and Mr. Kelly Smith, Missouri Farm Bureau, pointed out that implementation of BMPs must be done in a manner that does

not create inappropriate costs for landowners. Dr. Becker stated that the cost of BMPs has been found to be less than one percent of operational costs according to preliminary findings from an ongoing study in Missouri. Mr. Smith emphasized that only necessary BMPs should be required and was concerned that some might seek to have landowners held responsible for all types of BMPs mentioned in the Biomass Harvesting

Guidelines. Mr. Brookshire, MFPA, stated that the professional forester should be responsible for indicating which BMPs are needed to properly implement a given forest harvest plan. MFPA does not see the need for a post-harvest verification of BMP implementation, and he would like to see this conveyed to the Governor and legislators. Mr. Brookshire will be involved in writing the letter.

Regarding development of official MoFRAC letterhead, Dr. Garrett has investigated the cost. The MoFRAC Executive Committee will develop a draft of the letterhead to be presented to the membership for consideration at the next meeting. It will also consider the possibility of a neutral MoFRAC mailing address.

# **Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers**

Mr. Brookshire chaired the nominating committee for the coming year's officers. Other members were Paul Strong and Martha Clark. The committee presented this slate of nominees: Chair – Mr. David Murphy, Vice-Chair – Mr. Scott Brundage, and Secretary – Mr.

Sam Orr. Chairman Garrett opened the floor for nominations one office at a time and a vote was held for each officer separately. No nominations were presented from the floor so the nominees noted above were all elected to the offices indicated. These officers will assume their duties as of January 1, 2009.

## **Other**

Mr. Wallace reported that NRCS anticipates a significant environmental protection and enhancement component to be included within federal economic stimulus packages. NRCS welcomes ideas from interested parties as to environmental program directions that can produce jobs quickly while putting conservation on the ground. Ms. Allen stated that the National Association of State Foresters is also investigating

such ideas.

Dr. Garrett then asked Dr. Becker how the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) views creating carbon credits for trade within managed forest systems. Dr. Becker stated that currently CCX will pay for what is perceived as carbon added to existing carbon stocks. This is why afforestation activities are readily considered for carbon

credit trading. He emphasized that the forestry community must be prepared to battle for inclusion of managed forests in carbon trading markets.

Ms. Clark reminded all in attendance that the Missouri Community Forestry Council will be holding their 2009 annual meeting in Columbia on March 17 to 19. Scholarships are available and more

information is available at [www.mocommunitytrees.com](http://www.mocommunitytrees.com)

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Mr. Steve Westin, MDC, conveyed his thanks to Dr. Garrett for serving so ably as the inaugural Chairman of the MoFRAC. All present indicated their agreement with a hearty round of applause. Before leaving office Dr. Garrett mentioned that while MoFRAC

currently contains 32 forest resource groups, other groups in Missouri should probably also be invited to participate, such as the forest nursery industry. He charged the membership to look at the current member organizations and to consider before the next meeting other groups that might appropriately be invited to become member organizations.

# **Next Meeting:**

**The next meeting date, time and location will be decided by the incoming Executive Committee.** That agenda will include a presentation of a suggested MoFRAC letterhead for consideration by the Council.

**Adjournment:** Adjournment was moved by Ms. Clark and seconded by Mr. Enyart. Motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.