

Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council
MDC Headquarters Building Auditorium, Jefferson City
Thursday, September 16, 2010
Minutes

Welcome and Introductions - Scott Brundage, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. The following were in attendance:

Scott Brundage (Walnut Council)
Rick Merritt (Mo Tree Farm)
John Burk (Nat'l Wild Turkey Federation)
Nate Goodrich (Natural Resources Cons Service)
Steve Jarvis (Mo Forest Products Association)
Mike Brown (USDA APHIS PPQ)
John Fleming (Forest & Woodland Association)
Gus Raeker (Mo Society of American Foresters)
Martha Clark (Mo Community Forestry Council)
Steven Thurman (US Army Ft. Leonard Wood)
Shelby Jones (Mo. Consulting Foresters Assoc)
John Knudsen (Mo Dept of Conservation)
Shibu Jose (MU Center for Agroforestry)
Dave Murphy (Conservation Federation of Mo)
Richard Stricklin (Top of the Ozarks RC&D)
Jerry Van Sambeek (USFS Research Center)
Bob Ball (Natural Resources Cons Service)
Charles Studyvin (USFS Mark Twain Nat'l Forest)
Harlan Palm (Walnut Council)
Wayne Lovelace (Mo Nurseryman's Assoc)
JR Flores (Natural Resources Cons Service)

Anastasia Becker (Mo Dept of Agriculture)
Hank Stelzer (MU Extension)
Fred Crouse (Tree Farm)
Ed Keyser (Conservation Federation of Mo)
John Tuttle (Mo Dept of Conservation)
Mike Hoffmann (Mo Dept of Conservation)
Ken McCarty (Mo Dept of Natural Resources)
Roy Hengerson (Sierra Club)
Hank Dorst (Mark Twain Forest Watchers)
Kelly Smith (Mo Farm Bureau)
Peter Becker (Eastern Ozarks Forestry Council)
Brad McCord (Osage Valley RC&D)
Stuart Miller (Mo Dept of Conservation)
Gene Garrett (MU Center for Agroforestry)
Collin Wamsley (Mo Dept of Agriculture)
Lonnie Hanson (Mo Dept. of Conservation)
Mike Morris (Mo Dept of Conservation)
Bill McGuire (Mo Dept of Conservation)
Steve Mahfood (The Nature Conservancy)
Donna Baldwin (Mo Dept of Conservation)

Scott noted that a quorum is present, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes Approval - Scott noted he sent the minutes to the June 24, 2010 for review prior to the meeting. He asked if anyone had additions or corrections. With no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written.

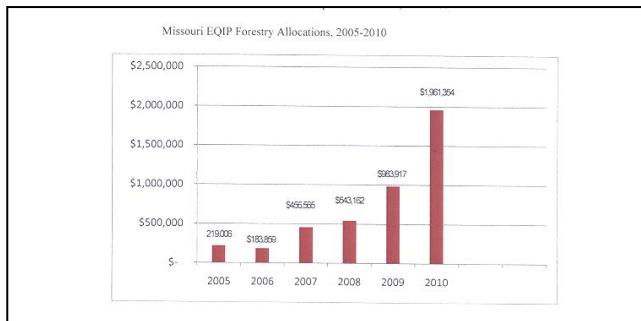
Election - Scott noted we need an election for vice chair as Steve Mahfood will no longer be able to complete his term. He added that vice chair becomes the chair next year. Dave Murphy, Chair of the Nominating Committee, along with Gene Garrett, nominated Wayne Lovelace. Scott asked for other nominations from the floor. With none received, a motion was made to appoint Wayne. The motion was seconded and approved.

Nominating Committee - Scott noted we need to put together a nominating committee to get nominations for next year's slate of officers. With Wayne becoming the Chair, we will need new folks to become Vice Chair and Secretary. Ideas for nominating committee include Hank Stelzer and Kelly Smith. Mike Hoffmann suggested Gene Garrett.

Scott noted bylaws are a little vague in terms of the alternate serving and what an alternate can do. He added that the executive committee will review the bylaws to see if they need more clarification and bring it back to December meeting. Dave suggested in the meantime we approve Gene Garrett to serve on nominating committee. All approved.

NRCS Forestry Update - J.R. Flores, State Conservationist, NRCS State Office, thanked the group for the opportunity to come today. He distributed a handout and discussed the following:

- Increased forest management assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program
 - Approximately \$2 million were obligated in FY10 forestry contracts – twice the amount obligated in FY09.
 - This funded 280 contracts in FY10, of which 68 were for development of forest management plans by technical service providers on approximately 10,000 acres.
 - Contracts included over \$500,000 for forest stand improvement on 6,135 acres.



- The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program funded an additional \$188,000 worth of forest stand improvement on 2,324 acres
- Signed agreement with MDC specifying that NRCS commits to maintaining eight field staff with technical expertise in forestry and wildlife management (currently 6 field foresters and 2 wildlife biologists).
 - Field forester service areas were revised and two foresters will be relocated to better serve our customers and field offices
- Awarded \$23,435 through Missouri Conservation Activities and Workshop Grants for conducting outreach activities, developing informational materials and conducting technical workshops for woodland landowners.
- Renewed an agreement with University of Missouri, in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation, for development of ecological site descriptions.

- Missouri NRCS is very concerned with the advancement of thousand cankers disease on black walnut and has identified potential action items, including:
 - Utilize NRCS foresters to train NRCS and SWCD field personnel about the disease and outbreak symptoms.
 - Develop an internal alert network to identify possible outbreaks.
 - Distribute fact sheets and technical publications to field personnel and agricultural producers/landowners.

Bill McGuire thanked JR for going to bat to obtain the nearly 2 million dollars funded for 2010. Scott asked what field foresters do. Nate noted they provide technical assistance - forest management plans, certified practices in EQIP and WHIP.

Bob Ball asked for help in getting people to sign up and use these grants.

Scott thanked JR for coming today, and looks forward to NRCS participation.

Scott brought up the topic of MoFRAC applying for grants. For instance, for the purpose of getting information to more woodland owners and to improve our communications to the public, we need to develop a website. Perhaps we should form a committee of various organizations to review this to see if it would be logical/legal to pool our efforts to come up with something. The following agreed to serve on the committee - Rick Merritt, Dave Murphy, John Fleming, Hank Stelzer, Peter Becker, and Nate Goodrich. John Fleming will arrange a conference call, and the committee will come back at December meeting to share their findings.

Forest and Woodland Association of Missouri: Update on New Organization - John Fleming, Organization Committee Member, handed out the newly-developed membership brochure. He noted the steering committee has met 4 times, and the bylaws are being developed. Their next meeting is on Oct 16th in conjunction with the Chestnut Roast in New Franklin (an annual event that brings in a lot of people). He also reported they have a nominations committee working on a slate of officers and board of directors. The organization needs to approve the bylaws and elect the board members at the meeting. He also mentioned that FWAM has grant money, and part is for the development of a display. Ed Keyser also suggested moving the annual meeting around, such as to the south of the state. John said it would be possible, but it's up to the board.

Scott asked if they have developed a benefits package for members yet, such as being able to get items from Stihl at a discount. John noted that they haven't yet, but hope to do that in the future.

Forest Pest Update - Collin Wamsley, State Entomologist, Missouri Dept. of Agriculture

Collin gave a brief presentation on thousand cankers, emerald ash borer, and gypsy moth. He noted there are a lot of agencies involved in monitoring and responding to these pests.

Thousand Cankers Disease - Collin reported TCD was found this summer in Knoxville TN, which is the center of black walnut's native range. Four counties in TN have confirmed it. First confirmed tree was reported by homeowner and it was pretty clear it had been there for a while. Experts say it takes 6-8 years for symptoms to show up – this was in late stages of decline. He noted we are doing visual surveys for now. A pheromone and trap is being developed. MDA is also working with Missouri State Highway Patrol on quarantine enforcement. Numerous outreach activities are underway.

Emerald Ash Borer - EAB is in 14 states now. Collin showed a map with Missouri's EAB trap distribution. He reported the USDA-PPQ found EAB 5.5 miles north near Silva and 3-4 miles to south of campground. It is obvious this spread is related to movement of firewood. Another effort is research on "Slow Ash Mortality". Anastasia Becker is doing this pilot project to try to limit its spread/movement out of infested areas. She also did an ash inventory this summer and will be working on lethal (insecticide treated) trees and clusters of them in the next phase, including an integrated pest management program, and she may look at biocontrol.

Outreach efforts this summer included 15 highway billboard signs, articles in magazines, and a mailing to out of state hunters.

Gypsy Moth – In 2009, traps caught 22 moths. For 2010, there were approximately 9,000 traps put out. Only two have been caught so far in 2010, but data is still being gathered. The two that were caught were in Jasper and Jefferson Counties. In 2011, Missouri Department of Agriculture won't be participating in trapping due to budget cuts. However, other partners will still be out there and will absorb Agriculture's counties. MDA is requesting new state funding and are hopeful.

Elk Restoration in Missouri - Lonnie Hanson, Deer Biologist, MDC, gave a presentation on the elk restoration project. He gave a little history of the project, noting that elk was a native species present in Missouri prior to the arrival of European settlers. They were extirpated from all but the boot heel by the mid 1800s, with the last reported elk sighting in 1865. In March, 1999, the Wild Elk Institute of Missouri submitted a resolution to the Conservation Federation requesting MDC conduct a feasibility study. In April 1999, the Conservation Commission directed staff to conduct the study and the results were presented to the Commission in December 2000. In June 2001, the Commission suspended all activity regarding elk restoration due to habitat limitations and chronic wasting disease threats.

We now have renewed interest in elk restoration, and economic and recreational successes in states with restored elk herds have been reviewed. We have improved disease testing protocols, and management on MDC lands has improved elk habitat. In July 2010, the Commission instructed staff to seek public input and revisit the biological aspects. Public meetings have been held. At the October meeting, the Commission will review the information.

Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy Publication- Gus Raeker, Forestry District Supervisor, MDC, distributed the final, federally approved FRAS publication. MOFRAC members were encouraged to spend some time with the document and to inform other members of their respective organizations about the resource. Gus also mentioned that in the near future, MOFRAC members would be receiving an on-line survey in which people can rate the importance of individual strategies identified in FRAS. With 70 strategies identified, it will certainly be necessary to determine which strategies are the most important to start implementing first. The survey will help in making this determination.

State Parks Forest Management - Ken McCarty, Chief, Natural Resources Management Section, DNR, Division of State Parks, gave a presentation on forest management on DNR lands. He noted they have many different entities and management techniques. Their management philosophy relates back to their mission – “To preserve the finest examples of Missouri’s natural landscapes”, and their philosophy – “Sustain native environments by using natural processes”.

State parks preserve and interpret Missouri’s historic natural landscape and provide for most of Missouri’s native species – 85% vertebrate animals and 68% native plants. State Parks feature many of Missouri’s best nature preserves – 140,000 acres = 24,000 acres wilderness, 23,000 acres natural areas, over 116,000 acres tree cover, 9 outstanding state resource waters, and 67,000 acres with active management plans. Four parks are nationally significant (Pershing, Big Oak Tree, Ha Ha Tonka, and Prairie State Parks). Most parks preserve state significant natural communities or species. All parks have locally important resources.

Techniques for restoration include prescribed fire on approximately 6,000-12,000 acres per year, use of native grazers such as elk and bison. At Prairie State Park a system was developed using fire and grazing to re-establish natural ecology. For exotic species management, the focus is on areas that are manageable and recoverable.

Top challenges include exotics, fragmentation, ability to sustain dynamics, adjusting to population growth and development. Five-year research priorities are plant and animal inventories, exotic and rare species monitoring, and aquatic resources. Five-year management priorities include prescribed fire, ecosystem restoration, exotic species control, rare species/communities protection, and deer control.

Ed Keyser thanked Ken for his presentation, and applauds the managed deer hunts. He noted he was on the Natural Areas Committee for six years, and once visited a couple of glade restorations, and at that time suggested a commercial cedar sale. The manager at that time said it was not in their philosophy. Ken noted that there are different interpretations of policy, and they have had mixed success with commercial sales and different ways to get the job done.

Scott asked about how they control invasives. Ken noted they use some chemicals, cutting and treating.

Woody Biomass Conference – Program Committee Co-Chairs, Peter Becker, Gene Garrett, Steve Jarvis, Scott Brundage

Scott distributed a handout with MoFRAC's resolution that is the basis of the Woody Biomass Conference, noting that we wanted to have a conference to reach all the involved players.

Peter added that he emailed the group with the flyer for the Conference to be held on October 22, 2010 in Jefferson City at Runge Nature Center. Seating is limited to 200. Lunch will be provided.

Peter requested help/volunteers for the following:

- Three registrars to check folks in and four to help direct overflow. Tammy Homfelt will take the lead. Ed Keyser, Fred Crouse, Bob Ball, Wayne Lovelace, Stuart Miller, John Knudsen, Shibu Jose all volunteered.
- Moderator of moderators – Steve Jarvis. Moderators must adhere to times.
- Someone to handle AV. Tammy can do until lunch. MDC's Mike Morris is also available to assist.
- Publicity – need single point of contact about the conference.

Objectives for conference: to identify challenges to using wood for energy; propose sustainable, practical responses to those challenges, encourage prompt action to avert unintended consequences while striving for renewable energy and energy independence. This conference will help identify challenges and serious issues and propose ways to address.

Master Logger Program Update, - Steve Jarvis, Executive Director, Missouri Forest Products Association

Four to six candidates will be reviewed on Sept 22nd. After that, the first official public recognition will be made at Timberfest in Doniphan on October 9th. A criteria for auditors to spot check what happens on the ground is needed.

Woody Biomass Harvest, Third Party Verification, and Gate Wood Problems - Scott Brundage, MoFRAC Chairman

Scott stated that if a landowner has a management plan, and part is a harvest plan, expense is out of landowner's pocket. The woody biomass entity should be responsible for paying for third party verification. Consulting foresters are logical choice to do this. MDC foresters have areas of responsibility and don't have enforcement authority. Same holds true for NRCS foresters. Another possibility is industry has their own forester, but that's the fox guarding the hen house and probably not acceptable. To make sure any forester hired for third party verification, it might be logical that MDC does the third party

verification training of consulting foresters so they can be verifiers. Hank asked about certifying through the University.

Mike Hoffmann noted these are two different things – contract administration and verification. MDC can train consultants for third party verification and can work with partners to develop standards but MDC foresters will not be verifiers or enforce standards.

Wrap Up – At the next meeting, December 9, 2010 at Farm Bureau, we would like to have John Burk, NWTF, talk about fire as a management tool for turkey management. Also discussion about logging trucks without business names or any other sort of identification on them.

The meeting was then adjourned at 3:00 p.m.