

Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council
Missouri Farm Bureau, Jefferson City, MO
Tuesday, December 11, 2012
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Welcome & Self-Introductions – Bob Ball, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. The following were in attendance:

Allen, Lisa – Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Alley, Joe – Mo. Society of American Foresters
Ball, Bob – Mo. Forest & Woodland Association
Becker, Anastasia – Mo. Dept. of Agriculture
Bill, Michael – Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Brookshire, Brian – Mo. Forest Products Assoc.
Brown, Mike – USDA/APHIS
Brundage, Scott – The Walnut Council
Brunk, Gene – Mo Community Forestry Council
Coggeshall, Mark – Mo Nut Growers Association
DeWitt, Bob – Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Dorst, Hank – Eastern Ozarks Forestry Council
Fritz, Steve - Mo. Forest Products Assoc.
Garrett, Gene – Mo. Center for Agroforestry
Goodrich, Nate – Nat. Resources Cons. Service.
Heckman, John, Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation
Jones, Shelby – Mo. Consulting Foresters Assoc.
Jones, Matt – Mo. Society of American Foresters

Jose, Shibu – Mo. Center for Agroforestry
Keyser, Ed – Conservation Federation of Mo.
Lovelace, Wayne – Mo. Nurseryman's Association
Mahfood, Steve – The Nature Conservancy
Miller, Stuart, Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Murphy, Dave – The Conservation Fed. of Mo
Nightengale, Bill – USFS Mark Twain Nat'l Forest
Palm, Harlan – The Walnut Council
Schweiss, Brian – Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Smith, Kelly – Mo. Farm Bureau
Stafford, Tony – Mo. Dept. of Agriculture
Stelzer, Hank – MU Forestry Extension
Stout, Robert – Mo. Dept. of Natural Resources
Thurman, Steven – US Army – Ft. Leonard Wood
Tuttle, John – Mo. Dept. of Conservation
VanSambeek, Jerry – USFS No. Research Station
Baldwin, Donna – Mo. Dept. of Conservation

Bob thanked Kelly Smith and Farm Bureau for the meeting room and refreshments.

September Minutes (Review and Approve) – Hank Dorst, Secretary, noted a revised version came out last week. Bob asked if anyone had further changes to the minutes. With no changes presented, Dave Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes. Gene Brunk seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee Report & Election of Officers – Scott Brundage, Dave Murphy & Hank Stelzer served on Nominating Committee and came up with the following slate of nominations:

- Chair – Jerry VanSambeek
- Vice Chair- Kelly Smith
- Secretary – Hank Dorst

Bob asked if there were any nominations from the floor. With none received, Gene Brunk made a motion to accept the nominations as outlined above. Dave Murphy seconded the motion, and the new officers were unanimously approved and elected.

Bob thanked Wayne Lovelace for all his support of MoFRAC and presented him with a letter of appreciation. Bob will move into the role of immediate past chair.

Update on USDA-NRCS Forestry Assistance – Dwaine Gelnar (State Resource Conservationist) and Nate Goodrich (Forester) gave the following report:

Dwaine thanked the group for continued support of forest management through NRCS administered Farm Bill programs. He encouraged partners to promote the EQIP program to forest landowners who are seeking financial assistance for management plan development and/or forestry related conservation practices. For the past several years, J.R. Flores (State Conservationist) has allocated approximately 10% of general EQIP funds to the forestland funding pool. This has reduced the backlog of forestry applications and most counties have very few, if any, applications carried over from FY 2012. Dwaine also mentioned that NRCS is moving towards “initiatives” for dedicated funding for certain land uses or resource concerns. Examples include the Mississippi River Basin Initiative, the organic initiative, energy initiative, and high-tunnel initiative. If increased funding for forestry practices is desired in the future, a proposal for a new initiative may be warranted. To be successful, initiatives will most likely need to address larger geographic areas, such as multi-state proposals.

Nate gave an update of FY 2012 funding for the more popular forestry practices. There were 254 contracts that equaled approximately \$1.2 million. See the table below for a summary by practice:

Conservation Practice	Contract Items	Amount	Obligated Funds
Forest Management Plan (TSPs)	123	19,175 acres	\$152,910
Forest Stand Improvement	163	2,984 acres	\$303,727
Tree/Shrub Establishment	22	173 acres	\$88,908
Forest Trails & Landings	4	10 acres	\$7,860
Woody Residue Treatment	10	61 acres	\$22,881
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (edge feathering, downed tree structures, woody cover control, permanent forest openings)	153	953 acres	\$251,710 (from all land use pools)

No Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) money was allocated to states in FY12. A new program called Working Lands for Wildlife was created that focuses money on key habitats for T&E species. Missouri had no projects accepted.

For FY 2013 EQIP, the ranking period deadline is January 18th at which time all applications received to date will be ranked and funding decisions will follow. EQIP program policy, including payment rates, can be found at the Missouri NRCS website: www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov

American Forestry Foundation Landowner Engagement Strategy – Mike Burns, Program Resource Manager with the American Tree Farm System, introduced himself and gave a little about his background. Very pleased to be here today.

Mike gave a presentation:

Why LES?

- Only 4% of woodland owners have stewardship plans (MO-3%)
- 52 million acres owned by age 75 or older
- 57 million acres threatened by development
- 4.4 million landowners with more than 10 acres (MO – 198,000 owners)

Missouri landowners by type and interests (woodland retreat, working the land, supplemental income, and uninvolved). He noted almost half are woodland retreat owners (2nd home, old homestead, etc). Also prime prospects because they want information. Need tool to get it to them. Focus efforts on prime prospects.

Why Missourians own their forests (from USFS national woodland owners survey):

1. Beauty and scenery
2. Privacy
3. Hunting/recreation
4. Family heritage, legacy
5. Nature protection
6. Investment
7. Timber production

Reaching the other 96% - what will it take to engage significant new numbers of landowners current not engaged?

- Online resources to create new pathways
- Landscape projects to test concepts
- Revitalize TFS by strengthening state committees.

www.myplan.org is a web based tool for woodland owners ad is a one stop shop for content about woodland owners. Current free, may become a principal member benefit. Marketing to woodland owners retreat owners; unengaged in or unaffiliated with any forestry information source; new buyers of woodland owners and owners of 10 or more acres.

What do we want them to know?

- Site speaks to them – fun and easy to use
- We understand their love for the woods and we want to help
- Woodland ownership is an investment that can be gotten through incremental action.

What do we want them to do?

- Use the site during trial period
- Give us their email addresses
- Sign up and use the mapping tool
- Keep coming back

- Take actions on land
- Provide feedback and ask questions
- Tell others.

Landscape projects – Driftless Area, WI, and Piney Woods, MS

- Relieve bottlenecks in technical services
- Build from existing capacity
- Identify information needs
- Seek new way to provide info
- Identify and engage new landowners through targeted marketing.

Results:

- Long-term sustainable support for local efforts that advance good forest management
- Measureable difference in landowner engagement
- Testing of approaches

Progress in the Driftless – from database development to creating a peer to peer network and getting them trained.

American Tree Farm

- Celebrated 70 years in 2011
- Third party verified forest certification program
- ATFS includes about 88,000 landowners managing 27 million acres
- Missouri Tree Farm Program - 647 TFs covering 172,918 acres.
- Mo is one of four states chosen for a pilot program (OR, MO, PA, and SC).

Why change Tree Farm? The volunteer corps has shrunk and is stretched thin. At the same time, the switch to certification has added to their administrative burden. Volunteers are being asked to do more logistical and administrative tasks that they don't enjoy and they have less time for tasks they do enjoy, such as outreach and education activities.

Pilot program - Initiatives:

- Professionalization of services (3 year strategic plan and paid administrator)
- Greater opportunity for outreach and education
- Sustainable (financially and leadership)

Bob thanked Mike for presenting today.

MFPA Updates & Missouri Logging Council – Brian Brookshire, Executive Director, and Steve Fritz, Education Manager, MFPA, gave an update. Steve reported that he is staff liaison for the Missouri Logging Council. Membership of the Logging Council is about 4 members, working hard to increase. The Board of Directors consists of 6 loggers throughout the state. MFPA will be doing membership drives and trying to increase membership. Also fund raising events, such as a BBQ at state logging competition. Shannon Jarvis is chair of the Board of Directors. He is dedicated and a good guy to work with. He went to American Logging Council meeting this year and is the Midwest delegate. They have been actively involved with Mike Bill and the sustainable BMP project. They are also putting together an in-woods demo, working out the details.

Brian reported the economy is still having a significant impact on the Forest Products industry. Brian managed a large sawmill and pallet manufacturing facility in Missouri. It is a tough time. At last week's board meeting, a large topic of discussion was dealing with the economy, and this also impacts the association and their ability to do things on member's behalf. Trying to look at new initiatives, but anything that requires money is difficult. They are taking a hard look in 2013 at how they can recruit logging companies to the association, which is limited when it comes to independent loggers. Brian is convinced that the initiatives they are working on allows them to offer a product to independent loggers in Mo that they have not been able to offer in the past. Will work hard to contact loggers and challenged the sawmill members to give them logger names so they can make contact.

Legislative item of interest has to do with the local log license plate that allows loggers to haul on state highways, designed to only allow loggers to haul forest products from forest to mill or equipment to job site. Want to broaden that to allow them to haul sawdust, chips, bark, and lumber on that plate as well. Plate is specific to a tractor or truck, and looking at how it can be broadened so they can utilize the truck for other uses. Local is \$300, beyond local will be \$2-4,000.

Status of Ecological Site Description Cooperative Effort – Doug Wallace, USDA-NRCS, gave the following presentation:

What is an ecological site? – determined by using 3 criteria: geology, soils, and biotic. ESs are tied to major land resource areas and soil map components. Statewide we have identified 8 essential properties to define: landform, parent material, root restriction, base saturations, drainage, texture, flooding, and ponding.

Landforms are identified within a given landscape. Look at parent materials, then soil properties, and factor in vegetational components for those sites. Have a naming procedure: soil/substrate+landform+community. We have 295 identified ES in Mo.

What is an ecological site description – a report that describes various properties of ecological site (climate, water, soil, etc.). All is entered into database. Is a phased approach. Currently correlated to a statewide legend connecting each soil component to an ecological site, and create the soil ES structure, statewide. Phase II will building on what we've done.

Products – Description of ESD using NJRC format, FOTG postings of Missouri ESDs, and Web soil survey ES mapping.

Impacts – improved program support (CRP, EQIP, etc); improved practice application/natural community development; enhanced interagency coordination/cooperation.

Street Tree Planting Needs – Gene Brunk, Missouri Community Forestry Council, distributed a handout. He noted that every 10 years, MDC has done a survey of street trees in various size cities. We have noticed that trees are not being replaced as fast as they are being removed. There are tree planting opportunities in our urban forests. Citizens care about the trees where they live. The first important tree to them is one in their yard, second their neighbor's yard, third on the block. And they vote. That's why it's important to address street trees. Overall, there are over 1 million vacant spaces that the public owns. Good opportunity for MoFRAC to sponsor a

tree planting initiative. Would like to introduce a draft resolution for MoFRAC to go on record as supporting and encouraging the replanting and maintenance of street trees in all communities across the state and recommends tree planting initiative be undertaken (individually and collectively) which will plant one million trees on public rights-of-way by the end of 2020 (the *20/20 Vision of Trees*).

Gene made a motion to adopt the resolution. Wayne Lovelace seconded the motion. A few amendments were discussed and captured by Gene and Bob Ball. With the changes discussed, the amended motion was approved.

Forest Stewardship Program Updates – Brian Schweiss, MDC, provided an update of the Forest Stewardship Program. Each year, the stewardship program is evaluated to determine the number of plans, acres, and implementation rates of plans written in the past 10 years. Brian noted that there are 1440 current plans (plans in the last ten years) covering 323,787 total acres and 203,185 forest acres. A sample survey of management plans indicated that 78 % of plans are implemented consistent with the Forest Stewardship Program. This basically means that plans are relevant for the landowner and they are striving to implement the recommendations.

A more detailed analysis reviewed the practices prescribed, goals and implementation rates. It was noted that timber stand improvement is most frequently prescribed and has a good implementation rate. Timber sales are the second most frequently stated objective with a majority being implemented. Wildlife goals are most frequently mentioned but tend to be vague in terms of specific wildlife needs for achieving the objective. Periodic income is the second most frequently cited goal.

Missouri Forest Management Guidelines – Michael Bill, MDC, noted his project continues to march forward with editing and revision moving the document closer to completion after each technical team meeting. Partners have continued to stay engaged and are assisting with review, editing, and content development.

- **Wildlife Habitat** – Chapter 2 wildlife habitat has been reviewed and edited by Marvin, team has reviewed edits and is working on final changes. Team is reviewing all wildlife content in bmp chapters of the document to ensure that it is ready for final editing.
- **Heritage & Cultural Resources** – Bill Goodwin put together complete draft of cultural resources chapter it will be sent off for final editing by Marvin. Bob Gillespie worked on revision of natural heritage chapter introduction. Doug Ladd and Bob are working on getting a final draft of chapter ready for final editing by Jan 1. Hank Dorst is working on revising forest recreation chapter. Doug Ladd is working on editing the fire management chapter. Hank Stelzer and Phil Sneed are working on completing a draft of the forest health threats/invasive species chapter.
- **Visual Quality** –Reviewed and revised visual quality sustainability chapter. Entire team is reviewing all portions of the document. Will have a complete draft of visual quality chapter ready for final editing by next meeting

- **Soils Productivity** – John Kabrick completed a draft of the soil quality chapter. Team is reviewing all portions related to water quality and soil productivity. Water resources and soil quality chapter will be ready for final editing by next meeting
- **Silviculture Guidance** - Team will have a draft of general accepted silviculture practices, intermediate harvest, and forest regeneration chapters by Jan 1
- **The Integration Team** - The team is currently working on Version 4 of the document. The integration team has continued to review the document and identifying information gaps.

Report from the MoFRAC “Working Group” – Gene Garrett, Group Coordinator, discussed the efforts of the “blue ribbon panel”, the group appointed following Tony Parks’ presentation at MoFRAC. Panel members included Lisa Allen, Jason Jensen, Scott Brundage, Tony Parks, Dave Murphy, Brian Brookshire, Brian Schweiss, Hank Stelzer, John Dwyer, Steve Fritz, and Bob Ball. They have met several times and had some interesting discussions. Tried to define what it means to do forest management. Meeting once a month, and have brought in others to give more perspective. Wading through the many topics, came to conclusion that vast majority are not accomplishable. Changed strategy to figure out what’s doable. Many topics were boiled down to a few: communicating the benefits of forest management; redesign the Timber Price Trends to be better understood; updating the forest tax law; encourage use of professional foresters and trained loggers; and use of demo sites.

Communicating the benefits of forest management – will have great effect. MDC was already taking a look at this. Looked at it in several ways. Joe Alley made a presentation about the benefits of working with the SWCDs. Recognized the need for a newsletter, and came back to Green Horizons as ideal model to serve these needs. Could we use it to benefit the masses? Visited with Shibu and decided we need to create a functional editorial board to represent the many agencies and organizations involved. Circulation is about 4,000. Need to increase that number to have an effect. Will increase the electronic mailing. Goal is 10,000. Talked about joining forces with Farm Bureau and the Conservation Federation of Missouri.

Timber Price Trends – Jason Jensen provided super leadership. Shelby Jones played a major role and brought some ideas to the committee. John Tuttle noted that MDC appreciated the work the panel did on this project. Some things we did were breaking it into just 2 regions in the state – international vs. doyle. Markets are about the same. Added dollars per bdft vs dollars per thousand. Added a graph depicting trends over time. Also have a 12 month average. Inviting guest authors to write an article for the report – please let Jason know if you’d like to submit an article. Also tried to make it more readable for the general public. Jason also started requiring reports for all state land timber sales. Same effort is being made with the consultants. Motion was made and approved to support the changes to the Timber Price Trends.

Forestry Tax Law - is out of date and no longer serves our purpose. Within the tax law, there is a Forest Crop Land program. Benefits relate to the taxes paid on forested acres. There are things the Conservation Commission has authorization to change. Brian Schweiss took the lead and noted they met and discussed FCL. Some of the things we believe we can change are that the program could be a 10 to 15 year program instead of 25 years. The land value should be

increased to a suitable level. Yield tax currently is 6% if you have a sale. New ideal would be to return a % of that money back to the landowners for post-sale work.

Partner Updates

FWAM Update – Ed Keyser noted that he serves as Vice President for FWAM. In the last few months, they have initiated a search for a new Executive Director. They had 68 applicants and interviewed 6. Hired Jim Summers from Kansas City. They also revised the strategic plan (2 year) and new goals. Website www.forestandwoodland.org . Next February will be electing new officers at the annual meeting in conjunction with CFM (last Saturday and Sunday in February at Capitol Plaza).

New Leadership in UM Research Farms – Dusty Walter, University of Missouri, introduced himself and gave brochures and business cards. He noted Columbia is his hometown, got his degrees from MU – a Masters in 2000 and PHd in 2011. Spring this year, he became superintendent of the Wurdack Research Center in Crawford County. Position is new, lot of flexibility.

Bob Ball explained that 250 additional copies of the booklet titled “Highway Safety for Missouri Log Trucks” will be distributed soon to those requesting extra copies. MoDOT is printing more booklets and Bob will distribute them once they are available. Also, everyone is encouraged to forward potential agenda topics for the March meeting to Jerry.

Upcoming Events

- Missouri Natural Resources Conference – January 30-February 1, Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach
- Missouri Community Forestry Conference – March 5, 6, 7, Joplin.
- 4th Annual Agroforestry Symposium on January 9th.

Future MoFRAC Meetings Dates (all at Farm Bureau HQ):

- March 13
- June 5
- September 4
- December 4