

Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council (MoFRAC) Draft Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2009

Mr. Dave Murphy, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Missouri Department of Conservation Credit Union on June 15, 2009. All present were provided a copy of the meeting agenda and the minutes of the March 16, 2009 MoFRAC meeting. At Chairman Murphy's request each person introduced themselves. The minutes of the March 16th meeting were then approved. He next asked Mr. Brian Brookshire to open the discussion on Missouri's growing interest in biofuels.

Mr. Brian Brookshire - MFPA - Missouri Biofuels Update

Mr. Brookshire held discussions recently with utilities regarding Proposition C and mandates for public utilities for renewable energy. Biomass is a likely component of future energy production. Utilities such as Ameren UE are operating at full capacity and are looking at E-Coal as an alternative energy source. E-Coal is a product that looks like charcoal but is very expensive to produce. This product can be used the same as coal. Ameren UE has completed an independent study for options of renewable energy sources. They will need to be using renewable energy by 2020.

Mr. Brookshire has held discussions with KC Power & Light. They are looking at torrefaction. These plants cost millions to build and the value of the material is very expensive. They are also working with a company in Oregon to purchase E-coal. Costs would be transferred to rate payers but regulations designate only a 1% increase is allowed to be passed to consumers. The haul cost to get the product to the existing power plant at Montrose would be a burden. They are discussing the merits of producing feed stock closer to their industry and looking for potential locations for new power plants.

He also met with Associated Electric at Springfield. They are at full power right now. They supply to communities and are a main supplier to rural areas. They control a large part of the grid for their area and are not currently under a federal mandate. They have contacted some communities and told them they can no longer furnish them power. West Plains will be off their grid on January 1, 2010. MFPA is in the process of getting information to West Plains on how to convert a gas powered system to a biomass system. Salem and Winona will also need to find an association to furnish them electricity.

Some locations are looking at a rate hike of \$1 million and the possibility of getting power from Mexico. MFPA will be working with small communities to consider the use of biomass to produce electricity. There are a number of federal funding opportunities to assist this process.

MU's 100,000 ton boiler will be replaced. Specifications have been sent out. Construction will start next year in March with full commission by October 12. The wood has to come from land that adheres to specific guidelines. They are in the process of trying to get a 3rd party person to supply the wood.

There is a system in Kirkwood that uses mostly solid waste wood that is bolting on to a 1 megawatt unit they have in place. Kirkwood is checking on the regulations for this operation. Representative Kuessner would like communities to become independent to keep the money in Missouri. It is possible some will purchase energy from Illinois where there are eight or nine nuclear power plants.

Mr. Scott Brundage reminded members about the proposal at the last MoFRAC meeting for source of wood. MoFRAC doesn't want a lot of little chip mills established in MO. How can we assure that wood will be coming in on a sustainable basis?

Mr. Brookshire said there is a possibility that Liberty Green Renewable (LGR) will be located in Perryville. They are working on behalf of Citizen Electric and are considering building a 25 megawatt power plant there. Engineers are going to Perryville to discuss and complete a resource analysis. Brian does not know the status of the project. LGR has an option to purchase land at Perryville. No definite information is available. LGR has committed to building a plant in southern Indiana. He does not know where the Indiana plant would get wood and is concerned regarding feed stock for this plant.

MFPA has hosted a number of meetings across southern MO to talk to loggers and industry interested in biomass for current business. An average of 15-25 people attended each meeting with a total of 85 for all meetings. They are interested in compensation for existing business and information, not to be an advocate for biomass. These were great meetings. The main concern is a sustainable energy resource. They talked a lot about competition with existing forest products such as charcoal and pallet production.

Mr. John Dwyer and Mr. Hank Stelzer are engaged in a project to test silvicultural options for thinning on University Forest. They are working with Mr. John Tuttle and other MDC foresters to look at management options and understand the economics of using traditional equipment. There is currently no market for selling chips. Large quantities are not available.

West Plains is the best opportunity to get a biomass plant going. An attorney out of Springfield is assisting them. The focus right now is to get a demonstration project with small communities put together to get local buy in. The university is working with Mr. Bob Bush from Northwest MO State University. They are planning a series of town hall meetings to get people interested. Noranda Electric uses 130 million tons of coal a year. If Ameren would not have to supply Noranda this would elevate their problem for several years.

Public utilities have a green energy requirement of 2%. These are the only utilities under this mandate. Wind and solar power are not available. **When will they need to get energy from biofuels? There is no requirement to produce a percent of renewables.** [Can these sentences be clarified?]

Dynamotive is building a plant in Arkansas. They have reached an agreement with the state and are moving forward with construction. They are also looking at Willow Springs, MO but are currently not moving forward. Mr. Murphy said that compelling reasons for this are the ethanol mandate and small rural communities. Mr. Brookshire reminded attendees that rural electric coops are not under this mandate. If they decide to move into biomass rate payers will pay. This is a significant issue. A lot of lumber mills are paying attention to when they start up and shut down their mills to avoid peak usage hours. Fort Leonard Wood is in a legal battle with Show Me Electric because of a rate hike.

10:45 – 11:15 Missouri Master Logger Program Update: Mr. Brandon O'Neal, MFPA

MFPA has been busy training loggers throughout the state. They are offering a skidder training class and Professional Timber Harvester class taught by Mr. Joe Glenn. These are a requirement for loggers if they want to cut on MDC land. They are also establishing a Master Logger Certification to become a Master Logger. Loggers must complete an application, go through an interview process, and have reference checks. Field sites are verified and checked for BMP compliance, tree damage, compliance with the landowner contract, and timber harvester techniques. There is a nine

person board that approves a Master Logger. There needs to be total forest management involvement. Regional winners for Logger of the Year have been selected. Five out of eight regions had winners this year. The State Logger of the year will be selected soon. MDC appreciates MFPA's help.

The MFPA on line timber sale web site (Moforest.org) will be revamped to make it more user friendly. The update should be completed in August or September. MFPA will email certified timber harvesters in the region when completed.

Dr. Peter Becker stated that in Wisconsin/Maine BMP's are now published and asked what efforts are being made to get recognition from landowners. Mr. Brandon O'Neal stated that the program is new. We need to provide landowners information and push through MFPA outlets. MFPA has a grant from MDC to help establish the program. There are national guidelines to comply with. Mr. Brookshire will send the information to Dr. Becker.

11:15 – 11:50 Carbon Credit Update – Mr. Mike Crist: Dogwood Carbon, Solutions

He has been working with the project financing part of Dogwood Carbon Solutions for 3-4 yrs. They have 200,000 acre grass land projects and 50,000 acre forestry projects. According to his source of news the *Wall Street Journal*, 1/3 of the country is under a cap program. In the last ten years states began to move forward but the federal government didn't. State programs will probably be superseded by federal programs. The California program will probably be the one put into effect. From a business standpoint – carbon is confusing. China is way ahead of everyone. They are using the process to finance improvements. Outside the US big money is happening. Carbon trading is going on in Asia, and especially in China, and Japan. The Europeans have their own system. The United States has the Chicago Climate Exchange, resource and voluntary markets. The Chinese are buying carbon credits outside their country because they are cheaper.

The US is emitting 7 billion tons of CO₂ a year. By 2020 we will need to be down in carbon emissions by lowering our own emissions or buying allowances from someone else. The Rain Brothers have partnered with Terra Pass to sponsor clean energy and carbon reduction projects that result in verified measurable reduction in carbon emissions. EPA has established a cap. If we stay below the cap we can sell to someone else as allowance to exceed caps. Union Electric is now in the process of improving plants they had been buying from others.

Ameren UE emits 66 million tons of CO₂ a year. They are the least efficient and dirtiest company in operation. They are in the process of doing some switching between coal and gas. In the current administration carbon proposed budget the price of carbon is \$11 per ton. We need to lower the entire power sector by 2 billion tons. This is not possible. They need to work with groups like MoFRAC. Carbon has doubled in volume between 2007 and 2008. The US has no inflation points. Why has it doubled in the last year and at the same time the price of carbon is going down? Since October carbon prices have dropped but that can depend which market you are looking at. CCAR was \$7-\$8 a ton. They were \$15 last year. This price decrease is probably because of the economic slowdown which may only be temporary.

Voluntary markets are very active. In the US Volume Market, the CCX Exchange wants to be the intermediary. They have not yet set standards. Carbon credit is a new form of money based on environmental assets. Forests will dominate. Agriculture use and industrial gas will get big. Forestry will be the biggest. There are a lot of reasons for buying carbon credits.

Mr. Mike Huffman stated that registries will be financial tracking mechanisms. A deforestation rate of 25% is a big source of CO₂. Stopping the elimination of forests would go a long way to solving the problem. There are currently three or four different active standards in play now. CCX is now bottom of the barrel – trading is thin. California Standards (CAR) are the mostly likely to survive legislation. Voluntary Carbon Standards and American Carbon Registry are two standards that seem to be making strong headway in Waxman and Markey.

American utilities can buy credits outside of the United States. The idea is to find the most economically official way to deal with the problem. Our standards will need to mesh with other standards. There are multiple sets of standards. The VCS and ACR standards are the most flexible.

There is a project going on in Hawaii on reforested sugar cane ground which will produce 30 tons of carbon a year. Projections are between \$11 and \$30 dollars a ton by 2015. Companies are writing contracts on a 10 year basis.

Europe will bring airlines under carbon emission standards this year. Ameren UE is probably ten years away from having their power plants cleaned up. Our biggest source of offsets is grasslands and forests. Mr. Steve Westin questioned if forest certification would still be required of landowners at the federal level when everything is established. To achieve forest products landowner will need a management plan – international standard is currently FSC. American carbon registration does not require specific type but requires specific component. Electric is priced in megawatt hours (MWH). The wholesale average is \$35/MWH. Other options would be more expensive. The days of cheap power are over. Prices could total \$60 – \$90/MWH. He expects to see the value of biomass in the \$70-\$90 range.

11:50 – 12:00 Outdoor Summit Meeting Update – Mr. Dave Murphy, Conservation Federation – Mr. Murphy gave an overview of the meeting and its expected impacts. A column from the Missouri Wildlife magazine by CFM President Glenn Chambers is appended to these minutes and gives a great overview of the concept of the meeting, who participated and what initial action items were developed as a result of the discussions during the Summit.

12:00 – 12:45 Catered Lunch

During Lunch: Forest Stewardship Overhaul – Ms. Lisa Allen and Mr. Steve Westin, MDC

A joint federal-state team has been formed within the U.S. Forest Service State & Private Forestry Northeastern Area (NA) to modify the Forest Stewardship program with a goal of increasing the reach and effectiveness of the program. The Stewardship program has been very successful in providing professional forest management advice and quality forest management plans to landowners over the years. However increasing pressure on the Nation's forest resources has outstripped the program's ability, in its current form, to respond to the challenge of increasing rates of forest degradation and conversion. The revised program will work to elevate landowner awareness and implementation of sustainable forest management and increase the benefits that flow to forest landowners from a society that places increased value on the contributions from well-managed forest lands and understands the importance of "keeping forests as forests". A major component of the new program will be sustained communication efforts directed toward decision makers and the general public to increase their awareness of the value of forests.

Missouri is well represented in the process. State Forester Ms. Lisa Allen is a member of the project's Executive Team, and Forestry Private Land Program Supervisor Mr. Steve Westin is one of two state agency participants on the project Steering Committee. The program will be phased in over the next two to five years.

12:45 – 1:00 Farm Bill Budget for Missouri Forestry Projects, NRCS Budget for Missouri Forestry Projects, NRCS Budget Process, State or County – Scott Brundage, Consulting Forester

May 14 was the NRCS quarterly and Missouri State Tech Committee Meeting. Ms. Lisa Allen, Mr. Hank Stelzer, Mr. Richard Stricklin, and Mr. Scott Brundage attended. There was an interesting item on the new farm bill that was brought up by Mr. Roger Hansen, NRCS State Conservationist, and Mr. Dwaine Gelnar that Mr. Brundage would like to discuss. Mr. Hansen is looking at one of two ways to handle some of the money that could be available for forestry. Either earmark the forestry money for the state or distribute it on a county basis. He would like a recommendation from MoFRAC for setting priorities for forestry use. Dr. Becker brought up the problem of past uneven distribution of money that happened in southeast MO. Dr. Becker brought up that if the District Conservationist doesn't push, the money will be given to a different county. If forestry money is not used in the assigned county it goes back into the forestry pot. If forestry money stays forestry money he would like to see a qualifier established. It is okay to leave the money for forestry statewide as long as it is spent statewide. Dr. Becker also questioned what options the landowner has if the District Conservationist doesn't push for their county. Mr. Brundage questioned how we can recommend back to Mr. Gelnar what percentage of the money should go to forestry, where it goes and how it is spent. Mr. Doug Wallace stated that the program has limited dollars and will go through a ranking process. There are national concerns that need to be kept in mind across the country. It was suggested that they send a letter to NRCS and the county from the Chairman of MoFRAC. Mr. Murphy favored a response but not a recommendation. The hope is to have a new State Conservationist by October 1, 2009. Mr. Brookshire questioned if MFPA needs a federal representative or senator involved. The State Technical Committee is only an advisory committee. Mr. Stelzer stated that criteria for sign up for 2011 will probably be in place in the next couple of months for an early fall sign up. Mr. Murphy favored money earmarked for specific counties at a local county level or a statewide forestry pool ranked by merit or other criteria. All at the meeting agreed that a dedicated statewide pool for forestry would be the best way to go. Recommendations on how to distribute from that pool should be sent to Mr. Murphy electronically.

1:00 – 1:45 Forest Management Plans – Subcommittee Chairs, Doug Wallace, NRCS Forester

1st handout –Forest Management Plan

This document is a draft. NRCS wanted to focus on a more common format. The purpose was to get information into the contract and get individuals involved. This new plan is a basic activity summary. Forest stewardship information is now in an appendix type of format. The practice application date is the landowner's choice. There is no date on the plan that has not been agreed to by the landowner. This plan does not require that the landowner complete a certain number of practices. Meeting attendees were concerned that this showed a failure of commitment on the landowner's part. The Tree Farm Plan follows the same setup. In Missouri there are no requirements. MDC does require a landowner to sign off on the stewardship plan, but cannot force the landowner to sign. There will be comments on the type of inventory base they are expecting.

Mr. Brundage discussed tree farm recertification. Previously if the landowner was still interested in a tree farm plan they could sign up even if they had not completed the previous plan. In future with carbon credits and national level audit, what happens to the tree farmer when what they agreed to hasn't been completed? In the North Central Region this issue has arisen. The implementing plan question will have to be resolved at the national tree farm level and developed as a standard.

2nd Handout – Forest Stewardship Plan

This form will have some type of electronic format (drop down menus, canned statements, or slots to add additional information).

Dave informed members that after they review the form, questions can be sent to Mr. Wallace or Mr. Westin. This document now meets forest stewardship and tree farm requirements.

1:45 – 2:00 NRCS Assistance (Cost Share) for Windstorm Damage in Ozarks - Doug Wallace

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Call Before You Cut – John Dwyer, UMC School of Natural Resources and Shelby Jones, President, Missouri Consulting Foresters Association, Committee Discussion

John Dwyer said that faculty wanted him to poll the group and see how they felt about the professionalism in “*Call Before You Cut*” (CBYC) article. There was an objection to the language in the program. They felt that in the article it sounded like you had an either/or choice to contact a forester. The group felt that this should have been first and foremost. You cannot ask a professional logger to be the representative of the landowner. Their only obligation is to look out for themselves. Faculty want people to understand that this is a complicated process and it takes three people to make it work; the landowner, forester and logger. They would like a better definition of the role of the professional forester in the process. Mr. Jones started hearing about this as soon as the *Conservationist* came out. The idea of CBYC is good. His comments today are not based on increased business. He is aware CBYC will be coming. He read the following statement from the MO Consulting Foresters Association:

Missouri Consulting Foresters Association Statement: “The Missouri Consulting Foresters Association supports the efforts of the Missouri Department of Conservation to promote increased interest in scientific forest management through the “Call Before You Cut” program. We recognize the potential this program offers for increasing the client base of our members who offer timber sale administration services. However, the introduction of the “Call Before You Cut” program through the article in the Missouri Conservationist contained advice directed to forest landowners that, in our opinion, is misleading and counter to the intent of the program. The overall intent of the article is obviously to encourage forest landowners to obtain advice prior to harvesting timber, but a portion of the article equates advice from trained loggers with that of professional foresters. MCFCA does not support that concept because foresters and loggers perform significantly different functions in the forest management scheme.

A forester is a professionally qualified forest manager with a broad knowledge of scientific disciplines necessary to assess the current resource and prescribe practices that will secure its economic and environmental health in the future.

A trained logger is a technician who implements the prescribed practice in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

Both provide essential services to landowners striving to manage their forest resources sustainably. However, it is our position that only a professional forester must be the initial contact recommended by the “Call Before You Cut” program. We strongly encourage the Missouri Dept. of Conservation to revise all public informational aspects of the “Call Before You Cut” program to reference only professional foresters for forest management planning, including timber sale preparation.”

Mr. Brundage said there are a number of items not covered or covered in such a way that would be misleading to landowners. He felt that MDC should come up with something better. He receives many requests to come look at timber but the caller has no idea there is a charge for his services. The minimal charge will come off if a timber sale is

held and he is paid for consulting services. But if there is no timber sale, the landowner should know upfront that consulting foresters charge for services. This is not clarified in the article. He would like to see this information incorporated in the packet. Consultants would be interested in meeting with MDC to discuss what they would like in the packet or to be included in the initial phone conversation and direction that is given to landowners upon contact. Mr. Brookshire strongly recommended not sending corrective information to the public at this point. It would be confusing. Public perception is that this is intended to help and there are professionals out there to assist them with this process. In a perfect world a forester is the best place to go, but this idea has to be based in reality and in reality are there enough consulting foresters out there to service the need? If not, what steps should be taken? The protocols can be handled internally, between foresters, industry and professional loggers. The last thing we need is for the landowner to get lost in the shuffle. Credibility of the program will be gone. He suggested the article be clarified in a future *Conservationist* article. Mr. Brookshire has received complaints from loggers about how some foresters do not mark timber correctly. Mr. Dwyer remarked that the market place takes care of perceived problems. If Jeremy gets more consulting forester business than he can handle, he will hire more people. Mr. Enyart is also planning on expanding. Mr. Jones agrees with Mr. Brookshire on sending out a correction. Revise, reprint and put additional information in the packet. Mr. Wallace stated he received a few calls on timber sales. He suggests they don't sell now. He is not aggressively promoting timber sales at this time but will wait until things start improving.

Ms. Allen said there are a couple of points we agree with. Timing – the *Conservationist* was in print before the storm hit. She also agrees with the statement that it is not the best wording for this article. There is a better way to convince woodland owners to use a professional forester. One of the things we realize is the value of forester education. We would love if every landowner in state would contact a professional forester. We hope that *Conservationist* readers read the complete article. It would be wonderful if every landowner in the state contacted a Consulting Forester but we know that will not happen. A certain part of the population will use a logger. We can't service their request if they don't call a forester. There are not enough people in that capacity available. MDC wants them to contact a harvester with training over someone with no training. One big passion of hers as State Forester is to enhance the level of forest management knowledge of loggers and increase the commitment to sustainable forestry by industry in the state, i.e. Professional Timber Harvester Training, Master Logger, etc. Loggers make most management decisions in the state. We will continue to promote programs to support loggers with some level of training. What are we going to do about the 60% or 70% in the state that doesn't use a professional forester or logger? She would like to get landowners to contact a forester and increase the consulting forester business in MO. She wants to focus on this in future discussions. Mr. Murphy stated that "Call Before You Cut" is important information. Ms. Allen will be meeting with Mr. Jones and others on Wednesday.

Mr. Jones said that both biofuels and biomass hold a lot of implications for both professional groups at the meeting. Biofuels could increase harvest in MO by 50%.

Lisa Allen on May 8, Storm Damage: A Presentation was given to MDC Administration and Division Chiefs as a precursor for the Conservation Commission Meeting. Ms. Allen apologized for the presentation given this group. It was a lot of MDC land with information on assessment of county by county storm damage. (A map is showing the extent and cause of damage is included at the end of these minutes.) MDC worked closely with counties for the first two to three days. In the Ozarks there were root thrown trees, straight line winds and root balls. Madison County was probably the hardest hit by the storm. Dr. Becker worked with USGS in Rolla to get land sat data. Our best estimate right now is for 113,308 acres of moderate to severe with more than 50% of trees down across all ownerships and that the biggest hit was on private lands of approximately 68,000 thousand acres. Pioneer Forest estimates 4,000 acres were

damaged. There were 13,000 acres of MDC land affected with 8,000 acres of moderate and severe damage. There was also some damage on Corps of Engineers and U.S. Park Service land.

For MDC in the Ozark Region 7,400 acres in Shannon and Dent Counties based on previous inventory impacted 14,000,000 board feet. The counties most affected are Reynolds 28,300 acres, Madison 17,800 acres, Shannon 11,000 acres, Dent 10,000, Iron 9,500, and Bollinger 8,400 acres. Ms. Allen will send out the information. Thirty-five counties were involved. Much of the damage was on west facing slopes. On private land we were only able to look at FIA data. 68,000 acres were damaged. Salvage recommendations are in question since we don't know how damaged the timber is on the ground. MDC is in the process of setting up sale units to have loggers come in and bid. Part of their contract will be to identify mills where they will take the timber. Once a month they will give us mill tally sheets and MDC will be paid from the tally sheets. Private land response is to provide equipment and money. According to FIA data 123 million board feet are down. MDC Forestry is working with Outreach & Education Division on news releases on storm impact. We will try to focus grant money to Rural Fire Departments in the areas affected by the storm because of the heavy fuel loads due to all the downed trees. We are working with MDC Resource Science Division to see if there is any type of monitoring that can be done.

Other Matters from the Floor

Mr. Murphy wanted everyone that attended the meeting to know that he appreciates their time. Mr. Wallace said that in the last EQIP practice on the management of forest land 30 individuals signed up. The only individual that can develop these plans are technical service providers. No one is qualified in the state. This is a job opportunity.

Mr. John Fleming said that the Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy project held several stakeholder meetings. Congress is currently in the process of reviewing the definition of biomass.

Ms. Allen will probably use the data base from this group to send information for State and Private Forestry updates. State and Private Forestry is a particular way the Forest Service delivers service in the state. In most regions in the country State and Private Forestry is delivered through a regional office governing body for the National Forest System. Northeastern Area (NA) is different. NA delivers State and Private Forestry without working through the National Forest System. This means 2.1 million dollars to Missouri a year. These funds support the Community Forest Program, Stewardship Program, and Fire Program. There is a proposed merger of NA and the Forest Service. The Forest Service Regional Forester would be administrative heads for these programs. This would not be a positive reorganization for us. Once she gets more information on the proposed merger she will forward out the impact of this merger on the state of Missouri to MoFRAC members. There will be a comment period open until July 9. Go to the June 9 version to review.

Mr. Murphy said that the Conservation Federation of Missouri met a couple of weeks ago. 350 people were surveyed. Missouri has more forested acres, better water quality, more deer, turkey, geese, and otters which were virtually extinct at the beginning of the program than any other state. What are things we need to be prepared for? There was a spirit of optimism, cooperation, and respect for the different perspectives of those that attended. Look at the Conservation Federation web site (www.confedmo.org), YouTube videos and the text of the meeting. MOFRAC and forestry are ahead of the curve for once. Thank you for making time for this.

Twenty years ago the first Stream Team was formed by Mr. Mark Van Patten. Gov. Ashcroft signed the Proclamation. He also attended the first major clean up two years later in 1991. Stream Team celebrated their 20th year on June 20th of

this year. There are currently 4009 Stream Teams with 82,000 members and a total of 1.5 million hours of volunteer time.

Mr. Brundage said that NRCS Forest Stewardship Plans are changing. Mr. Westin sees this as an area of high level discussion in DC and the US Forest Service. All states will have to react. Mr. Brundage is trying to get a form that will satisfy Tree Farm established. Ms. Allen said there are a lot of requirements that need to go into the NRCS plan. They may need to add an addendum.

Mr. Westin briefly described private land-oriented forestry activities in the Middle Meramec Conservation Opportunity Area (COA). Conservation marketing concepts have been employed to identify and communicate with forest landowners in the area. Field days have been held to stimulate landowner interest in conservation activities. Ozark Regional Land Trust is contributing a \$200 sign up bonus for landowners who sign up for the riparian buffer practice in CRP. They use varying cost share practices and have more business than they can take care of. The last one generated a lot of business so they have not had another one for a while. Mr. Brookshire questioned what is the change in thinking on generating more business than you can service? Why not pool resources to meet need? Mr. Westin said that at Middle Meramec they are doing that. They have identified partners that are interested in the area and are pooling resources.

Mr. Tony Harbison stated that we need to get the locals to promote the program. It takes years to create influence in the community and we lost that in our community with EQIP. Landowners who sign up for the program but don't get selected for funding become very discouraged. It will be hard to regain confidence. If we are going to improve the southeast and Ozarks we need to make sure we don't lose influence. Mr. Westin reported that there is peer-to-peer networking occurring in the Middle Meramec COA. Some influential landowners are joining in. Trust must be built up from the local level. The agency determines its goals and works with landowners to synchronize these goals with those of the landowners.

Mr. Tony Harbison said we need to use forest management and not drain resources. We don't want to take more than we can put back. We want to make a difference but want to be careful how we accomplish it. We have opportunity with downed timber and a chance to build on the future.

Mr. Brookshire said that Mr. Larry Godsey, Forest Economist, will provide information from private landowners and go through the tax process to claim casualty loss.

Mr. Tony Harbison said that people are talking about the stimulus package. This will create activity in mills that are still running, and money to landowners to get the lumber to shovel-ready projects.

Money will be coming into the state in many different ways (US Forest Service and state government packages). But these are short term solutions. We need to lay the ground work with private landowners for the future.

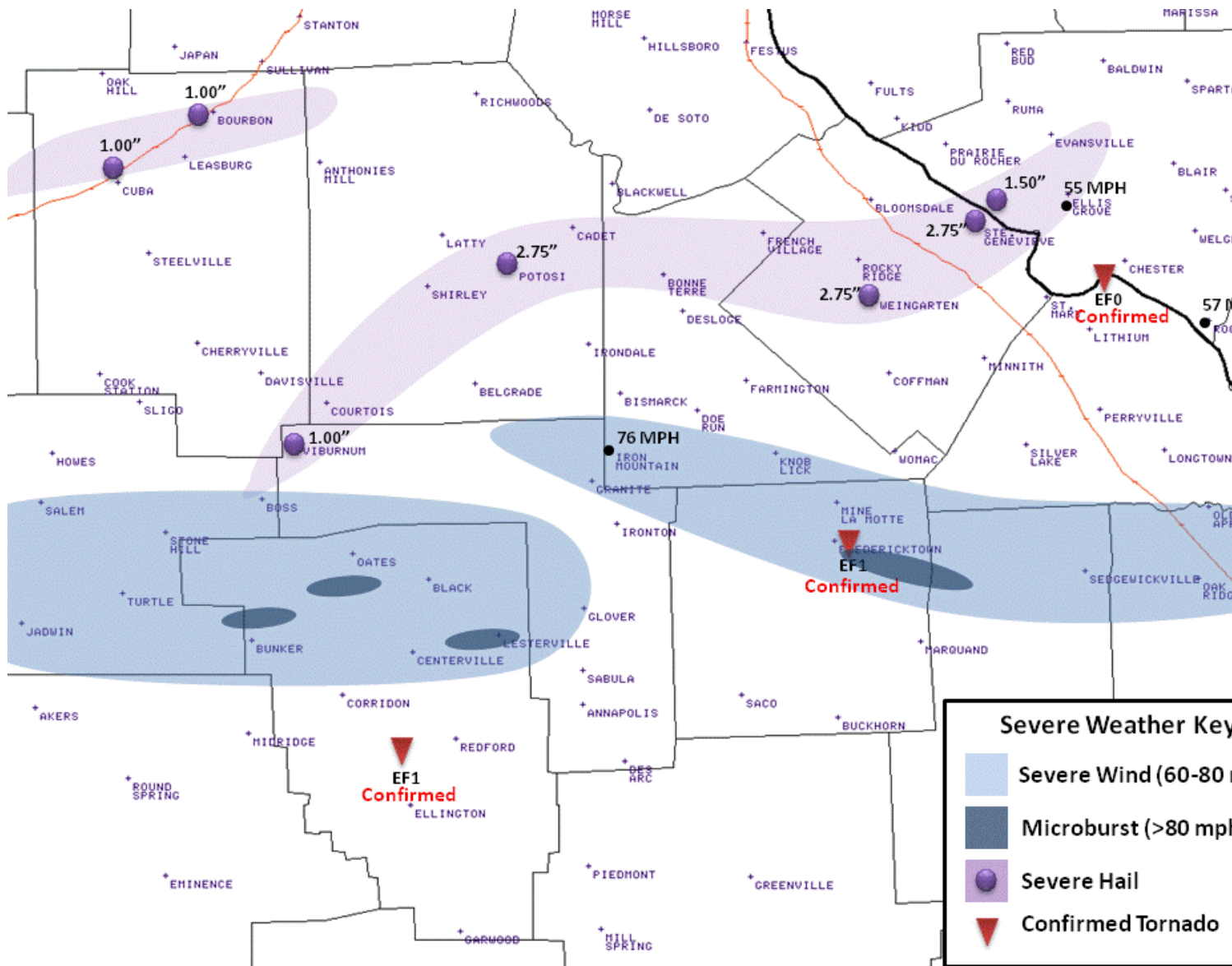
In Wisconsin 30 million board feet are down. Mills in the area have stopped taking orders from other locations. What will happen here in the future? Will there be trees dying two years down the road? This will impact streams in this area for years. Will this effect water sheds for municipalities? Will there be disease or insect damage? What about fire danger? Silviculturists should meet as soon as possible to access needs.

They are looking at some ways to help storm damage areas – analysis shows damage over 30,000 to 40,000 acres. The State Conservationist said they have swept accounts for funds and have about \$1,000,000 to make two practices available to 11 counties. June 26 will be the end of the sign up period. There will be a \$20,000 payment cap for this signup. We need to get damaged material out of woods so some type of improvement can be started.

There needs to be an approved site for log landing. There will be an activity sheet that will need to be followed for log stacking practices. No detailed forest management plan will be necessary but they will need a damage plan. MDC will send out information to cooperators in their database. In a map put out by the National Weather Service there were microbursts of 80-90 mph winds.

The next MoFRAC meeting will be held on August 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Lewis & Clark State Office Building, known to some as the "Green Building", at 1101 Riverside Drive in Jefferson City. It was requested that the agenda for the meeting be distributed earlier. On August 17 there will also be a Casualty Loss Meeting held at Fredericktown. Debbie Gattis will be the speaker. The MO Farm Bureau Annual Meeting will be held December 6 & 7. MOFRAC will meet on December 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Missouri Farm Bureau headquarters building in Jefferson City.





President's Message from Missouri Wildlife magazine regarding the "Summit on the Future of Missouri Outdoors" held May 28 - 29, 2009

AND IT CAME TO PASS.....

Long before I became President of CFM, there were rumblings in our Executive Board meetings about the need for a "CONSERVATION SUMMIT". Small talk at first, but as time went on, it became apparent that this "Conservation Summit", as we had identified it in the beginning, was destined to be a reality. At an Executive Board meeting just before

Commissioner Don Johnson, who was CFM President at that time, became a Conservation Commissioner, and just before I became the newly appointed/elected President, it was pointed out to me rather clearly, by the Executive Board, that the "Conservation Summit" was going to be "my baby"!!!!!!

That was a chilling and sobering thought. WOW - "my baby" and at that time I hadn't even presided over a first Board meeting. As fearsome as it was, I knew that it was going to happen!!!

Following several private discussions with our Executive Director, David Murphy, it was apparent that I was not in this thing by myself!!! In his masterful way and calm demeanor, we began engaging in dialogue about this future event and David began contacting people who he felt could help us pull off this huge task.

One of the first names to appear was Dr. Dan Witter of D.J. Case and Associates. I had experienced Dan's expert leadership, first hand, when he was an employee of MDC, and was assigned the task of facilitating and mediating the "Otter Controversy" back in the 1990's.

I began to breathe even easier, when it became apparent that CFM would receive a grant from a generous donor and that we could compensate Dr. Witter and his associates (including Missouri's own Sara Pauley of D.J. Case) for some technical pieces of the project, namely a survey of 366 Missourians. But it became obvious with time that Dan, Sara, and D.J. Case willingly invested far more in the overall effort than ever could be compensated. Thanks to D.J. Case & Associates!

Then it was time to form a robust and dynamic program committee to assist with the task. The program committee featured representatives from:

- Audubon Missouri
- Bass Pro Shops
- Conservation Federation of Missouri
- George Clark Missouri State Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation
- D.J. Case & Associates
- Mahfood & Associates
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy
- Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities

At this point, "my baby" suddenly became "our baby" and we were off and running!!! Under the leadership of Dr. Witter, and our Executive Director, the "Conservation Summit" evolved into "A Summit on the Future of Missouri Outdoors".

Early on, the Summit Program Committee identified 366 Outdoor leaders from multiple disciplines and Outdoor-related agencies that were considered key prospects to receive a Web-based survey about the future of Missouri Outdoors. The survey was designed to help inform development of the Summit program. Some critics thought that this entire effort was an effort to rally support for more funding for the Missouri Department of Conservation. WRONG!!!! In fact, the survey defined "Outdoors" very broadly to encompass the largest possible Outdoor Community: survey respondents were told,

"Outdoors goes beyond any one agency or organization. The term 'Outdoors' is defined as: soil, water, air, fish, forests, wildlife, nature, natural communities, and out-of-doors recreation."

The survey experienced a 72% response, and respondents provided great insights to what topics the Summit program should explore.

Between February 12, 2008 and May 28, 2009, more than 14 Summit Program Committee meetings were held in preparation for the Summit, using survey results and insights from program committee members to help craft the Summit program.

All this preparation culminated in "A Summit on the Future of Missouri Outdoors," held at the Hilton Garden Inn next to the Bass Pro Shop in Columbia, Missouri on May 28 - 29, 2009.

The Summit Vision was:

75 years from now, a quality Outdoor experience will be as much a part of Missourians' lifestyles as today, or more so, and opportunities to experience the Outdoors will be as diverse and readily available as today, or more so.

Our meeting began with an enthusiastic endorsement of the importance of Missouri Outdoors yesterday, today, and tomorrow by no less than Governor Jeremiah (Jay) Nixon. He gave a riveting 30 minute account of the value of Missouri Outdoors to him personally and to Missouri. Our meeting could not have had a better kickoff!!!

The next speaker on the program was Dr. Stephen Kellert, Tweedy/Ordway Professor of Social Ecology, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Dr Kellert addressed the connection between human and natural systems, emphasizing that more and more research is showing we humans grow increasingly impoverished in body and spirit when we lose our connections to the Outdoors. The Outdoors isn't just a luxury for a few people; it's a necessity for all of us!

Dr. Larry Brown, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Geography, University of Missouri, was next, explaining the pre-history and history of Missouri culture, and offering some predictions about where and how many of us will be living on the Missouri landscape in the coming 75 years.

A panel of Resource Agency Administrators addressed Outdoor issues, predictions, and opportunities from their agency perspectives in response to thought-provoking questions from moderator Mr. Steve Mahfood. This panel session was thought to be the first ever that featured the lead administrators from the:

- MO Department of Agriculture (Dr. Jon Hagler, Director)
- MO Department of Natural Resources (Dr. Mark Templeton, Director),
- MO Department of Conservation (Mr. John Hoskins, Director),
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Mr. Charlie Scott, Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office) and
- U.S. Forest Service (Mr. Dave Whittekiend, Forest Supervisor, Mark Twain National Forest).

Following a stellar first day of the Conference, we journeyed next door to BASS PRO SHOP, COLUMBIA, where Martin Mac Donald and David Smith rolled out the RED CARPET for an Old Fashioned Missouri Ozark Fish Fry with all the "trimmin's". It was a great time of fun and fellowship for everyone on the outdoor deck of BASS PRO SHOP. Thanks to Martin and David for such a splendid and wonderful evening!!!! Red Creek Wines provided great "spirits" for the occasion.

Day two kicked off with an enthusiastic, articulate, and insightful panel looking at Missouri's Outdoor diversity—where we've been successful getting Missourians of different age, gender, race, education, and ability into the Outdoors—and where we've been unsuccessful. Panel moderator Sara Pauley directed provocative questions to a wonderfully-prepared panel of young & older, black & white, male & female, urban & rural, student and teacher—and Outdoor experts all:

Mr. Mark Corio, student, University of Missouri, Columbia

Mr. David Hilliard, President & CEO, Wyman

Mr. Chris Kennedy, Fisheries Regional Supervisor, Missouri Department of Conservation

Mr. Jon McRoberts, Research Associate and Doctoral Student, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

Ms. Susan Trautman, Director, Des Peres Parks and Recreation

"The Future of Missouri Outdoors" was the title of Mr. Bob Priddy's thrilling account of where Missouri Outdoors "was" and "is" and "will be", using as an illustrative example, the Thomas Hart Benton mural at the State Capitol. Mr Priddy is the news director of the MissouriNet, a statewide radio network that serves listeners of more than 60 radio stations with news, sports and special programs. His presentation reminded Summit participants that our state's Outdoors is a vital part of the character and quality of our state, and protection of Missouri Outdoors deserves our persistence and commitment. His stirring and inspiring words won a standing ovation from the audience.

The Summit program was designed to give participants lots of chances to give their opinions. Each of the nearly 150 attendees received a little device at registration that looked like a garage door opener, but actually allowed each participant to "vote" on questions that were posed at the end of each presentation and panel...folks loved their "clickers"!

For example, it was by using these voting-clickers that Summit attendees identified the top 10 goals toward which Missouri's Outdoor Community needed to work:

- 1) Teaching Missourians about the Outdoors
- 2) Clean and healthy water (includes ground water)--Quantity and Quality
- 3) Connecting families and communities to nature and natural resources
- 4) Supporting and funding Outdoors
- 5) Conserving plants, animals, and habitats
- 6) Acquiring public lands for Outdoor uses
- 7) Helping private landowners
- 8) Clean and healthy air
- 9) Develop leadership organizational structure that reflects collaborative need
- 10) Promote stakeholder input

And Summit participants worked together in small groups to help identify the actions we need to take to accomplish these 10 goals.

Boiled down, the top 3 actions we need to take as a Missouri Outdoor Community are:

- ACTION 1: Get the message out that a quality, healthy Outdoors is essential for human life,
- ACTION 2: Conserve plants, animals, and natural communities so that they are diverse, healthy, and resilient, and
- ACTION 3: Maintain and pursue stable long-term and short-term funding for operations, capital improvements, and special projects.

We were very fortunate to have three State Legislators, Senator Frank Barnitz, Representative Charlie Schlottach and Representative J.C. Kuessner, who graciously gave of their time to attend the conference. We know that lots of people in society and politics make pretty convincing arguments that their interests and expectations are most important. We in the Missouri Outdoor Community need to recognize the importance of supporting politics and politicians who see our Outdoor interests as in the best interests of Missouri!

SO IT CAME TO PASS.....

The Summit was a big step—but it was just one step—more steps and action must follow as we make progress on the Summit Vision!!!

Be watching and listening for the next round of MARCHING ORDERS. And REMEMBER, we are all in this one together!!!!

Glenn D. Chambers
President, CFM