

**Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council**  
**June 5, 2013**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions** – Chairman Jerry Van Sambeek called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made and the following were in attendance:

Allen, Lisa – Mo. Dept. of Conservation  
Alley, Joe – Mo. Society of American Foresters  
Baldwin, Donna – Mo. Dept. of Conservation  
Becker, Anastasia – Mo. Dept. of Agriculture  
Bill, Michael – Mo. Dept. of Conservation  
Brown, Mike – USDA APHIS PPQ  
Brundage, Scott – The Walnut Council  
Brunk, Gene – Mo Community Forestry Council  
Burk, John – National Wild Turkey Federation  
Courtenay, Jack – USFS Mark Twain Nat'l Forest  
DeWitt, Bob – Mo. Dept. of Conservation  
Dorst, Hank – Eastern Ozarks Forestry Council

Dwyer, John – University of Mo-Dept. of Forestry  
Garrett, Gene – Univ. of Mo. Center for Agrofor  
Gartner, Justine – Mo. Dept. of Conservation  
Goodrich, Nate – USDA NRCS  
Homfeldt, Tammy – Mo. Forest Products Assoc.  
Jones, Matt – Mo. Dept. of Conservation  
Koenig, Ann, Mo. Dept. of Conservation  
Lovelace, Wayne – Mo. Nurseryman's Assoc.  
Schweiss, Brian – Mo. Dept. of Conservation  
Stafford, Tony – Mo. Dept. of Agriculture  
Van Sambeek, Jerry – USFS Northern Res Station  
Walter, Dusty, University of Mo-CAFNR

**Review and Approve December Minutes** – Jerry asked if anyone had changes to the minutes from the March 13, 2013 meeting. With no changes, Gene Brunk made a motion to accept them as written. Gene Garrett seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

**Trees Work** – Ann Koenig gave a presentation on the new forestry awareness and education campaign being developed by the Mo. Dept. of Conservation (MDC). The *Trees Work* campaign is to increase awareness of the benefits our trees and forests provide. Many of us appreciate the beauty of an oak releasing its tender spring leaves or a maple shading our deck without being aware of the real and valuable benefits those trees are providing for our health, our families, our wallets and our environment. *Trees Work* strikes a one, two punch by letting Missourians know the ways trees and forests are working for them in their everyday lives *and* providing information on what the public can do about it-how they can promote good forestry management no matter how much land they own.

Ann asked everyone to be watching for *Trees Work* activities and information in their area. Visit [www.treeswork.org](http://www.treeswork.org) to learn more and get involved. And, help us spread the message that our trees and forests are more than pretty, static things . . . Trees Work!!! A comment was made that program materials include more information on benefits of forestland and natural stands. Jerry thanked Ann, and also noted that U.S. Forest Service has put together a book for children titled *Why Would Anyone Cut a Tree Down?*. Justine added that Nick Kuhn with MDC has a supply if anyone wants some.

**Economics of Alternative Biomass Harvests** – John Dwyer, University of Missouri, gave a presentation on *The Economic Feasibility of an Integrated Woody Biomass Harvest in the Missouri Ozark Highlands*.

He reported that biomass is defined as any forest products used to supply a woody biomass facility (alternative energy, paper, etc); low value, poor quality forest products; residues from sawmilling and logging. His study focused on tops and small diameter stems.

Potential wood-based bioenergy systems include electrical, thermal, and liquid biofuels. The harvest approach utilized equipment for multiple projects, minimized tree handling (whole tree/single pass), reduce cost of producing biomass. Objectives were to implement biomass harvesting under realistic scenarios, determine costs and productivity associated with each harvest component to determine cost of productions and revenues, evaluate profitability for equipment configurations provided for in the study. The study site was Indian Trail CA in Dent County, which is mostly oak/hickory forest, on 72 acres.

John discussed the different treatments and machines used on 3 different blocks with 8 treatments per block. Harvest was done by a Master Logger and followed all BMP guidelines. Data was collected and analyzed.

In summary, the harvesting of biomass products in the Ozarks region of Missouri is current not economically feasible within any of the eight treatments due to high costs association with harvesting (weather, BMPs, low equipment utilization), high cost of transportation and limited market availability. Improvements needed would be a facility (or several small facilities) in Ozark region to reduce haul distance, minimize unnecessary equipment, maximize productivity, use experienced personnel and new/more efficient equipment.

**Cooperative Forest Landscape Restoration Project** – Jack Courtenay presented on the Missouri Pine Oak Woodland Restoration project. He noted that in 2009, Congress passed a bill to put a set amount of money toward restoration efforts, and this project was awarded in 2012, and is one of approximately 20 projects nationally.

The goal of the project is set up to increase the number of acres restored by 20% over the next 3 years and create or maintain 1,500 jobs. He showed a map of projects across the US, most are in the northwest, with one in Missouri and a couple in Arkansas. The project locations are tied with watershed condition classification for priority areas. In Missouri, the highest are Mill Creek Watershed (between Rolla and Ft. Leonard Wood), and four watersheds in the Winona/Van Buren area. The purpose was to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes through a process that encourages ecological, economic and social sustainability. It estimates changes in extent of shortleaf pine distribution across 29 counties covering MTNF based on FIA data.

Missouri's project includes \$22 million spent on restoration, \$12.5 million in special funding; 100,000 acres treated with 88,000 restored; currently implement 30,000 acres of approved mechanical treatments (overstory and understory removal); includes areas approved to burn (29,500 acres in analysis). This is a collaborative USFS effort and included input from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, American Bird Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy, National Wild Turkey Federation, Central Hardwoods Joint Venture, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, and state game and fish agencies of Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. It

requires multiparty monitoring for 15 years after implementation and will assess the ecological, social and economic outcomes.

**Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) Resolutions:** Jerry received a letter from CFM informing us of their resolutions and to solicit MoFRAC's response. Jerry distributed copies of the resolutions for 'Call before You Cut' and 'Thousand Cankers Disease Education and Awareness'.

The group reviewed the resolutions and discussions ensued. Jerry suggested that MoFRAC approve the resolutions. Gene Brunk made a motion to approve the motions; Gene Garrett seconded the motion. Tammy Homfeldt noted that it states that MFPA supports the 'Call before You Cut' resolution, and she noted that MFPA has not publicly stated that support. Scott noted that normally those supporting organizations are part of the discussion. Lisa noted that Brian was not at the meeting at that time, and further explained that the Forestry Committee approved them. Gene Garrett amended his motion to include the MoFRAC disclaimer that it may not reflect the views of all the MoFRAC organizations. The amended motion was approved with MFPA abstaining. The resolution on 'Thousand Cankers' was approved unanimously.

**Forest Products Fairness Act** – Jerry noted Senator Blunt and Senator Pryor were co-sponsoring this bill. Lisa Allen distributed handouts with background information. She noted that the last Farm Bill included a USDA Biobased Markets Program, which was designed to increase the purchase and use of biobased products. Congress included forestry materials in the definition of biobased products.

Tony Stafford asked if MoFRAC would take a position on these and send to our congressmen. The group agreed, but we need to do it quickly. A motion was made to draft a letter of support to send to the Missouri delegation to include the language in the Farm Bill. The motion was approved.

**Farm Bill Update** – Lisa Allen noted things are moving fast. The versions of the Bill are out of committees and have not been considered in full floor, but could be any time. Most of the things are advantageous to forestry. There is some info that the proposed Farm Bill would expand the CSP program by taking the caps off the acres enrolled. Nate noted that the proposed bill does away with WHIP and putting that money into EQIP.

**Update on MU Power Plant conversion to biomass** – Joe Alley reported MoSAF held their spring meeting in Columbia and toured the Foster Bros operation in Auxvasse and the MU biomass powerplant. It was a great meeting with a good turnout. Unfortunately the MU powerplant was not operational due to technical failures. They are not using chips now, and Foster Bros has a supply of chips with nowhere to take them. He noted that they also had a good business meeting, and the fall MoSAF meeting will be to see elk and the USFS restoration areas.

Jerry asked if MoFRAC would like to see a presentation with pictures of the Foster Brother's and MU biomass powerplant operations. The group noted yes, they would.

**Partner Updates, Meetings, Events** –

- **Missouri Sustainable Forest Management Guidelines** – Mike Bill reported the content has been finalized and is being reviewed by MDC forestry division staff. From

there it will go to the other MDC divisions and MDC administration for review, followed by public review. Mike is working on formatting, adding pictures, etc. He thanked MoFRAC for their involvement.

- **Tree Farm Conference** – Matt Jones noted it was well attended and a good conference. Great tour of Ed Keyser’s farm, and good workshops. Matt added that ATFS has abandoned the dues paying system. In 2014, each state can decide whether or not to pursue a dues paying system for certified tree farms.
- **Big Tree Madness Competition** – Donna Baldwin reported Missouri’s Ozark chinquapin won. She thanked everyone who voted during individual pairings..
- **Forest and Woodland Association of Missouri** – Jerry reported that Jim Summers had informed him the SFI Conservation Grant for Call before You Cut Workshops was not funded.
- **Center for Agroforestry** – Gene Garrett reported that with the decrease in funding for the center, they brainstormed ideas to fund Green Horizons and make improvements. The Blue Ribbon Panel discussed the newsletter, and decided they should expand the number of organizations who sponsor it. Shibu Jose and Gene made phone calls and got several positive responses. One of the decisions was that each sponsoring organization will have a representative on the editorial board. One of their duties will be to increase submission of articles in a timely manner from the organizations. Shibu is on vacation right now, but when he gets back he will start making contact with those organizations to put together a functioning editorial board.
- **Missouri Department of Agriculture** – Anastasia Becker reported that traps are being set for walnut twig beetle in the St. Louis, Kansas City, and Springfield areas. MDA is also putting out gypsy moth traps and emerald ash borer traps. The EAB traps are being checked regularly during this peak emergence period. Tony Stafford added they have expanded the Ag Loan Program to include a much wider range of programs including cost share programs available through MDNR and USDA-NRCS. Tony will share with MoFRAC members via email the news releases describing program guidelines and application process.

**Expenditure of Post-Conference Funds** – Jerry noted MoFRAC still has a small amount of money being held by CFM. We need to either spend the funds or find another account to put it in. John Burk suggested putting it in a non-interest earning account at CECU. Nate Goodrich made a motion MoFRAC open a non-interest bearing account at CECU. Hank Dorst seconded the motion. Gene Garrett amended the motion to clarify we explore the feasibility of opening an account. The amended motion was seconded by Wayne Lovelace and the motion was approved. Jerry will explore the options.

**Brochure Revisions** – Scott reported that the brochure lists member organizations, and some of them are no longer active. Gene Garret suggested MoFRAC leadership send a letter to all member organizations expressing the need for their representative and alternates to attend the meetings.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.