

MoFRAC
September 4, 2013
Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions – Chair Jerry VanSambeek welcomed everyone to the meeting. The following were in attendance: Michael Bill, Kelly Smith, Mike Hoffmann, Lisa Allen, Joe Alley, Brian Brookshire, Kurt Boeckmann, Matt Jones, Bob DeWitt, Bob Ball, Shibu Jose, Steven Thurman, Brian Schweiss, Jim Summers, Travis Scott, Rebecca Landewe, Jason Jensen, Bill Nightingale, Anastasia Becker, Michael Brown, Matt Arndt, Ed Keyser, Eugene Brunk, Hank Stelzer, Scott Brundage, Wayne Lovelace, Gene Garrett, John Tuttle, Nate Goodrich, Terry Truttman, Harlan Palm, Jerry VanSambeek, Hank Dorst, Steve Mahfood, Justine Gartner, and Donna Baldwin.

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes – Jerry asked if anyone had changes to the June 5 2013 Meeting Minutes. Jerry received one correction about the money left from the biofuels conference and Nate also made a correction. With no further corrections, the minutes were approved as edited.

2013 Logger Survey Results – Justine Gartner gave a presentation on the 2013 Logger Survey Results. She noted that in March, April and May of 2013, a 15 question survey was mailed to 1,047 individuals who were identified by Missouri Department of Conservation foresters as being active in logging. A letter announcing the survey was mailed to all 1,047 people. Approximately 10 days later, a cover letter with the actual survey was mailed. Three weeks later a reminder postcard was mailed and then six weeks after the mailing of the survey a final reminder letter was mailed. A total of 169 surveys were returned for a 16% response rate.

Many of the questions were open ended requiring the respondent to jot down their thoughts. When responses were entered into the database spelling mistakes and grammatical errors were fixed, however the meaning of each response was not change in any way.

Justine reported that in general loggers in Missouri are aware (76%) of MDC's efforts to work with the forest products industry in the state. When asked which efforts were they aware of, most cited timber sales on state land and MDC's work with private landowners marking timber.

The questions concerning the Profession Timber Harvester Program (PTH) generated some interesting results. Sixty-three percent of the respondents indicated they had attended PTH training. Of those that had attended, 91% rated that training as Outstanding or Good. The most commonly expressed concern was the challenge of making time to attend. Days spent in travel to and from training, the actual time in class combined with the fee to attend represent an upfront cost that the logger must bear. For many this cost is too great and they have elected not to recertify or to not attend at all. Several respondents would like to compress the class and shorten it to 2-3 days.

Over 85% of respondents indicated that they had heard of the Missouri Master Logger Certification (MLC) program and 12% indicated that they were certified MLC. With less than ten loggers actually certified through the MLC program, it is apparent that there is some confusion about the MML program.

When asked about the challenges that exist in the logging profession in Missouri three main themes emerged. First a large number of people commented on the high cost of doing business. Specific issues cited over and over include insurance, fuel prices, equipment maintenance/parts, low log prices, and limited availability of saw timber. The second theme that emerged centered on workforce issues. Concerns raised included the lack of a younger generation of logger, and difficulty in hiring.

And finally the issues raised that (MDC) can address include concerns about marking trees that are too small, foresters not scaling/grading trees accurately, timber sales on MDC are too large for a 'small operator' to bid on, and foresters denigrating loggers. When asked how MDC's forest products program could better serve the logging industry everyone seemed to have an idea.

Over 92% of respondents indicated that they use Best Management Practices (BMPs) like water bars and streamside management zones when they harvest trees. Those that indicated they did not regularly use BMPs indicated that they would use them at the landowner's request. *Note – It is felt that this question was poorly worded and didn't get an accurate response. Of course everyone will claim that they use BMPs, but it is unclear if they actually use them on the ground.*

Most of the respondents felt that loggers had an image problem (80% said yes). When asked how to improve this image the responses can be grouped into two categories. The first category includes procedural suggestions like being honest, leaving no ruts, cleaning up mess, don't steal, provide references, and educate the landowner. The second category was suggestions directed at foresters. They included don't bash loggers, don't tell landowners what the timber is worth as forester doesn't know, greater advertisement of the PTH and MLC programs, list bad apples on-line for landowners to see, quit printing false information in the *Missouri Conservationist*, and show on-line what landowners can expect from a timber sale.

The overwhelming response when asked what their thoughts were about buying timber marked by foresters was negative. Most loggers feel that foresters don't understand the logging business and mark far too many small, junk, firewood and/or cull trees. They feel that foresters often overestimate the volume especially when dealing with short or poor quality timber, and generally don't know what they're doing. There seems to be no understanding by the logger of why small trees are marked while larger 'more valuable' trees are left. Loggers felt like they were doing TSI. Repeatedly respondents cited that foresters don't understand that loggers have to make a profit to stay in business. A very small number of respondents had a completely opposite view stating that marked sales save them time and gave them something to compare their estimate of volume against.

A sector of respondents feel that forestry consultants 'have created a bad name for the industry and most times do a poor job marking...' and '...are looked upon as having less knowledge and lower ethics than loggers'. There seems to be real heartburn over the fact that consultants get a percentage off the top of the sale. Other respondents felt that consulting forester do a good job of marking specifically not including 'junk or salvage trees'.

Respondent's opinion of sales marked by MDC foresters wasn't much better. Responses ranged from 'love it' to 'piss poor'. The general consensus is that MDC foresters were inconsistent in their marking. Some foresters do a good job while others do not. Each forester has their own way of estimating volume leading to inconsistencies in volume estimates. And finally loggers feel foresters do not have a good grasp of what it takes for a sale to be successful. Examples include foresters marking inaccessible timber and not understanding what external defects indicate internal defects.

For complete survey responses please contact Justine Gartner at Justine.gartner@mdc.mo.gov.

2012 Timber Products Output Report – Jason Jensen gave a presentation and handout summarizing the 2012 TPO report. He noted the survey has been done every 3 years since the 40s or 50s. Foresters go out and visit every sawmill in the state and conduct surveys. This is a cooperative project with

MDC and USFS and other states. This year we did our own analysis and created a report (for more timely information).

Why do we do it? Calculate harvest pressure on Missouri's foresters, by county and species. Give us a better understand of trends in the industry. Assists industry with information needs. Allows us to update the Primary Processors Directory. FIA and TPO databases allow a manager to assist industry in locating areas to start mills; breakdown volume by size class/county, etc. In summary, TPO is needed to track harvest pressure.

Missouri Forest Products Brand Action Plan – Terry Truttmann gave a presentation on his new project, developing a marketing brand for Missouri forest products. The goal of the brand is to promote responsible management of Missouri's forests. He noted he has researched similar programs, interviewed mills, loggers, landowner groups, marketing consultants and spoke with potential partners. He also developed a focus group heavy in industry. Questions asked include 1) how would the brand help you? 2) how do you relate to the consumer 3) what do you want the brand to look like to the consumer? He has developed a strategy plan; is working with a marketing group to create a logo that represents the desired image. Terry asked that the partner groups send feedback to him.

Invasive Insect Pest of Missouri Trees – Doug LeDoux, Missouri State Survey Coordinator, MDA, gave the following presentation:

We are always looking for anything that can be a threat to our forests.

- American elms still dying after 73 years (DED); vectored by 3 different insects (native elm bark beetle, European elm bark beetle, and the banded elm bark beetle). The banded was found in 2004.
- Ash trees – EAB. Spread to 20 states and 2 provinces in Canada. In Missouri it's been found in 13 counties. Signs are thinning crowns, d shaped holes, blanding, larval S galleries and epicormic sprouts. Individual trees may harbor thousands of EAB larvae. Main method of spreading is through moving firewood.
- Pine shoot beetle – showed up in Missouri last year (Macon, Lewis, Marion, Adair, and Clark Counties). Gradually moving westward and southward in the U.S. Tends to live in dead and dying trees. Adults move to living trees and feed on the shoots. Not know what it will do to southern yellow pine forests. Tests have shown it will feed on those trees.
- Ambrosia Beetles (several species found in Missouri). Can attack several species of trees and be extremely prolific and numerous. We don't know what they are doing out there or means of stopping them. Majority is native to eastern Asia and probably came in packing material or live plants.
- Gypsy moth – we've managed to keep ahead of this one for a long time. Kind of a success story. Originally introduced in the 1800s. Left unchecked, they are effective defoliators and do it year after year until the tree dies. Slow the Spread works and has held the pest and slowed it from moving forward. Bug has retreated in a couple locations. This year they have 4 positive traps – St. Louis (2), Greene, and Madison counties. Most Missouri captures have occurred in and around cities or along major highway routes.
- TCD caused by the walnut twig beetle. Carries a fungus and causes cankers in the inner bark and ends up girdling the tree. Once it's there, not much you can do about it. Beetle is very tiny and difficult to trace the movements. Looking at high risk areas in select counties in Missouri.
- Asian longhorned beetle – large beetle with long antenna. Larvae is quite large.

Weakens trees and hits a lot of different species of trees. It's been contained so far.

How do new pests enter this country? Through trade and movement of plant based products by passengers. Once it's here, it's moved through firewood, woodworking and handcrafts, logs, lumber, plant parts, etc.

Partner Updates

- **MDC Private Lands Update** – Bob DeWitt reported MDC is holding a series of Chronic Wasting Disease Hearings and Public Meetings. The legislature early this summer set up four hearings regarding MDC considerations for addressing CWD in the state. Hearings were in response to members of the Missouri Deer Breeders Association concerns with potential changes for their businesses. The first hearing was in July in Jefferson City and the second in Buffalo in August. Two other hearings have yet to occur. Another hearing will be held in Jefferson City on September 10th and the final hearing in Poplar Bluff on October 10th. MDC is also holding public meetings statewide (one in every MDC administrative region for a total of eight). The first meeting was in Macon on September 3rd. After a presentation regarding the background on CWD in Missouri and the country and MDC's responsibilities to all Missourians with forest, fish and wildlife resources, about 120 non-MDC attendees were present and comments were made from multiple perspectives in a courteous and respectful atmosphere. Many parties in attendance expressed appreciation for the opportunity to become better informed and to share their thoughts. Nearly 60 comments were received that evening. About 80 percent of those commenting supported additional requirements for fencing captive deer, importation of live deer and disease testing of deer. There are still several public meetings to be conducted: September 5 in Kirkwood, the 16th in West Plains, the 18th in Cape Girardeau, the 23rd in Jefferson City and the 30th in St. Joseph. In October there will be meetings on the 1st in Blue Springs and on the 9th in Springfield. Those with an interest and wishing to share their thoughts and comments were encouraged to do so via online opportunities or at the remaining hearings and meetings.

- **Center for Agroforestry & Green Horizons** – Shibu Jose reported that the Center has funding to carry the remaining faculty through another year. Still exploring funding options. Shibu thanked the Blue Ribbon Panel for their suggestions for improving the Green Horizons newsletter. One suggestion was to increase the number of supporting members. Had about 7 in the past, invited an additional 10 members. Supporting members pay dues – from \$100 to \$8000 (MDC). We have received responses from about half so far. For each supporting member, they were invited to join the editorial board. Also working on increasing membership and exploring options.

- **FWAM Update** -- Jim Summers reported that FWAM will be rolling out some new marketing approach to appeal to new members. Have a traveling exhibit to go to festivals, fairs, farm fests, etc. Just entered into partnership with several entities in St Charles county to take degraded woodland areas and turn back into more natural state woodlands/prairie. Done by professionals and volunteers. Paid for by MDC community stewardship grant. Jim added that FWAM is also the administrator for Missouri's Tree Farm System. The pilot program for a dues-paying program has been discontinued. FWAM received a grant to try to contact Missouri tree farmers who have not been active and encourage them to re-engage with the program.

- **Mark Twain National Forest** - Bill Nightingale reported that Teresa Chase is moving on to a new job in mid-September. Meanwhile, Roger Simmons will be filling in. They are currently amending the Forest Plan's Aquatic Standards for Ozark Hellbenders and mussels. Fire season has impacted them, had 40-40 firefighters out west; things are finally starting to calm down. They met their timber target for the year. Reminded everyone about the October 17th, SAF field trip of Peck Ranch. Budget – anticipate a continuing resolution at 10%

reduction.

- **Missouri Forest Products Association** - Brian Brookshire reported that the 2013 Missouri In- Woods Logging Demo will take place September 13-14 at Doe Run in Viburnum. They are bringing logging equipment there. Invited everyone to attend.
- **Sustainable Forest Management Guidelines** - Mike Bill reported that the guidelines were reviewed by MDC staff and edits were made. Mike then took to a professional editor. It will then be open for a 60 day public comment period, with final editing and graphic design to follow.
- **Eastern Ozarks Forestry Council** - Hank Dorst reported they are sponsoring two field days. First one is at Bee Rock on Oct 5 where a PTH logger will speak about the benefits of being trained. Second field day is October 19th in Ellsinore.

Foster Brothers Operation & MU Biomass Power Plant – Hank Stelzer showed some photos of the MoSAF tour that was held in May. Rained that day pretty heavily but we did get out to see their harvesting equipment. Chips are coming from Foster Bros. from mill residues and they have had no problem getting their chips. Hank further discussed the operations/process at the WBM power plant, which is not yet up and running. They have replaced three augers.

MoFRAC Business Items –

- Merge MU Dept of Forestry and MU Extension Membership – Hank Stelzer has asked that we merge these two entities on the MoFRAC organization roster. Needs to be approved by the group. A motion was made by Gene Brunk and seconded by Ed Keyser to merge the two groups. Approved unanimously.
- Nominations Committee – Jerry reported it is time to appoint a Nominations Committee. He would like to appoint Lisa Allen, Nate Goodrich, and Gene Garrett to come up with a slate of nominations for Secretary and Vice Chair. Kelly Smith will be the new chair. Lisa, Nate, and Gene agreed to seek nominations.
- Expenditure of Post Conference Funds – Jerry reported that there is \$622 in an account at Commerce Bank, funds left from the biofuels conference. Discussion ensued on who should hold the monies. Jerry noted that most banking institutions will require an EIN number. Jerry and Bob Ball will look into other options and report back to the group.
- Brochure Revisions and Web Updates – Following our last meeting, we made a few revisions to the layout of the brochure. Please destroy the old version and get new one from website. Hank noted that he is not real familiar with Google sites and it is clunky and frustrating. Would like to explore other options, maybe even a paid website. Bob Ball made a motion to explore moving the site to a more user-friendly platform, seconded by Steve Mahfood. Approved.

Future Topics – Jerry asked the group to consider/recommend topics for future meetings:

- Approved operational changes with current Missouri Forestry Law – perhaps March 2014
- Midwest NOAA-RISA network proposal
- Developing action plans in response to tree pests
- Outdoor underwriters standing timber insurance program – Bob Ball will make initial contact
- Summary of willingness to harvest study in the Ozarks
- Need for plant pathologist in the MO PDN lab
- Fuels for Schools update

- Missouri Logging Council – who they are, what they do, etc.
- Joplin recovery

With no further meeting business, the meeting was adjourned.