

Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council
Wednesday, September 3, 2014
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Welcome & Self-Introductions – Kelly Smith, MoFRAC Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. The following were in attendance:

Lisa Allen, Mo.Dept. of Conservation
Donna Baldwin, Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Anastasia Becker, Mo. Dept. of Agriculture
Laura Brookshire, Mo. Forest Products Assoc.
Scott Brundatge, Mo. Consulting Foresters Assoc.
Gene Brunk, Mo. Community Forestry Council
Bob DeWitt, Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Hank Dorst, EOFC, Mark Twain Forest Watchers
Susan Flader, LAD Foundation
Gene Garrett, Mo. Center for Agroforestry
Justine Gartner, Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Nate Goodrich, Nat. Resources Cons. Service
Mike Hoffmann, Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Jason Jensen, Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Shelby Jones, Mo. Consulting Foresters Association
Shibu Jose, Mo. Center for Agroforestry
Ed Keyser, Conservation Federation of Missouri
Rebecca Landewe, The Nature Conservancy
Wayne Lovelace, Mo. Nurseryman's Assoc.
Bill Nightingale, USFS Mark Twain Nat'l Forest
Harlan Palm, Mo. Chapter of Walnut Council
Brian Schweiss, Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Kelly Smith, Mo. Farm Bureau
Robert Stout, Mo. Dept. Of Natural Resources
John Tuttle, Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Jerry Van Sambeek, USFS Northern Research Station

Speakers included:

Steve Westin, Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Dusty Walter, University of Missouri
Collin Wamsley, Mo. Dept. of Agriculture
Mike Brown, USDA APHIS
Simeon Wright, Mo Dept of Conservation
Rob Lawrence, Mo. Dept of Conservation

Review and Approve June 4th Minutes – Hank Dorst, MoFRAC Secretary, asked if anyone had changes to the meeting minutes. Hank noted he had received one correction from NRCS – a misspelling of Duane Gelnar’s last name. John Tuttle added that Sam Orr that the minutes referred to the Missouri Forest Resource Advisory Committee, not Council. Jerry Van Sambeek also noted that the some of the speakers were not listed as attendees. Hank noted he will make the corrections. With no further changes, Gene Brunk made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Scott Brundage seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Website Update – Kelly reported that Hank has been supporting website and recently paid the two year renewal. MoFRAC owes Hank \$111.50, and Kelly asked for suggestions on how to raise funds to refund the amount to Hank, both now and in the future. Mike Hoffmann noted that MDC has money budgeted for MoFRAC support. Lisa agreed, just need Hank to submit an invoice. He may have to complete a vendor input form with State of Missouri Office of Administration. Donna will work with Fiscal and Hank to see how to process the invoice.

Ozark Heartland Private Land Timber Harvest Monitoring Project - Steve Westin, Forestry Program Supervisor, Planning & Emerging Issue, gave a brief presentation on his research of timber harvesting on private lands in an eight county region in the Ozarks (Dent, Shannon, Reynolds, Carter, Iron, Madison, Ripley, and Wayne counties). A driving force was FIA reports removals from private land, but in cubic foot volume. Didn’t have much idea how much land was being impacted through harvesting activities.

Source Imagery

NAIP aerial photography

Leaf on – mid June to late July

Methodology

- Change detection – one year to the next
- Two levels of harvest intensity
 - High grading vs. heavy harvest
 - 40% canopy removal as the break point
- Original idea - automated classification
 - Finding change pixels
 - Removal of individual “salt and pepper” pixels
 - Aggregation into polygons
 - Removal of false positives
- Lots of hand work – 09-10 manual only.
 - Verification of other years also

Take Home Points:

- ✓ Harvest Amount in 8 county area – approximately 33,000 acres/year
- ✓ Sustainability – approximately 2% of private timber land harvested annually
- ✓ Harvest intensity – approximately 40% heavy harvests

- ✓ Conversion – approximately 10% of harvested acres
- ✓ Salvage – approximately 1/3 of damaged timberland
- ✓ Timber sale size – for 40+ acre sales, media approx. 72

MU Forest Land – Current Management and Future Expectations - Dusty Walter, Director of Natural Resource Management, Mo Ag Experiment Stations, gave the following presentation:

Missouri Agriculture Experiment Station Center, Farms and Forests

- 14,500 acres (2,200 forested acres)
- Research at the “take home and put to work” level
- Varied programs and services

University Extension and Missouri Agriculture Experiment State

- Provide science based non biased from conditions similar to area farmers
- Do research to solve problems farmers encounter

Importance of Extension Personnel to our Centers, Farms, and Forests:

- Valued advisors on work and public relations
- Present 80% of field day topics and uses research in weekly columns
- Provide counsel when establishing research trials
- Have historically been the connection between individuals and the University to establish farms

Dusty showed a map highlighting activities in areas around the state in their 13+ research stations. He discussed some specific activities on certain areas. He added that they have over 8,000 visitors each year to the various field days and events.

Challenges for our forests:

- Lack of updated management plan
- Need for TSI in many cases current composition is low value timber (wrong species and/or poor quality)
- Lack of desirable regeneration

MDC Forest Products Program Updates – Jason Jensen, Field Program Supervisor

Timber Price Reports Update – Jason reported that revisions have been made to the report based on recommendations of the blue ribbon committee of MoFRAC. Changes include:

- Consolidated the number of reporting districts.
- The northern part of the state reports in Doyle and the southern reports in International. We used to convert the northern reports to International, but now we leave it in Doyle.
- Include an extra page that reports prices per board foot.
- We started giving credit to reporting foresters, especially consulting foresters, to hopefully give them some recognition.

- Average prices are calculated by rolling 12-month average. Provided better stability for the report and gives a more accurate average.
- Also started to include a line graph to provide a better visual of timber trends over time.
- We receive reports from USFS now.
- Focused on distribution to make sure it's getting to the hands of people who can use it. Included a link on a lot of different web sites (MDC, MDA, MCFA, and Farm Bureau). We send hard copies to approximately 100, and electronic to 2,200 people. Scott suggested the FSA or NRCS offices in the counties have a supply to distribute or information on getting the information from MDC's website. Nate Goodrich will give Jason an email address he can send the report to and she will disseminate to their offices. Jason also noted that it's included in every Call Before You Cut packets.
- Have communicated to MDC and consulting foresters on the importance of submitting reports (required on MDC-assisted sales).

The group made a few more suggestions:

- Gene Garrett suggested a summary, a "snapshot of the critical elements", given that the report is so long. Jason thought this could be done – include the first page and the line graph chart. Dusty added to be sure to include a tagline to remind them to Call Before You Cut.
- Kelly suggested Jason look Ag's report for cattle markets.

New MDC Cost Share Program for Timber Harvests

- Grant for Installing BMPs: under MDC's docket this grant will provide 1) \$10 per acre to logger to implement BMPs, 2) \$5 per acre to landowner for having a pre-harvest management plan, and 3) \$5 per acre to the landowner to have a forester mark the timber. Money is set aside for this program, but if we do not utilize it, we will have a hard time keeping it in the future. Be aware of this grant program and promote it!

Timber Branding Program Update – Terry Truttmann, who was the project coordinator, has officially retired now. Given us an opportunity to step back and see how to proceed with the program. First, we will conduct a survey of primary and secondary processors in the state (over 2,000 companies) to gauge their level of interest. This will guide us on where to go from here. Jason noted that as a direct outcome of Terry's work, we now have 266 wood businesses listed on the AgriMissouri website.

Update to BMP Book – Jason noted he's pleased to announce that the revised Missouri Watershed Protection Practices book (the "little blue book") has been updated and will be available in print soon.

Best Bid System – MDC has been using the best bid system on state land sales and have adapted to private lands sales. It has doubled the number of master loggers as a direct result. Will discuss in greater detail at a future meeting.

Missouri Invasive Forest Pest Plan Draft – comment period - Missouri Forest Invasive Pest Council members Simeon Wright, Rob Lawrence, Collin Wamsley, and Mike Brown were in attendance. Collin gave a brief presentation:

Background:

- Had pest-specific plans (gypsy moth in 1997 and emerald ash borer in 2008).
- Why new plan? Influx of new pest threats (TCD, ALB, etc.). Decided to create one umbrella pest plan to come up with general response needed for both the known and unknown pests.
- Defined the roles and responsibilities of the various cooperating agencies (MDA, MDC, NRCS, MU, USFS, DNR, etc.).
- Purpose: outlines actions that are common to responses for damaging invasive pests: cooperation, readiness, outreach, risk reduction, monitoring, response to detection, management of established populations. Also includes addendums for pest-specific “mini” plans. Will also keep stakeholders informed on new detections, quarantine updates, survey updates, etc.
- Pest specific plans – action plans for individual pest species
- TCD Action Plan – is up for comment now. Spells out specifics on monitoring, reporting, etc.
- TCD Position Paper – also up for comment. Includes more specific info on recommended response to TCD and detection.
- Other groups: State CAPS Committee, Pest Risk Committee, Missouri Plan Diagnostic Labs
- How to comment – Kelly Smith sent email to MoFRAC with link to the draft plan: <http://mdc.mo.gov/your-property/professional-forest-management> . Comments can be submitted at <http://mdc.mo.gov/your-property/professional-forest-management/missouri-invasive-forest-pest-plan-comment-form> and the comment period ends September 22nd.

Northern Long Eared Bat Issue (video) – important issue that could have huge impacts on forest harvesting. John Tuttle noted that for MDC, we have Indiana Bat Management Guidelines in place: if we are within 5 miles of hibernaculum, we do not harvest from April–November. Would like to do the same with northern long eared bat, but not sure what the restrictions will come from US Fish and Wildlife Service. The conservation measures team will decide what we need to do on the ground. John also reported that the Missouri Society of American Foresters submitted their comments during the comment period that ended August 29, 2014. You can view the video at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/nleb/>

Nominating Committee – Kelly noted we need to come up with slate of new candidates for 2015. Shelby Jones has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee, and Jason Jensen and Anastasia Becker will assist.

Partner Updates, Meetings, and Events

- Conservation Federation of Missouri - Ed Keyser asked we include Brandon Butler on mailing list in place of Dave Murphy

- Mo. Dept. of Conservation – Lisa Allen reported they have the final product of the Forest Management Guidelines book. Would like to see MoFRAC endorsement at December meeting. Book is available in pdf form on MDC's website, and we will have CD's created soon.
- Mo. Society of American Foresters – John Tuttle reported that MoSAF will be participating in a joint event with the MCFA. October 15-16 underground lab in Theodosia. Also, Mike Hoffmann – thanked Shelby for his work in sitting on the District 9 fellows committee for MoSAF. Congratulated Lisa Allen and Justine Gartner for elected as SAF fellows, which requires service at the state and national level within the profession.
- The Nature Conservancy – Rebecca Landewe noted they will have a series of landowner workshops – the flyer was emailed to MoFRAC members. Please distribute the flyer widely.
- Nat. Resources Conservation Service – Nate Goodrich reported they have 5 field foresters and one will be leaving in late October. May not replace in the near future – are losing positions statewide.
- University of Missouri – Hank Stelzer reported MU forestry enrollment is up. Incoming class is 17. Budgets are down. Dean is committed to fill two open professor positions. Curriculum is consolidating in several departments. A survey will come soon on possible name changes. April 18th – Missouri will host the Midwest Forestry Conclave at the Hallsville fairgrounds. More info will come out.
- Missouri Consulting Foresters Association – Shelby Jones added more info on the fall joint meeting with MoSAF. On the night of the 15th attendees will see the bat life at night. Main meeting is on the 16th and will kick off about 9 am., Dr. Tom Aley will lead the discussion. Keep in mind that the cave tour will be limited to 50, so register early. Register through MoSAF. Will be 5 category 1 CFE's.
- USFS Mark Twain Nat'l Forest - Bill Nightingale reported that last year they sold highest in the last 20 years of bdf. Industry is buying. Are backfilling vacant positions.
- Mo. Dept. of Agriculture – Anastasia Becker distributed cards on the Governor's Conference on Ag to be held December 18-20 at Tan-Tar-A. Save the date. Also setting a lot of traps for gypsy moth, white twig beetle, pine bark beetle, etc. No positives that we didn't expect.
- Missouri Community Forestry Council – Gene Brunk noted MCFC lost their executive secretary, so they are back to operating on volunteer set up with MDC support. Planning next conference at St. Charles.
- Center for Agroforestry - Gene Garrett noted they were successful for line item and Shibu is replacing some positions that were vacant. Just trademarked a swamp white oak – the "Bucks Unlimited Oak", a premium wildlife oak. Will be produced by Forrest Keeling with RPM. Field day October 4th at HARC and includes an advisory board meeting. Center currently plans to restart the Chestnut Roast next year. Was a popular event. Invited everyone to take a tour of the Hickman House in Columbia if you haven't yet.

- Missouri Nurseryman's Association – Wayne Lovelace reported that on October 18th, in cooperation with the Center for Agroforestry, they will hold a chestnut roast in Elsberry at Forrest Keeling Nursery. Spread the word.
- Missouri Farm Bureau – Kelly Smith asked everyone to be aware of the Waters of the U.S. proposal – comment period ends October 20th. From Farm Bureau's view, this is a huge deal. Kelly distributed two handouts with more information on the topic and proposal.

Suggestions for Future Meeting Topics

- Scott Brundage noted that he and Gene Garrett have discussed issues they would like to bring to future meetings: proposing that at each meeting there be one or two topics that might be controversial and be debated – for instance, use of prescribed fire, conservation easements pros and cons, etc.

Next MoFRAC Meeting – Kelly reminded everyone that the next meeting will be held December 3, 9:00am at the Farm Bureau Center.

He also reviewed the tentative dates for next year's meetings:

- March 4
- June 3
- September 2
- December 2

The meeting was then adjourned.