



## Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council

Missouri Farm Bureau  
701 South Country Club Dr., Jefferson City

Wednesday, September 2, 2015  
9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

**Welcome & Introductions** – John Tuttle opened the meeting and introductions were made. The following were in attendance:

Joe Allen, Nat. Resources Cons. Service  
Donna Baldwin, Mo. Dept. of Conservation  
Bob Ball, Mo. Chapter Walnut Council  
Lynn Barnickol, Mo. Consulting Foresters Assoc.  
Marvin Brown, Forest & Woodland Assoc. of Mo.  
Mike Brown, USDA APHIS PPQ  
Scott Brundage, Mo. Consulting For Assoc.  
Gene Brunk, Mo. Community Forestry Council  
Jack Courtenay, Mark Twain Nat'l Forest  
Holly Dentner, Mo. Dept. of Conservation  
Hank Dorst, EOFC Mark Twain Forest Watchers  
Gene Garrett, MU Agroforestry Center  
Justine Gartner, Mo. Dept. of Conservation  
Nate Goodrich, Nat. Resources Cons. Service

Jason Green, Pioneer Forest LLC  
Shelby Jones, Mo. Consulting For Assoc  
Shibu Jose, Mo. Center for Agroforestry  
Ed Keyser, Conservation Fed. of Missouri  
Rick Merritt, Mo. Tree Farm Committee  
Brian Schweiss, Mo. Dept. of Conservation  
Hank Stelzer, Univ. of Mo. Dept. of Forestry  
Jim Summers, Forest & Woodland Assoc. of Mo.  
John Tuttle, Mo Society of American Foresters  
and Mo. Dept. of Conservation  
Steve Westin, Mo. Dept. of Conservation  
Denise Vaughn, Interested Party  
Kim Young, Mo. Nurseryman's Assoc.

**Review and Approve June 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes** – John Tuttle asked if anyone had changes to the minutes from the June meeting. With no changes noted, Gene Brunk made a motion to accept them as written, Shibu Jose seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as written.

**Appoint Nominating Committee for 2016 Officer Election** – John Tuttle reported that it's time to select a nominating committee to get candidates for Secretary and Vice Chair. Discussion ensued, the following were appointed: Shibu Jose (chair), Brian Brookshire, and Bob Ball. John asked the Committee to bring a slate of nominations to December meeting.

**Property Tax Assessments** – Scott Brundage noted that in the past, taxes on timberland in Missouri have been very low, close to \$1 per acre. When looking at other states for comparison, ours is cheap. He noted that some counties are already increasing their tax rate. For instance, he went in to Macon County to discuss his property tax proposal increase on his land.

The clerk noted that they just looked to aerial photos to determine land type. Scott mentioned that the land was enrolled in Tree Farm and CRP, and she said she just needed the proof that it was in the program. He found that other assessors, in some

counties, only require a management plan to maintain agricultural use tax rates. Scott mentioned, the Tree Farm Program is the only program that shows you are following a management plan. Bottom-line, get in the Tree Farm Program in case your county decides to increase taxes. It might be beneficial. Shibu noted that the take home message needs to reach landowners. He asked Scott to write an article for *Green Horizons*.

There was some discussion by members on past experiences with property tax assessments. Brian Brookshire noted that the Assessors Association is the group to contact for discussing the issue. Brian added that the Assessors Association meets at the end of month (September 29<sup>th</sup>). However, we are not sure if we can get on their calendar to discuss consistency. Rex Wallace with Nodaway County is president at this time.

The group discussed the best way to reach the county assessors and whether to try to make a presentation at their upcoming conference. It was decided to start with outreach to private landowners through Green Horizons and other methods.

**Green Horizons Promotional Idea** – Gene Garrett and Scott Brundage reported that the *Green Horizons* newsletter needs greater circulation. They visited with Kelly Smith and Brandon Butler, and both indicated they would be pleased to circulate the newsletter through their membership. They will send the pdf to them and they send it out through their channels. In spite of those efforts, it will still only have a circulation of about 14,000 and still need other avenues for circulation. Gene is open for suggestions.

Scott noted that according to MDC, we have 198,000 of 10 acres+ landowners. Gene or Scott could send the Green Horizons PDF to the organization chairs, such as SAF, and have them send it out. The group discussed getting the information directly from the counties. Brian Schweiss reported that you can probably get a list of landowners who own more than 40 acres, but then you have to tease out the information to narrow it down to forest landowners. In addition, the counties vary greatly in their use of technology. Bob Ball added that the USDA information can be obtained if approached in the right way for a specific uses.

John asked Gene if it would help to have a group of people to come up with ideas. Gene noted that he got some good ideas today, and he welcomes folks to reach out to him with ideas and send to him or Shibu. Steve Westin added that he has provided some items for the September newsletter.

**FY15 Private Land Program Accomplishments** – Steve Westin presented the following information:

#### National Woodland Owner Survey

About the survey

- 2002-2006 and 2011-2013
- Different sample sizes: 1,115 vs 378 - results in larger sampling error
- Makes survey comparisons difficult – both statistically and by just looking at the numbers

- Still it is a large enough sample for Missouri-only stats
- Both surveys have essentially the same cooperation rate approximately 60%

#### Missouri Forest Area (from FIA)

- Private land – 12,759,000 acres (83% total)
  - Family
  - Corporate
  - Private
- Public Land: 2,693,000 acres (17% total)

#### Numbers of Landowners (numbers below represent 2006 values → 2013 values)

- 339,000→438,000 family forest landowners
- 1-9 acre ownership class:
  - 145,000→226,000 owners
  - 538,000 ac → 780,000 acres
- 10+ acre ownerships: 194,000→212,000
- 10-19 acre ownerships: 57,000→85,000
- 20-49 acre ownerships: 71,000→60,000

#### Location, Location, Location...

- For family forest ownerships of 10+ acres (~11 million acres)
  - 63% of family forest acres and 67% of ownerships are within one mile of owner's primary residence
  - 20% of acres and 13% of ownerships are within one mile of owner's vacation home
  - Both are essentially unchanged, '06→'13
- For family forest ownerships of 10+ acres (~11 million acres) associated with a farm (within 1 mile) change for '06→'13 survey:
  - Acres – yes: 5,534,000→4,452,000 ac
    - 1,082,000 ac. Less, 51%-->41% of family forest acre
  - Ownerships – yes: 88,000-53,000
    - 35,000 forest ownerships associated with a farm were lost, 47%-25% of total family forest ownerships.
  - Average ownership: '06 = 63 ac./farm -'13=84 ac./farm
  - Yes's lost: 1,082,000 ac./35,000 owners=31 ac./owner

#### Reasons for Owning Land

	'13	'06
• Enjoy beauty or scenery	77%	Little/no change
• Protect or improve wildlife habitat *	72%	
• For privacy	71%	Little/no change
• Protect nature/biological diversity	68%	Little/no change
• Pass land to children/heirs	62%	68%
• Part of home site	61%	Little/no change
• Protect water resources *	59%	
• Hunting	48%	62%
• Firewood	29%	38%

- Timber products 18% 22%
- \* New choice in 2013 survey

#### Written Management Plans

- Have a plan '06 → '13
  - 750,000 ac (7%) → 1,040,000 ac (9.8%)
  - 5,000 owners (2.5%) → 11,000 owners (5.4%)
- Implement the plan: 82% acres, 73% ownerships
- Who wrote the plan:
  - I did 20% acres 47% ownerships
  - Consultant 20% 4.5%
  - Industry 6.7% 1.8%
  - State/Local 37% 22%
  - Federal 10% 2.7%
- 1.7% of all family forest ownerships have a forester plan
- 7% of all family forest acres have forester plan

Management Activities – Implemented in the past 5 years & Planning on implementing in the next 5 years (in parentheses).

	Acres %	Owners %
• Cut trees for sale	26 (23)	14 (12)
• Cut trees for own use	52 (56)	52 (54)
• Use Rx fire	17 (24)	14 (17)
• Reduce fire hazard	13 (29)	12 (24)
• Reduce invasive plants	29 (39)	26 (33)
• Improve wildlife habitat	34 (58)	22 (49)
• Reduce unwanted I&D	7 (26)	6 (25)

Used a Professional Forester for Timber Harvesting – '06 survey → '13 survey

- 16,000 (15%) ownerships → 17,000 (11%)
- Landowners who own ~ 1.4 MM acres (20%) → 1.3MM acres (16%)

#### Landowner Age & Tenure

Age	'06 acres %	'13 acres %	'06 owners %	'13 owners %
<45	11	7	12	10
45-54	20	19	19	19
55-64	28	32	28	32
65-74	24	25	22	19
75+	18	17	19	19

  

Tenure (years)	'06 acres %	'13 acres %	'06 owners %	'13 owners %
<10	19	12	22	15
10-24	32	38	35	40
25-49	40	40	36	36
50+	9	10	2	6

Steve asked if anyone had any questions. Hank Dorst asked how we identified landowners for samples, and Steve reported it is landowners where USFS FIA plots are located. Bob Ball asked if Steve has looked at the agricultural census data and the USDA's Natural Resource Inventory? Steve noted yes, but not in a while.

Call Before You Cut – Steve Westin also presented the following information:

- Central idea is to make landowners aware that getting advice from a professional forester and using a trained logger to carry out their timber harvest is a good idea.
- Consumer awareness thrust. Proper marketing of their timber. Protect their interests.
- Toll free phone number: (877) 564-7483. Website: [www.callb4ucut.com](http://www.callb4ucut.com)
- The idea came from Ohio. Implementation began simultaneously in Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and West Virginia. Michigan and Minnesota have joined the effort in the past couple of years.
- Informational packet is mailed to all landowners who request them via the toll free number or website.
- Key messages:
  - Advice from professional forester
  - Use a trained logger
  - Landowners know their objectives
  - Inventory their woods
  - Keep their woods healthy
  - Carefully select trees to harvest
  - Use a contract – protect everyone's interest
  - Get bids
- Advertisement started in spring 2009.
- Missouri Requests:
  - 2009 – 31 contacts, 2,557 wooded acres
  - 2010 – 89 contacts, 11,240 wooded acres
  - 2011 – 65 contacts, 7,234 wooded acres
  - 2012 – 760 contacts, 101,664 wooded acres
  - 2013 – 361 contacts, 39,768 wooded acres
  - 2014 – 480 contacts, 45,655 wooded acres
  - 2015 – 575 contacts, 56,554 wooded acres
  - 2016 (at time of meeting) – 43 contacts, 3,728 wooded acres
- Consulting Forester Initial Site Visits
  - September 2014 to July 2015
  - 69 completed site visits
  - 42 counties
  - 7,761 acres
  - Average size = 112 acres
  - Largest tract = 530 acres
- Why did landowners call CBYC?
  - Approached by a logger 23%
  - Needed money from a timber sale 36%

- Felt like trees were ready to harvest 69%
- I did not know who to contact 70%
- What have you done since receiving the packet (of landowners who had a timber sale)?
  - Met with a private consulting forester for advice (24%)
  - Met with an MDC forester for advice (28%)
  - Contacted a timber buyer (37%)
  - Did you sell or currently selling trees (24%)
  - Plan to sell trees in next year (12%)
  - Did you hire a Missouri Consulting Forester to assist with the sale (41%)
  - Working on a management plan (29%)
- Demographics
  - Where did you grow up?
    - 50% rural
    - 24% small town
    - 23% suburban
    - 12% urban
  - Where do you live now?
    - 56% rural
    - 14% small town
    - 21% suburban
    - 6% urban
  - 85% are men; 84% are over 51 years of age

Scott Brundage mentioned that landowners have a preconceived notion that loggers are bad. Brian Brookshire stated that he does not feel loggers do bad work, and he challenged everyone who hears of complaints on loggers to send those concerns to him and he will address it directly with the logger.

**State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) & Forest Action Plan** – Steve Westin noted it is time to revise the State Wildlife Action Plan.

Background on the SWAP:

- To assess the health of Missouri's plants and animals, and identify actions necessary for the long term conservation of these resources and essential habitat systems which sustain them.
- Required to be revised every 10 years – due to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) by September 30, 2015.
- Qualifies Missouri for additional funding for conservation projects allocated through the State Wildlife Grants Program, administered by the USFWS.
- Habitat system landscape approach – providing proper management and connectivity of quality habitat systems will not only serve to sustain current species populations, but hopefully increase those populations in decline.
- Primary habitat systems: grassland/prairie/savanna, forest and woodland, glade, caves and karst, wetlands, rivers and streams.
- The process: 1) identify all conservation opportunities, 2) isolate those areas of greatest conservation opportunity, 3) better focus conservation efforts.

- 2015 Conservation Opportunity Areas – habitat system approach (separated by system) – habitat systems are forests, wetlands, glades, aquatic, etc.
- 2015/2016 – integration of conservation priorities into a common strategy:
  - State Wildlife Action Plan
  - Forest Action Plan
  - Fisheries Priorities
  - Private Land Services Priorities
  - Partner Priorities
- What, how, where...projects include:
  - Assess/Strategies/Programs
  - Important places
  - Standardized monitoring
- Challenges
  - Internal and external communications
  - Time frame – Fall 2016
  - Completing the Revised Forest Action Plan assessment/analysis and strategies
  - CCS document organizational structure
  - Other disciplines' awareness
  - Operationalizing landscape scale management
  - Integrating with partner plans/processes

Steve then asked everyone to think about 11 issue themes in the Forest Action Plan:

1. Private forest land
2. Private forest landowners
3. Climate change
4. Soil & water resources
5. Fire – all aspects (prevention, suppression, prescribed)
6. Forest products
7. Forest health (and invasives)
8. Community forestry
9. Public land management
10. Maintaining biodiversity
11. Sustainability framework

Do we need any additional themes or are there any that should go away? Gene Brunk noted that forest cover is so much more after subdivision development as compared to open pasture and farm fields. In the future, there will be some value to the increasing amount of forest cover in urban environment (wildlife habitat, etc.). Need better assessment of forest value contributed by urban forests. Dan Dey commented that it probably falls under issue 8.

**Oak Fire Consortium** – Dr. Mike Stambaugh presented the following information:

What is a fire consortium?

- A fire information sharing network

- Designed to make fire science info readily available and useable
- A link and two way street between fire practitioners and researchers.

#### Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP)

- Established in 1998
- Interagency program supporting fire science
- Consortia funded since 2009 JFSP
- Funding for Oak Woodlands and Forests Fire Consortium since 2012

#### Mission of JFSP

- Provide credible research based on needs of fire and fuel managers
- Develop new research based on the needs of fire and land managers
- Solicit proposals from scientist
- Focus on science delivery: develop communication tools to ensure that managers are aware of, understand, and can use the information to make sound decisions and implement projects

The ultimate goal of the consortia: *increase available and consideration of credible fire science to those making land management decisions*. There are 14 consortia regions across the U.S.

#### Governing board:

- Four Investigators (Mike Stambaugh, Keith Grabner, Rich Guyette, and Dan Dey)
- Six Appointed members (Todd Hutchinson, Charles Ruffner, Jeff Sparks, Chris Thornton, John Weir, Craig Harper)

#### Staff:

- Coordinator (Joe Marschall)
- Outreach Specialist (vacant)
- Part-time staff (Erin Abadir, social media)

Advisory Board – Regional fire practitioners – advise and evaluate consortia activities (McRee Anderson, Mike Black, Forrest Blackbear, Joe Robb, Ben Webster, Scott Crist, Rich Gray, Andy Radomski)

Contributors – numerous federal agencies, state agencies, universities, and private groups and foundations.

#### Examples of what they have been doing:

- Symposia – Fire Ecology and Management of Texas Oak Woodlands; Effects of Wildland Fire and Fire Management on Amphibians and Reptiles
- Timber Quality Workshop – Missouri, 2012
- Webinars (several) - can be found on web
- Conferences – Prescribed Fire in Mid South (TN in 2014)
- Field Tours and partner meetings (about 10 per year, 2-day events)
- Media outlets: Vimeo plays, Facebook/Twitter, Newsletter/email list
- CEU's available for Society of American Foresters and The Wildlife Society.



Where are we headed?

- Maintenance of our current efforts and commitments
- Growth in partnerships/program support
- From awareness to conviction
- Focused on our hot topics

Hot Topics:

- Game species management and prescribed fire
- Prescribed fire effects on exotic species
- Applying prescribed fire during different seasons and its effects
- Comparing effects of prescribed fires with different fire intensities
- Timber management and prescribed fire
- Ground flora diversity and prescribed fire
- Climate change and fire
- Using prescribed fire to manage fuel loadings
- Reptile and amphibian responses to prescribed fire

Addressing a situation – Prescribed fire and forest products management in hardwood forests are perceived as conflicting practices.

- Information needs
- Common issue
- Divisive
- Directly affects management (acres, policy, paradigm shift)

More information can be found at [www.oakfirescience.com](http://www.oakfirescience.com)

## **MU Forestry Committee Update – Jason Green**

### **Specific Concerns**

Several concerns were mentioned at our last meeting after Hank Stelzer's presentation of forestry alumni from the University of Missouri School of Forestry. The survey included levels of importance that graduates place on specific skill sets, coursework, and SAF accreditation. Following Hank's presentation, there was strong discussion on the Forestry School's status, level of support within the University, and the lack of specific technical and professional skills often seen in the field. There are 4 main concerns that became apparent at June meeting.

- 1. Teaching appointments:** Currently only five faculty members have teaching appointments. Retirements are a University wide issue including the School of Natural Resources. The five divisions within the School are now competing for positions based on Association of American Universities (AAU) status. The AAU has a membership committee which evaluates members and non-members "with the goal of ensuring that the association in fact comprises comparable leading research-intensive universities" (AAU Membership Policy). In other words, the

Association places a high priority on research funding. Generally speaking, forestry ranks low on the list for AAU status. Medicine, engineering, genetics are much higher because they bring in much more research funding to the University and therefore hiring has been made a priority in these departments.

**Solutions and Current Work:** All programs within the School of Natural Resources are facing staffing needs. The School is considering restructuring to meet current staffing needs. Some positions may be filled. However, they need to be careful to not compete between programs (i.e. wildlife vs. forestry). Currently, hiring individuals will need to strike the right balance between quality instruction and their capability of producing large research grants (AAU emphasis). Position overlap between forestry and wildlife often do not work well due to differing accreditation and professional standards for the Wildlife Society (TWS) and SAF.

- 2. SAF Accreditation and Curriculum Input:** The School's forestry curriculum is accredited by the Society of American Foresters every 10 years. SAF accreditation requires at least 8 full-time equivalent faculty members to have their primary academic responsibilities in forestry. Currently, the Forestry School has five teaching appointments. In light of a possible restructuring, the School must identify which SAF accreditation path (General Accreditation for Forest Resource Management or the new Natural Resource and Ecosystem Management) is not only most relevant, but can be successfully met by the faculty.

**Solutions and Current Work:** As part of the SAF accreditation process, the SNR is engaging external stakeholders through MoFRAC and others. The Department of Forestry will be conducting a self-evaluation report and submitting it to SAF in January 2017. During the review process the SAF team will visit the school, anticipated in March 2017, and will want to meet with external stakeholders (e.g., MoFRAC subcommittee). Once accreditation is finalized, it is valid for 10 years. Hiring new teaching appointments will help.

- 3. Addressing Professional and Technical Competencies:** Students are unable to gain practical, "real world" experience while at school. Forestry Summer Camp is being restructured as a three-week Maymester series followed by a two-credit-hour internship. Competencies have been and will continue to be an ongoing issue (Sample et. al, Journal of Forestry 2015).

**Solutions and Current Work:** MOFRAC has a wide breadth of professionals. Since the summer camp portion has been shortened, the school is looking for partners to host and fund internships following the Maymester period. The school will need to have commitments for internships by December 2015 and have intern positions filled by February 2016. There will likely need to be some flexibility for what is considered an internship (Consulting Forestry, MDC resource technician, Pioneer Forest, ArcGIS, USFS FIA, Forest Policy, etc.). There are also opportunities to speak at the University during Natural Resource Seminars and student professional groups (TWS and SAF student chapters). Step up to offer internships to forestry students and guest speakers for the SNR.

- 4. Partnering with MOFRAC:** The School of Natural Resources has an advisory council, but could also benefit from partnering with MOFRAC or at least a MOFRAC Committee. Personal connections are important, but we need to speak in one unified voice about the challenges within the School of Natural Resources, the importance of having a fully staffed school of natural resources, and the economic and ecologic importance of natural resources to the state.

Gene Garrett commented that he feels there is a need for a critical evaluation of ALL aspects of forestry training that is currently available in Missouri and recommendations on what we need to meet the future needs of the profession. Jason Green and his committee have been looking into the pros and cons of Forestry education at MU but we have a lot of other needs other than just a good BS program in Forestry at MU. These needs range from Continuing Education in Forestry to the possible value of two-year Associate Degrees in Forestry to Logger's Training. Gene asked that MoFRAC consider broadening the responsibilities of Jason Green's MU Forestry Committee to look at ALL Forestry Educational needs here in Missouri.

John thanked Jason and looks forward to the Committee's recommendations.

#### **Partner Updates, Meetings, and Events**

**NRCS** - Nate Goodrich noted he presented Rick Mayer (and 3 other individuals) with an award yesterday for some work done on forest management in Pike County. There is a job announcement out for a forester on NWTF website.

**Agroforestry** – Gene Garrett noted that there is a field day scheduled for September 19 at Mount Vernon. Chestnut Roast October 17<sup>th</sup> at the HARC.

**MDC** – Justine Gartner reported on behalf of Lisa Allen. She noted that at the Commission meeting in August, Forestry made a formal request to move forward with certification. The Commission supported our moving forward with certifying MDC land, will initially go with SFI.. Marvin Brown is helping us prepare for the certification process. At the October Commission meeting, Forestry will move forward with the upgrade of a position for a forest certification manager. Plans are to do a third party audit by end of FY16. The USFS FIA program is doing urban FIA plots in St. Louis this summer (in addition to their regular FIA plots). We will partner with them next summer to move to Kansas City and Springfield. We are struggling to fill forester vacancies. Justine asked MoFRAC members to think about how we can improve our recruitment efforts for forestry. Please send your comments to John or Justine. Information has been sent out on USFS landscape restoration grants and if you are interested, let Justine or Brian know by the September 15 deadline.

**USFS Research** – Dan Dey noted they are holding the 20<sup>th</sup> Central Hardwood Forest Conference on the University of Missouri campus on March 28-April 1<sup>st</sup>. More information can be found at the following website <http://oak.snr.missouri.edu/centralhardwood/>

**Mark Twain National Forest** – Jack Courtenay reported they are working on proposals to implement some weight scale sales to see if logs can be removed from the forest more rapidly. A meeting was held in Potosi on Collaborative Landscape Scale Restoration. MTNF managers are looking for input at these open house events.

**Missouri Forest Products Association** – Brian Brookshire reported that the Harvesting Technology Program with Three Rivers Community College is off and running with 3 students enrolled. MFPA is providing scholarships. Wickliffe Paper Mill is closing indefinitely as of next week – this is a big deal for forest products industry. We have been taking about 150,000 green tons of chips from 75 mills in southeast Missouri, as well as tons of fuel dust, to the Wickliffe mill. The closing will have a huge ripple effect. Hardwood industry is still dealing with hardwood checkoff, comment period closes Monday. Hope to move forward soon.

**Department of Agriculture** – Mike Brown reported the gypsy moth surveys are wrapping up – 2 single positive traps in Missouri (St. Louis and Camden County). We continue to detect new populations of emerald ash borer – confirmed in Oregon County, St. Louis City, Buchanan County, and soon to be confirmed in St. Louis County. A couple other counties have some suspicious as well.

**Forrest Keeling** – Missouri Landscape and Nursery Association and the turf industry are exploring joining into one association. Forest Keeling's field day will be held Sept 17 and will include a great lunch. They will also hold their annual Chestnut Roast on Saturday, October 17.

**Missouri Community Forestry Council** – Gene Brunk noted they will soon be rolling out a new tree planting initiative called "Plant Mo Trees". The goal is to plant 1 million trees by 2020. Plan is to roll out the initiative at the annual conference in St. Joseph during March, 2016.

**Walnut Council** – Bob Ball reported they are holding a black walnut field day on September 19<sup>th</sup> near Mount Vernon, and the fall meeting is scheduled for October 9 & 10 at Van Meter State Park in Miami, MO.

**Forest and Woodland Association of Missouri** – Jim Summers reported their annual membership meeting will be held Sept 26<sup>th</sup> in Licking, at the state forest nursery. It will include a business meeting and tour of nursery. Membership is at 160. Tree Farm – is sending out a 2<sup>nd</sup> survey on whether we go with paid certification.

**Pioneer Forests** – Jason Green reported they have been hearing grade prices are coming down, ties remain strong; lot of timber on the market now. Pioneer is having trouble recruiting new loggers.

**Rob Lawrence** – The interagency Invasive Forest Pest Plan has been completed and shared with Directors for signatures - will be posted online. Will have a meeting of stakeholders this fall, probably in November, and will provide updates on issues, and discuss the plan. Email announcement will go out soon. The thousand canker's disease surveys form completed and field work resulted in – no finds to date. However, the trap

collections are still being analyzed. A new emerald ash borer management guide for homeowners has been printed and is also available online at MDC's website, or printed copies are available. Contact MDC if you are interested.

**Mo. Society of American Foresters** – John Tuttle reported they have two events coming up - October 5<sup>th</sup> in Kansas City (urban wood utilization/EAB workshop). The other is October 26 & 27, partnering with the Missouri Consulting Foresters Association for a meeting at Wurdack Farm. The October 5<sup>th</sup> event will tour sites in the Kansas City area to look at EAB and tour the Urban Lumber Company sawmill and retail showroom to see how valuable lumber from logs removed in EAB and storm damaged trees are utilized. You can register through the FWAM website for the EAB Workshop.

### **Adjourn**

- *Next Meeting: December 2, 2015 at Missouri Farm Bureau in Jefferson City (will include election of officers per bylaws)*
- *Send agenda topics to John Tuttle*