

Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council

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



Wednesday, December 6, 2017
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

MoFRAC Meeting Welcome & Introductions – MoFRAC Chair Hank Stelzer welcomed everyone to the meeting introductions were made. The following were in attendance:

Donna Baldwin, Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Lynn Barnickol, Mo. Consulting Forester Assoc.
Brian Brookshire, Mo. Forest Products Assoc.
Mike Brown, USDA APHIS PPQ
Scott Brundage, Mo. Chapter Walnut Council
John Burk, Nat'l Wild Turkey Federation
Michael Crumb, Mark Twain Nat'l Forest
Susan Flader, LAD Foundation
Gene Garrett, Interested Party
Justine Gartner, Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Nate Goodrich, Nat. Resources Cons. Service
John Heckmann, Mo. Tree Farm Committee
Mike Hoffmann, Forest & Woodland Assoc. of Mo.

Matt Jones, Mo. Tree Farm Committee
Rebecca Landewe, The Nature Conservancy
Wayne Lovelace, Forrest Keeling Nursery
Rick Merritt, Mo. Tree Farm Committee
Caroline Pufalt, Mo. Chapter Sierra Club
Kelly Smith, Mo. Farm Bureau
Hank Stelzer, Univ. of Mo. Dept. of Forestry
John Tuttle, Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Dusty Walter, MU Ag. Exp. Station
Collin Wamsley, Mo. Dept. of Agriculture

Review and Approve Minutes – Hank asked if anyone had changes to the meeting minutes from the September 6, 2017, meeting. With no changes noted, the minutes were approved as written.

Old Business –

- **Secure Rural Schools Update** – Hank followed up with the representatives in the areas, and he heard back from Senator Claire McCaskill. Hank spoke met with the Senator and she stated that she and other senators from both sides of the aisle are working to ensure it is in the Omnibus Bill to get it reauthorized.

The Missouri Invasive Plant Task Force - Carol Davit, Executive Director, Missouri Prairie Foundation, gave the following presentation:

The Missouri Invasive Plant Task Force is housed and administered by Grow Native!, a native plant education and marketing program of the Missouri Prairie Foundation. The purpose of the task force—working as a united, supportive front—is to *review, discuss, and recommend educational and regulatory action related to managing known and potential non-native invasive plant species that negatively impact natural communities and built landscapes in Missouri and elsewhere in the lower Midwest.* The vision is to ultimately transition this Task Force to a permanent Missouri Invasive Plant Council.

Native species can be defined as “a species that is part of an area’s original flora or fauna that is natural or indigenous to a particular area”.

What is invasive?

- Prolific seed production
- Highly successful seed dispersal, germination, and colonization
- Rapid growth and maturity
- Rampant vegetative reproduction

- Ability to out compete native species

How are they moved?

- Accidentally
- Weather
- Wildlife
- In shipments and packing materials
- Intentionally (landscaping)

Task force was developed in 2015, and includes partners from the Missouri Prairie Foundation, Grow Native Program, Departments of Conservation, Agriculture, and Natural Resources. It includes representation from:

- Agriculture
- Arboriculture/Urban Forestry
- Botanical Science
- Conservation Agencies
- Ecological Restoration Services
- Education
- Land Planning and Design
- Landscape Services
- Military Land Management
- Municipal Government
- Production Horticulture
- Retail Horticulture
- Transportation

Immediate goals of the Task Force, which meets quarterly, include:

- Developing a comprehensive list of invasive plant species, specifically impacting lower Midwest landscapes, and their assessment scores
- Determining priority areas for invasive control, including educational opportunities and native biodiversity.
- Serving as a portal for management of invasive plants in the state and the lower Midwest
- Developing recommendations to develop policy and strategy to hasten action to control invasive plants within Missouri and the Midwest region.
- Reaching new audiences to build public awareness and alliances with landowners and industries
- Focus our efforts in a unified front to impact things on the ground; identify priority geographic areas; encourage agency cooperation and coordination.
- Track and stop continued distribution of known and future exotic invasive species
- Find sustained, secure funding.

Actions so far:

- Development of an official Missouri invasive plant list (in development stage, will include expert review).
- Encourage use of invasive plant mapping (Early Detections and Distribution mapping)
- Developing a Gallery/Bradford pear campaign to encourage removal

Contact Information:

Missouri Invasive Plant Task Force – www.moinvasives.org

Missouri Prairie Foundation • PO Box 200 • Columbia MO 65205 • 888-843-6739

grownative@moprairie.org • www.moprairie.org • www.grownative.org

MoFRAC Member News/Updates

- **Missouri Consulting Foresters Association** – Lynn Barnickol reported the winter meeting is February 22-23, will send agenda soon. Lynn also participated in the Conservation Partner Workshop on November 20. Noted is that many of the partners suggested to provide more opportunities for partner collaboration with MDC staff.
- **University of Missouri** – Hank Stelzer reported he is working with Extension leadership on establishing a new natural resource Extension field specialist position somewhere in Southeast Missouri and hopes to have it released in the first half of 2018. The new Natural Resource Science and Management B.S. Degree is now in place. The degree has three transcribed Emphasis Areas: Forest Resource Management, Terrestrial Ecosystems, and Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences. The former two are under review for certification from the Society of American Foresters. SAF will have a Review Team on site at Mizzou, April 2 – 5. Hank said Shibu will keep the Council informed as to the day and time outside stakeholders will be invited to visit with the team.
- **Then Natural Conservancy** – Rebecca Landewe gave an update on global challenges to create a sustainable future by 2050. Click the following link to some information online: <https://global.nature.org/content/environment2017>. Rebecca also reported that TNC's winter prescribed fire crew is on board and was deployed to St. Croix to aid in hurricane recovery by clearing debris. Construction began on a streambank stabilization project in the Elk River near Pineville, AR. TNC is partnering with the US Corps of Engineers, State Emergency Management Agency, MDNR and others on two Silver Jackets projects related to flooding and buyout strategies. Outreach work continues in the Current River watershed, in partnership with the SWCDs, NRCS, and MDC.
- **Missouri Department of Conservation** – John Tuttle reported that Lisa Allen is in Washington, DC, at the National Association of State Foresters Executive Committee Meeting. Next year she will be Chair of the association. The SFI certificate will be presented to the Conservation Commission on December 15th in a formal presentation. MDC staff have been fighting wild fire – things are dry. Been doing CWD sampling – took 15,000 samples during opening weekend. Feral hogs continue to be an issue, shot 1,710 so far this year in Ozark Region. Writing a new Strategic Plan with new priorities. Forester vacancies continue to be an issue – need better pay. Missouri Managed Woods is underway, and we have received 16 applications so far, and we are working through the process. The bulk of the applications are pending while we wait for assessors to respond. Justine Gartner added that we have entered into contract with ICF International to develop a habitat conservation plan. This plan will span multiple years – huge effort up front but will save time and effort in the long run. Simeon Wright has left the Department, and we will be recruiting a new Forest Pathologist.
- **Missouri Community Forestry Council** – Justine Gartner noted that Gene Brunk is not at today's meeting, but she reported their annual conference will be March 12-15, 2018, in Columbia. Justine invited everyone to attend, noting that it's a great opportunity for CEUs. More information can be found at <http://www.mocommunitytrees.org/mcfcannualconference.html>.
- **Interested Party** - Denise Vaughn reported that interpretive signs are now in place for a self-guided driving tour for the Current River Pinery, located on U.S. Forest Service land south of Fremont in Carter County. The signs explain the history, ecology, and benefits of fire-adapted pine-oak woodlands. Along the tour route, some areas are being restored into woodlands with conditions resembling those prior to the 1900 timber boom. As a science writer for the Fire Consortium, my role was to develop content for these signs. The project is a cooperative effort between the Forest Service, the Oak Woodlands and Forests Fire Consortium, The Nature Conservancy, and the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture.
- **Center for Agroforestry** – Mike Gold reported MU will get a new farm outside Laurie, Missouri. The Allen Farm will be a new addition to the research centers. Gene Garrett added that they still have not replaced Shibu Jose, but should do so in the new few months.
- **Missouri Nurseryman's Association** – Wayne thanked Carol Davit for her presentation today, and assured her that the Association is concerned about invasives and exotics. Most of what is being sold today is coming from the big box stores. Trend seems to be in edibles, and natives are very much connected to that. Good fit for agroforestry.

- **Pioneer Forests** – Jason Green reported Pioneer Forest has harvested 8 million board feet of sawtimber, over 3 million board feet of blocking, and 350,000 feet of stave logs this year. Their Continuous Forest Inventory is underway, marking the 14 measurement since 1952. They currently have 448 permanent 1/5 acre plots and are roughly half of them completed. The inventory will be completed by March, with a presentation of results delivered to the LAD Foundation Board of Directors during the annual spring meeting in April. Jason further reported that a Dent County man was charged for releasing hogs on public/private lands. He currently faces seven misdemeanor counts for releasing swine. Pioneer Forest has given 3 international tours over the past year and a half. The most recent tour was for a group of 6 French foresters. The tours have all been very good. Much of the interest has been in Missouri's forests, stand dynamics, and silviculture, particularly in uneven-aged forests. While our forest systems are quite different from theirs, the information sharing has been excellent.
- **Missouri Society of American Foresters** – Nate Goodrich reported that they held joint meeting with Iowa SAF and toured oak management in northeast Missouri. Talks included bats and policy.
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Nate Goodrich reported that they have a new cooperative forester coming on board soon, and they will be working for the National Wild Turkey Federation. He added that they just wrapped up EQIP signups, over 4,000 apps for all the fund pools in the state. Dewayne Gillmer took transfer, and Nate is taking acting role.
- **National Wild Turkey Federation** – John Burk reported on Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt, a 10-year initiative to 1) conserve or enhance 4 million acres of critical wildlife habitat, 2) recruit 1.5 million hunters, and 3) open access to 500,000 additional acres for hunting. Missouri is on track to deliver our part and are 3rd in the nation. They have 2 forester positions, Chad Doolin has been on board for a while now. He has an 800 acre project underway, and also helps deliver stewardship contracts. Second forester will be on board soon, and will start after the first of the year. This forester will be stationed out of Farmington.
- **Mark Twain National Forest** – Tony Crump reported that they have a new chief, Tony Took. Chief is an Alabama native, and he will be highly supportive. Fire is active for them as well. Many of you will receive letters regarding the Healthy Forestry Initiative, and Tony thanked everyone who played a role in the development.
- **Missouri Department of Agriculture** – Collin Wamsley reported their annual cooperative gypsy moth survey has concluded. Five gypsy moths were captured this year (3 in St. Louis county, 1 in Jefferson county and 1 in Stoddard county). Survey partners were Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Department of Conservation, USDA APHIS PPQ, Missouri National Guard and U.S. Army (Fort Leonard Wood). Missouri has never had an established population of gypsy moth. Recent reductions in funding to the Forest Service Gypsy Moth Slow The Spread (STS) program may put Missouri more at risk of gypsy moth introductions. Thousand Cankers Disease survey has concluded. Waiting for final identification of some samples. Thousand cankers disease and its vector, the walnut twig beetle, have never been detected in Missouri. Survey partners are the Missouri Department of Agriculture and Missouri Department of Conservation. Phytosanitary export certifications conducted by Missouri Department of Agriculture and USDA APHIS PPQ have increased, due in part to increased exports of forest products.
- **Tree Farm** – Mike Hoffmann reported that the Missouri Tree Farm program is a certified program and will undergo a certification review (audit) in 2018. They will also be selecting this year's outstanding tree farmer at today's meeting. Mike added that Frances Main received the Fred Bergman Award.
- **Forest and Woodland Association of Missouri** - Mike Hoffmann reported they continue to work with Forest ReLeaf who oversees the Forestkeepers program. Both are supported by grants from MDC. They are looking at ways to combine outreach and media platforms.
- **Missouri Forest Products Association** – Brian reported that logging school will have 2 grads this Friday. It is an outstanding program, and cooperation has been fantastic. Great instructors, and look forward to next year's session. Are trying to recruit students. Trying to get the school recognized by DESE. Planning on next session to begin June 1. Industry in Missouri is doing pretty good, products moving well. Often tied to housing market. Competition for logs is fierce.

- **Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club** – Caroline Pufalt reported that they are member of the Forest Stewardship Council, and she attended the FSC international assembly in Canada. They discussed the Paris Climate Agreement which recognizes forests in carbon sequestration. Also discussed laminated wood products and use of wood products to build sky scrapers. Glad to hear MDC is working on protection of bats. Also supports keeping the 4 new state parks.

MoFRAC New Business

- Election of Officers – Mike Hoffmann reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. He noted we have one position to fill, Vice Chair, and John Burk is nominated. Rebecca Landewe made a motion to approve John Burk for the position; Jason Green seconded the motion. The motion was then approved.
- 2018 Meetings – March 7, June 6, September 5, and December 5, all at Farm Bureau Headquarters in Jefferson City.

DRAFT