



Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council

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

Wednesday, March 7, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions - Brian Brookshire welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. The following were in attendance: Joe Alley, Lynn Barnickol, Steve Brewer, Brian Brookshire, Gene Brunk, John Burk, Hank Stelzer, Susan Flader, Justine Gartner, Michael Gold, Shelby Jones, Rebecca Landewe, Caroline Puffalt, Brian Schweiss, Sherri Schwenke, Kelly Smith, Hank Stelzer, Denise Vaughn, Hank Dorst, and Donna Baldwin.

Review and Approve Minutes – Lynn Barnickol noted that a quorum was not at the meeting; the review and approval of the meeting minutes was tabled.

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) - Brent Bailey, Solutions from the Land Project Coordinator, gave the following presentation:

“In 2050, US farmers, ranches, and foresters manage land to produce food, fiber, and energy needed to support a growing population and economy, while simultaneously improving biodiversity and the health of our environment. Solution platforms include clean energy, large landscape conservation, and climate smart agriculture. The core functions of agriculture are food, feed, ecosystem services, fiber, clean energy. There are many global challenges. In response to anticipated population growth food production will need to double by 2050.

By 2050 agriculture systems and forests can be simultaneously managed to:

- Satisfy domestic and global demand for safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, fuel, and fiber.
- Support economic growth and sustainable development; reduce hunger and malnutrition.
- Improve soil, water, and air quality; enhance biodiversity and ensure ecosystem health, including preserving habitats.
- Deliver mitigation and adaption solutions to climate challenges.

Late 20th/Early 21st century model

- Agriculture and forestry are defined by problems
- Government-driven solutions
- Litigation to force change
- Silo management of government agencies and response to challenges
- Agriculture and forestry are on the defensive
- We negotiate to lose less!
- Need a new way forward. The policies and practices of the past will not meet the needs of tomorrow.

New business model:

- Less government centric
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships
- Multipurpose/integrated objectives
- Landscape scale planning & implementation
- Incentive-driven: rewards for ecosystem services

Many challenges to secure this vision: Conflicting policies, inadequate rewards for ecosystem services, declining investments in research and innovation, loss of working lands, market volatility, and more extreme weather events and a changing climate which are impacting agriculture and forestry.

Science is telling us to expect:

- Increasing erratic weather
- More frequent and prolonged droughts
- More intense precipitation events
- Declines in productivity from weeds, diseases, insect pests and invasive species
- Less winter chilling hours, and higher nighttime summer temperatures
- False springs and less predictability

Adaption recommendations for agriculture and forestry in a changing climate:

- North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance – a platform and forum where farm, ranch, and forest leaders are collaborating in developing ways to improve the resilience of production systems and mitigate present and future risks from changing climatic conditions

Forestry sub team (Note: members were not identified but likely based on previous reports from North Carolina and Ohio) identified strategies and actions to increase resistance to threats, improve resiliency, and diversify and reduce risk. Strategy criteria include profitability (improve bottom line), productivity (not impair production), stewardship (enhance the environment), and self-determination (choose what is best for your land). Areas of focus include research, production systems and best practices, risk management/insurance, decision making tools, and communication/education. Identified adaption recommendations for large or more frequent storms, drought and higher temperatures, wildfires, invasive species impacts, and post-event assessment and recovery.

Missouri CSA Mission –

- Assist Missouri agriculture and forestry leaders in examining the potential impacts of changing climatic conditions
- Equip producers with the tools and knowledge they need to make informed decisions and manage new risks
- Mobilize producers to advocate for needed changes in land-use practices, research, education, and policy
- Inspire producers to become leaders in the broader discussion of climate change, including adaption and mitigation.

Kelly Smith asked about funding source for CSA. Brent noted it's an international organization, and some donors wish to be anonymous.

Brian thanked Mr. Bailey for his presentation. For more information please contact bbailey@sfdialogue.net or visit the website at www.sfdialogue.net .

Roundtable Partner Updates, Meetings, Events

Natural Resource Conservation Service – Joe Alley reported the following:

- Nate Goodrich is currently serving a 120 day detail as MO NRCS State Resource Conservationist. During this time, he will also maintain his duties as MO NRCS State Staff Forester but will designate duties to the Area Foresters when feasible.
- FY18 EQIP signup closed on November 17. The applications have now been ranked and pre-approvals have been made. The pre-approved applications are now being “planned” for full approval and contract obligation. All EQIP contracts are to be obligated by late June.
- EQIP Forest Management Plan Applications: 183 applications (\$460,000) with 102 ultimately pre-approved (\$246,000).
- EQIP Forestry Applications (for forest improvement projects): 128 applications (\$2,543,000). Not sure of total number approved but approximately \$1,000,000 worth of applications were pre-approved.
- EQIP Agroforestry Applications: 22 applications (\$85,000), all pre-approved.
- FY18 CSP signup closed on March 2. Not sure how many applications we have for forestland yet. As part of “CSP reinvention” in 2017, many forestry enhancements were added to the program, making CSP more applicable as a program for getting more forest management on the ground. For that reason, it is likely that some EQIP applicants that were not pre-approved may shift over into CSP for another opportunity.
- Joe also reported that an additional funding opportunity was just announced for promoting public awareness and implementation of Farm Bill conservation activities: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) anticipates having up to another \$500,000 in grant funds available for promoting public awareness and implementation of Farm Bill conservation activities. State Conservationist J.R. Flores said Missouri is looking for opportunities to collaborate with natural resource conservation partners in promoting public awareness and implementation of Farm Bill activities, such as outreach workshops, conferences, and training. The new funding would add to \$200,000 that NRCS made available earlier this year. The full announcement and application instructions are available at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=301254>

Farm Bureau – Kelly Smith reported they are working with a group on a pilot program called *Growing Good Neighbors*.

Shelby Jones – walnut markets are at historic highs, not sure how long that will last. Lot of landowners wanting a quick walnut sale.

National Wild Turkey Federation – John Burk noted that Save the Habitat is continuing.

Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE)– Steve Brewer reported they are working on the following:

- Exploring flood tolerant crops that could help in the restoration of flood plains.
- Hiring a Rivers Organizer to work with communities on the issues of flooding and conservation.

- Organizing around the Farm Bill to protect funding for important conservation programs and also working to ensure that SNAP recipients have access to local healthy food.
- MCE's local food work has grown markedly with a grant from USDA to connect institutional purchasers to local farmers and food producers.
- They are hiring interns for the summer, both high school and college and grad students.
- MCE has submitted comments on the Road and Trail Plan for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways proposal and will be hosting a film festival to highlight some of the films that were produced shortly after the flood last year to raise awareness about the importance of the riverways.

LAD Foundation – Susan reported that Jason Green is not here today as he's doing a prescribed burn. They have completed their CFI, using laser to measure diameter. They know the volume will come in larger than in past inventories, question is how to make it jive with their historical records. Dave Larson is going to help with the analysis and reconciliation of data. Might make for a good presentation when it's figured out.

U.S. Forest Service – Sherri Schwenke noted that their forest health project is moving forward. Hope to begin work soon. Next week, Chief has asked them to look closely at processes and how to be more efficient, and one way involved the environmental assessment and decision making. Next week will do a series of round tables with partner groups. Later this month they will kick off some collaborative listening sessions to get an idea of what about the Mark TwainNF is interesting to folks.. What should they be doing differently? How can they be more responsive? New timber staff officer started this week, Casey Hawes, comes to us from Oregon. Lot of wildfires and arson. Put out award for up to \$25,000 hoping that it leads to a conviction.

Missouri Community Forestry Council – Gene Brunk reported their annual conference will be next week in Columbia. Still on track with 2020 planting project, to plant 1 million trees in the urban areas by 2020. A tracking system to keep track of the trees and coordinated by Forest ReLeaf of Missouri (FROM). Tool will be accessible over internet so the public can enter trees they've planted. The Council is exploring public information project to educate folks to prevent "volcano" mulching. Hope to spread the word through big box stores that sell mulch.

Missouri Department of Conservation – Justine Gartner reported that we have been consumed with strategic planning. This one is very different for us, and is very deliberate to engage field staff, with measures to provide benchmarks so we can determine our success. A stakeholder meeting was held in November that included 70 different groups to provide input. Strategic goals are as follows:

- Sustain and improve fish, forest, and wildlife resources
- Enhance the relevance of conservation
- Connect Missourians with fish, forest, and wildlife resources
- Strengthen operational excellence to deliver superior customer service.

In other news, CWD is not going away for us, we seem to find more positives in the hub around Ste. Genevieve/Jefferson Counties. Deer might be more widely dispersed than we thought they were. Targeted culling and sampling will continue. Tom Draper, Deputy Director, is retiring, and the Director is currently looking for his replacement, with the hopes to have someone in place by May. Simeon Wright, Forest Pathologist, resigned last fall. We hope to fill his position soon. This vacancy leaves a gap with the forest health staff. Two forestry interns are to be hired for Kirksville and Eminence; hopefully these positions will be filled soon and be in place by May to work through summer. The Mo. Tree Farm Committee's annual field day April 13-14 at

Tree Farmer of Year in Unionville. FWAM has a new executive director, Laurie Coleman; Mike Hoffmann stepped down. The Mo. Invasive Plant Task Force is holding workshop on April 13th in Columbia about Callery pear.

Center for Agroforestry – Mike Gold reported that they have hired a new education coordinator to be engaged with youth education. Two positions are open – one for silvopasture and tree geneticists. A search for the new director of the center will open soon. Staff is beginning to work toward Ozark chinkapin restoration.

University of Missouri – Hank Stelzer reported that in spite of never-ending budget cuts, the School of Natural Resources is fairing quite well. We have recently completed three faculty searches and the following individuals will be joining us in the near future. Dr. Noel Aloysius, Assistant Professor, (joint with BioEngineering) joined in October 2017. Dr. Damon Hall (joint with BioEngineering) hired in October 2017 (joining in May 2018); Assistant Professor of Sustainability/Water Resources. Lastly, Dr. Robin Rotman, Assistant Professor of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Law, Policy and Justice, hired in February 2018 (joining in August 2018). Plus, we have just received approval from the Chancellor's Office to initiate a search for our Soil Health position. And the good news continues on the Extension side as we are currently in the final planning stages for our first ever Natural Resource Field Specialists. More on this at the summer MoFRAC meeting.

The SNR Faculty Advisory Council is in the midst of developing consensus on the next slate of faculty positions to be filled in the next three to five years. Forestry has identified forest ecology, tree physiology, and forest management as our most pressing needs. Other positions in fire ecology, wood tech/utilization, and urban forestry were also identified.

A national review team from the Society of American Foresters will be at MU April 2-5 to review our new Natural Resources Science and Management curricula, specifically the Forest Resource Management and the Terrestrial Ecosystems Emphasis Areas. Stakeholders outside the University will have an opportunity to speak with the review team. Interested Council individuals should contact Dave Larsen (if they have not already been contacted) for the review team's itinerary.

Mizzou Day of Giving is Noon, March 14th through Noon, March 15th. If interested in specifically supporting the forestry program, donors need to specify the Forestry Development Fund when making their donation. SNR Director, Shibu Jose, is personally matching the first \$2,000 across all School donations. CAFNR is matching the first \$50,000 across all College Divisions. So, don't delay; make your donation the afternoon of the 14th!

The Callery pear in the SNR Courtyard are on their way out. Plans are to remove them this summer and replace (all of them, especially the ones under the building's eave) with native trees. Hank also mentioned plans are being initiated to develop a long-range strategy for replacing the pin oaks on the Francis Quadrangle. Early recommendations are for a variety of swamp white oak varieties as they will do best under the irrigated conditions of the Quad.

Lastly, Hank brought to the attention of the Council that another White Oak Initiative meeting is being planned for some time this coming fall in Kentucky. MU and USFS Research Station personnel are working with University of Kentucky faculty on the silvicultural aspects. Hank and Steve Shifley are taking the lead in mining the FIA database to describe past and current trends of the white oak resource across the heart of its natural range.

Missouri Forest Products Association – Brian reported markets for most products are good, and he is hopeful that continues. Will enter an interesting time as the president looks at tariffs on industry exports to other parts of the world. They are watching this very closely. Stumpage prices are incredible, never seen historically. Number one issue for industry is labor – nearly impossible to find help at the pay the sawmills can offer.

Missouri Consulting Foresters Association – Lynn Barnickol reported that they have 45 members. Just finished winter meeting, 37 attendees and 10 speakers. Topics included bears, forest insects, invasives. CFE's were offered. Will hold next year's meeting in Jefferson City again. Call Before You Cut is up to about 37,000 acres.

Sierra Club - Caroline Puffalt reported they are working on clean water issues – there is a bill related to solid waste restricting community's abilities to manage their waste. Have also commented on NSR Road and Trail Plan.

Denise Vaughn – reported on the oak woodlands and fire consortium to be held in Winona with field tour at Chilton Creek (May 12), Roaring River State Park in Cassville on May 19. This workshop will focus on fire management on private property. Workshop #3 will be held June 2nd in Farmington. For more information see <http://www.oakfirescience.com/events-webinars-source/2017/9/2/landowner-fire-ecology-workshop>.

The Nature Conservancy – Rebeca gave the following update:

- We are continuing to work with MU Extension, National Wild Turkey Federation, Joint Fire Science Program, MDC and others on outreach activities for the spring and fall. Tour topics include estate planning, fire ecology, and forest stand improvement.
- We are continuing to work with consulting foresters to provide management plans for private landowners.
- We are working with a number of partners to start a Scenic Rivers Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area.
- TNC recently hired a Cities Program Manager, Becca Weaver, based in the St. Louis area.
- They are working as part of a multi-agency team to help the State Emergency Management Agency develop a flood buyout strategy. TNC is providing suggestions on conservation/environment factors to consider during the decision-making process.

Old Business – none.

New Business – none.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held June 6, 2018. Please send agenda topics to Brian Brookshire (brian@moforest.org).