



**Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council
Missouri Farm Bureau
Wednesday, June 6, 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, Brian Brookshire, Gene Brunk, John Burk, Susan Flader, Justine Gartner, Sherri Schwenke, Steve Westin, John Tuttle, Rich Blatz, Mike Morris, Jason Jensen, Justine Gartner, Laurie Coleman, Scott Brundage, Mike Brown, Kurt Boeckman, and Steve Shifley.

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.

White Oak Resource - Dr. Stephen Shifley, USDA Forest Service, North Research Station, gave presentation to the group. Take home points were there will be white oak and other oak species volume available for 20 years or more. However, there are issues with white oak regeneration, and oak regeneration in general, that may become problematic over time. Climate change issues may cause the present range of tree species to shift north depending on timing of precipitation levels. It is noted that Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) data and Habitat Suitability data is good for estimating change over long time periods but is not sensitive to annual changes.

Roundtable Partner Updates, Meetings, Events

Forest and Woodland Association of Missouri / Tree Farm - Laurie Coleman reported the following:

- Working on a brand-new website that will house FWAM, Tree Farm and Forest Keepers (hope to have this up and running by August)
- Plan to do some solicitations to create awareness and gain membership
- Will conduct a mid-year campaign for potential sponsorships
- Will initiate a monthly E-newsletter (should anyone have anything they would like to include items can be sent to Laurie Coleman)
- Next scheduled board meeting will be in August
- Planning Annual Meeting in conjunction with Forest Keepers Fall Conference in October

Missouri Tree Farm -

- Held our annual Tree Farm Conference April 13-14 in Kirksville. We had approximately 40 participants.
- Our annual Tree Farm assessments are scheduled for next week (June 12-14) in southeast, MO

- We were rewarded an ATFS grant and are planning a woodland workshop and field days starting this fall

Natural Resource Conservation Service – Joe Alley reported the following:

- Nate Goodrich, as of 6/11, 2018, will be the MO NRCS State Resource Conservationist. Joe Alley is serving as NRCS State Forester for 120 days. Staff has been authorized to fill vacancies.
- FY18 EQIP – 70 contracts are obligated for Forest Management Plans and 37 contracts for \$250,00 are obligated.
- Wildlife Fund Pool is approved for glade restoration and prescribed fire.

National Wild Turkey Federation – John Burk presented the following report:

We are completing a Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MoBCI) Grant where \$10,000 of NWTf money combined with \$10,000 of USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife money was matched with \$20,000 of MoBCI money to complete 181 acres of TSI, 290 acres of burning, 40 acres of woody cover control and 16 acres of NWSG conversion on 11 private properties in Adair, Putnam, and Schuyler Counties. We have been doing this kind of work since 2009 and have impacted over 3,000 acres of private land in northeast Missouri.

There will be a Missouri Prescribed Fire Council Meeting on 6/23/18. The Council is forming into a mechanism for the development and support of prescribed burning associations. Prior to our annual business meeting on the 23rd we will have a 2 hour training on burn planning and weather that will be presented by Ben Webster and Tom Fielden. The Wildlife Society will allow a maximum of 4.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) in Category I of the Certified Wildlife Biologist® Renewal/Professional Development Certificate Program for participation in this training. The training will start at 10:00 a.m. and will be held at the Beaufort Lions Club at 2041 Lutheran Church Road in Beaufort.

Our Project Forester Chad Doolen that is in a cooperative position created by NRCS and the USFS has been busy. On the NRCS side Chad has been involved in writing forest management plans that have influenced over 2,000 acres and has coordinated and been a presenter at 4 landowner workshops in his area promoting forest management. On the USFS side Chad has completed several Stewardship Project Agreements (SPA). One SPA involves a 274 acre timber sale designed to restore open woodland conditions and the proceeds of this sale will be used to do 170 acres of mastication to restore natural openings on the 11 Point Ranger District. Another SPA involves the creation of the Mark Twain Native Plant Material Stewardship Area. Timber sale proceeds will be used to restore 196 acres of high quality NWSG and forbs in a profit sharing arrangement with Hamilton Native Seed Company. The NWTf portion will be used to restore additional high quality open land throughout the Mark Twain (there are about 1,800 acres of open land throughout the Mark Twain). We are also close to executing a project in the Butler Hollow Area that will use the proceeds from a 116 acre timber harvest to complete 141 acres of cedar removal and glade restoration.

Our Project Forester that is in a cooperative position created by NRCS and the Private Land Services Division of MDC has been on the job for about 6 months. Bear Engbring is stationed in St. Francois County at the Farmington Service Center and will be serving it and the surrounding counties working with private landowners promoting and planning good forest management in his area. Bear has primarily been doing compliance checks and getting familiar with his area and the folks he'll be working with and for. He has started meeting with landowners and will be completing forest management plans from this point forward.

LAD Foundation – Dr. Susan Flader reported:

- Pioneer staff has completed their CFI, using laser to measure diameter. Work continues with analysis of the data. 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 reported:

- The new Chief is addressing internal issues with sexual harassment.
- The forest health project is moving forward.
- Staff is looking at processes and how to be more efficient, and one way involved the environmental assessment and decision making.
- Staff is seeking collaborative capacity with partner groups. What should they be doing differently? How can they be more responsive?
- Congress is allowing additional categorical exclusions in the NEPA process.
- The new timber staff officer started this week, Casey Hoss, has been in contact with MFPA members about harvest levels.
- Approximately 80 percent of the target volume is on the market.

Missouri Community Forestry Council – Gene Brunk reported their annual conference in Columbia was successful with approximately 100 attendees. 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 – John Tuttle, Justine Gartner, and Jason Jensen reported the following:

- CWD is a priority and is expanding 38 of 41 CWD target counties.
- Feral hogs continue to be a problem with releases in the Ozark counties where folks like to run feral hogs with dogs.
- Staff conducted an SFI internal audit – some attention detail is needed in the Central Office records. Field work is good.
- CFI measurements continue on schedule.
- Continued staff shortages with foresters. A recent job study reveals that forester pay is too low and a slight pay increase is being considered.
- The Yield Tax on Missouri Managed Woods has been repealed but in the same bill the sale of captive cervid meat has been approved.

- The Conservation commission is one member short. Perhaps the new Governor will add a member.
- Implementation of the Strategic Plan may change the way MDC functions.
- Mike Hubbard is not a Deputy Director who fills in behind Tom Draper who retired.

Missouri Forest Products Association – Brian Brookshire 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.
- Log shipments to China have been large and appear to be driving stumpage prices never seen historically. However, the Chinese Government is enforcing requirements for incoming logs to be fumigated. The fumigation is paid by the source company and is a processing step that adds approximately \$1,000 to each container shipment and may disrupt the dynamic of selling logs to China.
- The chip market for paper products is DOMTAR located in Hawesville with products targeting the packaging industry that's driven in part by Amazon.
- The mulch market is flat. There is a glut of bark at sawmills and as cities contribute ground wood and bark most of the demand is being satisfied.
- NHLA and AHEC are watching the log export market closely. Few facts are available about why the interest in US logs: How long the sourcing will continue? What is being done with the logs? What products are being manufactured? AHEC is to undertake a study to develop facts.
- Sanctions against Russian exports are probably a contributor to increased log acquisitions from the US.

Missouri Consulting Foresters Association – Lynn Barnickol reported the Fall Meeting is to held September 5, 6, and 7 2018 in the Climax Spring, MO area.

Northern Research Station - Steve Shifley reported the addition of a new scientist and the Central States Forest Soils Conference to be held in the Van Buren are in October.

Department of Natural Resources – Kurt Boeckman reported the following:

- Reduction in the backlog or permits
- Reduction of staff
- Increased attendance at State Parks
- Trapping of feral hogs on State Parks in cooperation with MDC continues
- Planned is an update of the MO Water Plan covering water quantity demand and water quality
- Solid and Water Conservation Districts are working through the cost share program of \$140 million.
- Clearwater Commission is promoting streambank stabilization by hiring project engineers and increasing the amount authorized to spend on projects to \$25,000.

- Pay landowners to fence livestock out of their woods and riparian areas at 75 percent cost share rate. Not much interest in tree planting but interest in creating grazing paddocks.

USDA APHIS PPQ – Mike Brown reported the following:

- EAB detection is on-going and populations are expanding from the Dakotas to Maine.
- Recent National EAB quarantine is being lifted – “The horse is out of the barn”. The focus is to be public awareness about moving firewood away from home.
- Increased use of bio-controls in the St Louis and Kansas City, Texas and Butler County areas.
- Gypsy moth detection is underway – To date no critical mass populations have been detected in 30 years of trapping in MO.
- Other wood borers surveys are underway on international shipments – Examples: Asian longhorn beetle and spotted lantern fly.

Old Business – none.

New Business

Gene Brunk asked for consideration of the topic covering the difference between advocacy and advisory. It related to the vote at the January 2018 meeting by MoFRAC members (with agency abstentions) to support the need support by the MO congressional delegation to re-instate payment to county school districts in lieu of taxes on proceeds of sales of timber from Federal Lands. Requested is a presentation at either the September or December MoFRAC meeting where good attendance is anticipated.

Scott Brundage suggested for MFPA to present on what happens to logger members and non-members who are bad actors. Brian suggested the answer can be covered in 5 minutes but Scott wanted the long version answer.

Noted is attendance at MoFRAC meeting has not resulted in a quorum. It leads to the question: Why? Is the group viable? Are folks just too busy? Are topics not meaningful? Considering Steve Shifley’s topic about problems regenerating white oak and other oaks and the NIPF land owner is in control of how their forests are cut, should MoFRAC be undertaking some kind of awareness advisory?

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held September 5, 2018. Please send agenda topics to Brian Brookshire (brian@moforest.org).