

MFRP Board of Directors' Meeting
December 14, 2017
Forest History Center, Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Present: Cheryl Adams, Chair (*UPM Blandin*), Bob Milne, Vice Chair (*DNR*), Kory Cease (*Itasca County*), Nathan Heibel (*Koochiching County*), Mark Jacobs (*Aitkin County*), Mark Lohmeier (*Hubbard County*), Jason Meyer (*St. Louis County*), Dick Moore (*Beltrami County*), Ryan Simonson (*Crow Wing County*), Craig Schmid (*DNR*), Ryan Simonson (*Crow Wing County*), Dennis Thompson, Acting Treasurer (*private landowner/Soil and Water Conservation District*), Kirk Titus (*Cass County*)

Staff: *Kathleen Preece*

Guests: Brian Bignall (*Potlatch Corporation*), Dave Chura (*Minnesota Power*), Jon Drimel (*DNR*), Tamara Lowney (*APEX*), Dean Makey (*forestry consultant*), Dick Peterson (*DNR*), Dan Steward (*MN BWSR*), Bob Tomlinson (*Wildlife Mgmt. Institute*), Angela Yuska (*DNR*)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cheryl Adams at 10:00 a.m. The Antitrust Statement was read by Kathleen Preece; introductions were made around the table.

The agenda was approved unanimously on a motion by Dick Moore; second by Bob Milne.

Minutes to the September MFRP Board of Directors' meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Craig Schmid; second by Dennis Thompson.

Acting Treasurer Dennis Thompson gave the Financial Report. He noted that budgeted assessments for 2017 stood at \$57,792 with actual expenses at \$55,220.27, thus ending the year with a positive difference of \$2,571.27. He reminded that board that in 2016, the MFRP carried over \$18,325.13; in 2017, it is again enjoying a carryover. At end of 2017 carryover is \$14,554.05, with \$1,521.52 a line item in the Ash Diversification account.

The 2018 budgeted assessments total \$18,325.13; budgeted expenses for 2018 are \$57,792. Dennis explained Treasurer Greg Bernu's recalculation of county assessments. He explained that counties pay per commercial forest acre that is reported to the Minnesota Association of County Land Commissioners. The per/acre rate was consistent between counties; these figures were previously used in the MFRP assessment calculations. The per/acre rate was not the same for all counties. The rate was equalized by Treasurer Greg Bernu for assessment purposes. An additional factor contributing to the change in total assessment values is the addition of Hubbard County as a new, and thus contributing member to the MFRP.

Outgoing Chair Cheryl Adams presented the annual Chair's Annual Report. Kathleen Preece noted the omission of the September MFRP Board of Directors' field day in Bemidji. She said it would be added to the report to ensure the filed report included record of this activity of the board of directors.

Election of officers for 2018 was held. Bob Milne was nominated as chair; Kirk Titus as vice-chair. A motion to nominate the chair and vice chair candidates was made by Dick Moore; second by Dennis Thompson. The motion passed unanimously.

A discussion was had regarding the treasurer position. It was noted that Greg Bernu would be stepping down. The board discussed asking Matt Radzak to fill the position for one year. Chair Cheryl Adams volunteered to contact Matt and discuss the officer position. She emphasized that the commitment is intended for one year, despite the fact that Greg Bernu graciously provided treasurer services for a number of terms.

PRESENTATIONS

Million Cord Study: *Jon Drimel, Forest Resources Planner – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*

Forests for the Future: *Dick Peterson, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*

Following Dick Peterson's presentation, Chair Cheryl Adams awarded him the MFRP Public and Private Partnerships Award in recognition of Dick Peterson's advancement of facilitating partnerships across political boundaries in Minnesota's forest community, particularly as they relate to conservation easements and the state's legacy program.

Following lunch, Board Member Dennis Thompson presented Dean Makey the MFRP Education and Training Award in recognition of Dean Makey's commitment to private landowners and the School Forest Program. Cass County Land Commissioner Kirk Titus and Dan Steward of the Board of Water and Soil Districts spoke to the commitment of Dean Makey and success of the work of private consultants.

Afternoon presentation followed, including:

Applied Learning Institute – A Workforce Update: *Tamara Lowney-Senior Business Developer - APEX*

Rapids Energy Center Operations: *David Chura, Manager, Key Account and Renewable Operations - Rapids Energy Center*

Opportunities in Forest Management to Benefit Wildlife - Next Steps: *Bob Tomlinson*

Updates were provided by MFRP members around the table.

Kathleen Preece noted that the next meeting of the MFRP Board of Directors will be March 14 in Duluth.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. on a motion by Kirk Titus; second by Craig Schmid. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted 28 December 2017 by Kathleen Preece