

Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Department of Ecology Headquarters, Room ROA34
March 4, 2009

Attendees:

Ken Miller, Farm Forestry Association (member)
Jeffrey Thomas, TFW Director Puyallup Tribe (member)
Dave Whipple, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jeff Davis, Department of Fish and Wildlife (member)
Dennis Dart, Farm Forestry Association (chair)
Sherry Fox, Farm Forestry Association
Maurice Williamson, Farm Forestry Association (member)
Jeff Galleher, Department of Natural Resources Small Forest Landowner Office
Dan Pomerenk, Department of Natural Resources Small Forest Landowner Office
Adrian Miller, Washington Forest Protection Agency
Lindsay Rodgers, Department of Natural Resources Forest Practices

Conference Call Participants:

Jim Matthews, TFW Director Yakima Tribe
Jeff Kozma, TFW Wildlife Biologist Yakima Tribe
Marty Mauney, Department of Natural Resources SE Region
Steve DeCook, Department of Natural Resources NE Region
Mike Johnson, Department of Natural Resources NE Region

9:08 Review and Approve previous meeting minutes:

The group discussed the process of posting the meeting notes on the Small Forest Landowner website. It was agreed that the notes will be sent out to the committee members for approval then posted on the website.

- The notes from the January meeting have been revised with suggested edits and Dan will send out next week for final approval then post on the website.

9:25 Eastside Forest Health Alternate Plans Document and Training

The floor was opened up for discussion about the Status of the Eastside Forest Health Alternate Plans Document. Discussion:

- Maurice Williamson began the discussion by expressing his concern that this document may be too technical and too absolute to be turned into a usable field guide for landowners and field staff.
- Dan Pomerenk said this was the first time he had heard that a field guide is to be developed.
- Dennis Dart clarified with the group that everyone was of the impression that this document was to be used as the scientific basis for writing the field guide.

- Maurice read the comments that Phil Hess had proposed to the group regarding the document. (see attachment #1)
- Jim Matthews noted that the document has significantly improved and suggested that there be monitoring associated with this as well.
 - Dennis would like to see the document stay true to identifying issues, monitoring can be addressed elsewhere.
- Many people in the group had other questions about the document, the basic idea and content was agreed upon as good, but the committee wanted a chance to talk with Glenn Kohler and ask questions. Dan Pomerenk will speak with Glenn to see if he will be available to make final edits to this document and attend the next meeting.

Break

10:25 Post Storm/Fire Small Forest Landowner Guidance

Dan Pomerenk handed out a double sided 1 page handout titled “Resources for Landowners after a Fire/Storm”. The handout is for Landowners who have experienced the effects of a storm or fire and what they can do to get help. Discussion on the handout and next steps:

- Dennis felt that developing an AP template would be basically impossible because the situations would all vary too much. His vision for this project is to develop a guidance document or process document that would help reach out to landowners and get resources regenerated as quickly as possible.
- Jeff Davis would like to pull a group of WDFW people together and find out what worked and what didn’t work in the 2007 storm and also to explore other areas of knowledge on this issue in order to produce a fine tuned process so that all agencies know what to do when we have a storm event and will be able to assist landowners as soon as possible.
 - Dennis agreed with Jeff on his ideas, he also suggests that there be 2 separate documents; one for outreach and resources for the landowners and another for the agencies that defines a process to help work as efficiently as possible. He also commented that these documents should be as general as possible and not contain prescriptive language.
- Dan suggested that the document for Landowner guidance be one page double sided that can be easily edited and reproduced so that they can be quickly handed out or mailed in the event of a storm or fire.
- Maurice suggested agencies should have teams trained to respond to these emergencies to help small forest landowners.
- Adrian Miller suggested a change in rule so that when the Governor declares an emergency agencies and landowners can work quickly. Perhaps we can have an emergency buffer width to get started. If it was a situation where the landowner wanted to work outside of those set boundaries they would have to wait longer and go through the normal permit process.
 - Sherry agreed with Adrian’s idea as it would save time and money not having to have an application.

- Jeff Galleher suggested the group take a look at the existing rules and see if there is any flexibility.
- Jeff Davis also notified the group that if the Governor declares a state of emergency then the Department is given the authority to give verbal responses for HPA.
 - Sherry suggests that this information be posted on the website because landowners may not know this.
- Adrian added that landowners should contact Department of Revenue to assess the value of the timber impacted by the storm.
- Jeff Davis suggested a “phone tree” type set up where the landowners would call one phone number, possibly Office of Regulatory Assistance (ORA) and ORA would call the other Agencies to get people together and working on the issues.
 - Sherry has offered to make the first contact with ORA to find out if this plan is possible.
- Dan has agreed to have Michael Ahr start a draft of the one page double sided document. If anyone has suggestions please send those to Dan Pomerenk or Michael Ahr via email. (dan.pomerenk@dnr.wa.gov , michael.ahr@dnr.wa.gov)

Ken Miller announced an invitation for anyone to attend the South Puget Sound chapter of WFFA meeting at the Thurston County Courthouse on March 11 at 7:30 for a presentation by small forest landowner, Howard Wilson, titled “Wilson Tree Farm storm damage, salvage, and restoration.”

Lunch 11:35-12:00

12:10 LTA Outreach

Jeff Galleher created a handout (see attachment #2) for the group to review including suggested outreach ideas from the last meeting on how to expand participation in the Long Term Application (LTA) program. Jeff asked which of these ideas the group wants to follow through with:

- Dennis suggested adding the LTA into the coached stewardship classes to encourage people to start the paperwork while doing their stewardship plan. Dan will follow up on this task.
- Dennis suggested conducting evening or weekend field days on landowners’ property that have LTA’s to reach people outside of FFA.
- Sherry suggested adding a segment about the LTA into the Stewardship field day. Dan will follow up on this task.

12:30 WDFW-LTA Resource Position / Water Typing Consultant Directory

Jenni Dykstra has changed jobs in WDFW into another position. Because of the hiring freeze this vacant position with the SFLO cannot be filled. This leaves the Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO) unable to help landowners with water typing.

- Dennis encouraged the group to look at different ways of identifying the water type that would not require agency help in order to “bridge the gap” for landowners with Jenni being gone so they will still be able to complete step 1 of the application.

- Jenni made a Water Typing Consultant Directory for the SFLO before she moved to her new position. The committee discussed placing this document on the Website but decided instead to keep it as an office and field resource to inform landowners of contacts for protocol stream surveys.

1:30 Legislative Bill Update

- FREP Bill HB 1637 – Not moving on.
- Practicing Forestry HB1483 – Active
- Suspend or eliminate certain committees (to suspend SFLAC for 2 yrs) SSB5588 – Active.

1:40 Schedule of future Advisory Committee Meetings

The committee will put a one year schedule for meetings on the Small Forest Landowner website. The proposed schedule is attached. Edits that were made during committee meeting are as follows:

- The October 7th Committee Meeting Conflicts with the Forest Practices Board retreat and will be changed to October 14th.

1:55 Meeting Adjourned

Attachment #1

Phil Hess's comments on the Eastside Forest Health Alternate Plans Document:

To: SFLO AC From: Phil Hess

3-4-09 meeting minutes attachment 1

Re: Kohler –Ripley E. WA RMZ restoration *draft* dated Jan, 2009.

The current draft is an improvement for SFLO's in that it omits reference to restoration prescription alternatives as was agreed to at the 12-3-08 meeting.

The Jan. '09 draft is an excellent educational document addressing the major mortality agents in E. WA. It will be a handy reference in a wide range of situations; mostly for professionals and a limited number of strongly forestry oriented SFLO's.

The Mortality Criteria, Inciting Factors, Stand Risk Ratings, or Proximity are based on well researched science and acceptable.

Remember, at the 11/5/08 meeting Karen and Glenn emphasized this document would not be a *field guide* for SFLO's to use. This was going to be the basis for a *field guide*.

Good thing – because the document is way to technical for most SFLO's

For example:

“Total defoliation is not necessarily an indicator of mortality”. [p. 2, Definitions, 4th bullet]. This sentence alone will discourage a potential AP applicant from even attempting.

Glenn: Can this language be revised or further explained in the field guide?

Under each mortality agent, the Mortality Criteria and Stand Risk Rating will be above the understanding for most SFLO's.

Especially the use of Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 for bark beetle Stand Risk rating is beyond comprehension for most SFLO's; even many professionals will need a refresher to use these guides.

Glenn: would it be possible that the bark beetle Stand Risk Rating be limited to the easier to use Appendix 4? In other words omit more complicated Appendix 3.

We wish to continue to remind the committee:

Our whole idea from the beginning of this process was (is) to enhance SFLO economic viability by simplifying the AP process for managing unhealthy or potentially unhealthy RMZ forests. These are our best growing sites and without F & F rule flexibility to create and maintain healthy RMZ forests we lose economic viability and hence lose an incentive to stay on the landscape.

This was recognized in the NW environmental forum “*Future of Washington Forests*”, p. 49: ‘by eliminating economic benefits, some ecological benefits are also eliminated when SFLO's convert’ Or cash in with parcelization. I know this sounds like a broken record, but I will continue to bring it up. This is a good example of where we need “low impact” defined.

**Summary of Ideas to Expand Participation in
Long-term Forest Practices Applications
Developed at the 20 January 09 SFLO Advisory Committee Meeting**

The following ideas resulted from our brainstorm session at the January advisory committee meeting. The ideas are not listed in any order.

- Have outreach materials at the Society of American Forester's May meeting in Ellensburg to reach consulting foresters. Bart Ausland is a good contact.
- Integrate LTA step 1 work with developing stewardship plans. During the on-site visit, identify and classify the water, and assess the roads. Makes efficient use of staff time.
- Explore the Department of Revenue's required management plans to see if we can expand them to include resource identification. Need to check the RCWs.
- At the next WFFA annual meeting, get a 10 minute testimonial from a satisfied landowner. Have outreach materials available.
- Work with stewardship foresters, county extension, WSU extension to sell benefits of an LTA to consultants.
- Work with Natural Resources Conservation Service: educate them about all SFLO programs and see if it is possible for NRCS to get the LTA as an approved practice for cost sharing.
- Check with the Cascade Land Conservancy for links to other groups that could help in promoting LTAs.