

**Private Land Management Team
Schmeeckle Reserve UWSP
May 6, 2014 9:00 am**

Attendance: Aaron Young, Chris Plzak, Eric Peterson (for Tom P.), Ron Gropp, Nina Carranco, Kris Tiles (UW-Extension), Carol Nielsen, Kris Wimme, Dennis Hutchison, Nancy Bozek(WWOA)

Not available – Drew Feldkirchner, Dave Matheys

Agenda Repair/ Announcements

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, August 11th.

This will be Chris Plzak' last meeting. NED will be looking for a new rep to be in place for the August meeting.

Strategic Direction Implementation Steps – Carol and Ron

PLMT has a role with the development and implementation of the SDOMI implementation steps below (work plan item / procedure / policy). The Cooperating Forester Sub-team will be engaged in this process as well for their input. Final recommendation will be taken to FOT for approval.

Discussion regarding if the steps are clearly written or need to be re-worded a bit. Also discussed who will be responsible for working on these and how they will be tackled.

PF-2 FY14 Step 1: Establish guidance for DNR foresters to work periodically with Cooperating Foresters in the field establishing practices. Ensure that guidance does not conflict with the MFL efficiencies being developed. (Original wording modified to clarify intent)

- Team had discussion about how do we continue to improve the relationship between DNR and Cooperating Foresters. Overall this step was meant to develop a standard for us to work in the field with Cooperators to help build and maintain relationships.

Discussion/Decision: Modified the wording of PF-2 to clarify the intent

Assignment: update share point to reflect clarification; engage the Cooperating Forester Sub-team at the July meeting, and report back to PLMT at the August meeting.

- Nina mentioned the 8 MFL Efficiency concepts and how PLMT will be involved with 3 of the 8. There was discussion about whether or not we should hold off working on the Strategic Direction implementation steps until the MFL efficiencies are implemented. Decision is to move ahead but be sure to not conflict with the MFL Efficiency concepts.

Discussion/Decision: Request to share the MFL efficiencies with externals

Assignment: Carol will share ForesTREEporter article with PLMT

- A suggestion was made to incorporate into the guidance a method for cooperators to provide feedback on DNR forester services (supervisor calling/surveying annual review for DNR foresters) Chris Plzak and Kris Wimme have examples.

PF-2 FY14 Step 2: Incorporate DNR and Cooperating Forester cross training into in-services, MFL annual re-cert. sessions and other area, district and statewide opportunities.

- In the Northeast District, they have invited Cooperators to Silviculture field days and it has received many positive reviews as a way for multiple parties to come together in the field and engage in good dialogue.

Assignment: engage the Cooperating Forester Sub-team at the July meeting; Ron will work with Aaron to develop an issue brief for FOT (September FOT meeting); IB will be brought to PLMT in August

PF-2 fy14 Step 3: Standardize opportunities and build capacity of DNR training courses for Cooperating Foresters (both the opportunity to attend and material content)

- What DNR courses currently offered would be applicable to Cooperators?
- Could some courses be made more applicable to Cooperators
- Should work with the Forestry Training Office to hold a pre-determined # of slots in certain classes to be available for Cooperators.
- Is there a way to incorporate work with SAF to see how we can work together

Assignment: Ron Gropp, Chris Martin and Carol Nielsen will further develop this idea. Engage the Cooperating Forester Sub-team at the July meeting; report back to PLMT in August.

These three Implementation Steps and other implementation steps from the Strategic Direction Outcomes, Measures and Implementation (SDOMI) should be included in the teams' FY15 - 17 work plan.

PF-5 FY14 Step 3: Set up a standard for annual DNR Foresters participation in local NRCS work groups to set practices and priorities

- With the move from NRCS to no longer have local county working groups and rather moving to far fewer working groups that will cover multiple counties, it's important that 1-3 DNR be a part of these working groups. The working groups are responsible for developing the practices and setting funding to be available for landowners and forestry needs to be represented at the table.
- WWOA would like a list of foresters who will participate in each local working group. They (WWOA) would then connect with these foresters to get suggestions for appropriate landowners to encourage becoming involved in the local working groups.

Assignment: Carol will develop this and work with Jim, Bob and Nicole. Ensure the Division's annual work plan reflects DNR Forester involvement with local working groups; how many forester should there be at each LWG?; more than one, if possible.

WFLGP Not-to-Exceed (NTE) Rates – Carol

Identify rates that need to be updated and what they should be. Please come with suggestions. This is not an overall review and update of rates but is intended to catch those rates that are drastically out of whack due to changes in costs (e.g., rates for DNR Nursery stock jumped and now the rate is way too low.).

Discussion related to tree planting and plan preparation; request to look at 10 rates.

- **Tree Planting Rates** – Adjustment needed to account for dramatic increase in tree seedling and shrub costs. Also comments received on large increase in contract planting costs seen.

WFLGP 7 Components and Not to Exceed (NTE) Rates				
Component Code	Unit	Technical Component	NTE Rate (\$/Unit)	
			Regular (50%)	Emergency (60%)
TAAH	Acre	Conifer tree planting – hand	275.00	330.00
TAAI	Acre	Conifer tree planting - machine	250.00	300.00
TAAJ	Acre	Hardwood tree planting – hand	420.00	504.00
TAAK	Acre	Hardwood tree planting - machine	395.00	474.00
TAAL	Acre	Shrub planting – hand	310.00	372.00
TAAM	Acre	Shrub planting - machine	273.00	327.60

Assignment: Team members need to get data on planting cost for all six options (conifer, hardwood, shrub, hand and machine planting; reference table above) to Carol by **June 1**; Carol will look at DNR nursery costs and incorporate

- **Plan Rates** – Team member suggested adjusting the less than 30 acre plan rates. This member identified that the rates do not adequately represent the cost of plans for the smallest acreages. Team suggested looking at current data and making recommendations on adjustments if warranted for both sizes.

WFLGP 1 Components and Not to Exceed (NTE) Rates				
Component Code	Unit	Technical Component	NTE Rate (\$/Unit)	
			Regular (50%)	Emergency (60%)
TAAA	Acre	Preparation of new landowner Forest Stewardship Plan: 30 acres or less	17.00	20.40
TACA	Acre	Preparation of new landowner Forest Stewardship Plan: more than 30 acres	10.00	12.00
TAAB	Acre	Revision of existing management plan: 30 acres or less	17.00	20.40
TACB	Acre	Revision of existing management plan: more than 30 acres	10.00	12.00

Assignment: Kris Wimme will help analyze data from Cathy Burrow; by **June 15**.

Plans for review of all rates – when it should be done, what data to incorporate, who to involve and how to involve them, etc.

Decision: First full review of rates in FY-2016 with new rates set to be implemented in FY-2017. Review every three (3) years thereafter, unless there is specific/extenuating circumstance for individual rates or groups of rates (e.g. dramatic increase in seedling / shrub costs)

MFL Task Efficiency Concepts – Nina

Discussion about PLMT's involvement with implementing three MFL Task Efficiency concepts that were recently introduced

- PLMT will be involved in 3 of the MFL – TE. One is guidance and two will be more involved. FOT expects that this will be on our work plan for the next 2 years and will be a significant workload in our next work plan
- Team leads will be identified in May sometime and will more than likely include someone from PLMT as a team lead. More information will be coming soon.
- Attach documents that are pertinent to the subject (reference attached file; excerpted March 2014 FOT minutes, includes embedded Issue Brief).



MFL Task
Efficiencies_MarFOTM

- **These three items should be included on the FY15 – FY17 WORK PLAN**

PLMT Work Plan – All

- Review FY13/14 Accomplishments
- Identify/brainstorm FY15/16 work plan items - will finalize in August for FOT review and approval in September 2014; items that are already included:
 - Outcomes/Measures Implementation steps need to be incorporated as a significant workload item
 - 3 MFL task efficiencies
- Possible add-ons include:
 - Private lands toolbox for the web for Foresters/Landowners
 - Possibly pursuing a Forester/Logger tracking database
 - Online Forestry Locator needs update
 - Follow up work on quarterly report revisions?
- Review the Feb PLMT meeting minutes – include the items identified for the FY15 – 17 work plan (e.g., Forester Tool Kit)

Assignment: Carol will update the teams' work plan based on accomplishment report, SDOMI, MFL – TE, February meeting minutes

Cooperating Forester Sub-team; New Membership – Ron Gropp

Ron gave a quick update on the new members. The team will be meeting on July 24; agenda is being framed-out, but anticipate a full meeting agenda. Nancy Bozek is recruiting for landowner representation on the team from WWOA; solicitation (forthcoming) for DNR – NED representation on the sub-team. New team members:

- Kris Wimme representing WCD
- Ryan Medo, NewPage (2 yr. term)
- Bethany Polchowski, Lambert Forest Products, (3 yr. term)
- Dave Dhaseleer, Steigerwald Land Services (3 yr. term)

Review DVD For Landowners (produced by UW Extension) – Kris Tiles

Kris showed a few minutes of the DVD, talked about how people can order it, and about whether foresters would be interested in getting a supply to just have on hand.

UW Extension has 750 copies of a “Learn about Your Land” DVD which has classes for woodland owners that cover a number of topics related to forest and wildlife management. She would like to see them put in the right landowners hands and was asking what the best way would be. The DVDs also include some pertinent publications that they can use in conjunction with the DVD.

- Should copies go to DNR foresters to distribute?
- Local LWCD or NRCS offices could keep a copy for landowners to use
- Libraries?
- ForestTreeporter article should be created to promote there availability
- A request was made for Extension to develop a cover letter that DNR Foresters, Cooperators or CPWs could include when working with landowners that promotes their website, as there is lots of great information available for landowners on the site

Decision: UW Extension distribute the DVDs; requests can be made direct to them.

Private Forestry Training –

The date(s) for New Hire Private Forestry Training is being decided on; looking at September instead of October; week of September 15th is tentative at this point

- Does the content need to be changed?
- Group felt that there should be a section included on interacting with landowners effectively. Kris Tiles thought UW Ext. could provide a segment on interpersonal communication, which would be beneficial for new foresters on effectively communicating with landowners.

Recommendation: include a section on interpersonal communication as part of the training curriculum.

Assignment: Carol will send out last years' agenda for the training; team members should provide feedback on content.

Questions from the Field

Discussion about **mandatory practice letters** generated by Central Office – **Eric (on behalf of Tom Piikkila)**

1. Since using **WISFIRS** more and more I see a need for an **additional “status change” option**. In Plantrac we had the option of labelling a practice “established” if we knew the landowner had either hired a logger, a forester, had it already marked or etc. Knowing the landowner was making progress; we could take them off of the backlog list and not send them any additional letters. Since this option isn’t currently available on WISFIRS and we no longer send out the letters to landowners, letters were sent to some of my landowners that I knew were making progress but could not change their status yet with the current options. I have received phone calls from confused landowners asking if I had forgotten what we had previously discussed. I believe adding an “established” or something similar to WISFIRS would be most helpful. It would help eliminate landowner confusion and reduce costs by not mailing unnecessary letters to landowners.-Tom

Comments/discussion:-

- Lots of feedback was received on these issues and they are being addressed.
 - All feedback should be submitted via the defects avenue on WisFIRS. Including comments on letter content. The WisFIRS defect method allows individuals to identify the importance of issues, defects are directed to a specific person and it tracks all issues reported so nothing gets lost. DNR Foresters are also encouraged to engage, bring forward questions and route issues through their supervisor(s) before contacting the Forest Tax Program directly.
 - Things are being worked on and decisions will be forth coming. Read the ForesTREEporter for updates.
2. Would be nice to divert the priority for WFLGP monies from CPW plan writing to accomplishing wildlife practices (openings etc.) on the ground with the new outreach endeavor and us partnering with wildlife (e.g. DMAP, Young Forest Initiative (YFI))

Comments/discussion

- This can be included in the discussions and work on Implementation Steps for the Strategic Direction – Steps scheduled for FY15 include developing a process for setting priorities for WFLGP practices. (PF5, FY15 Step 1)