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Forestry BMP Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

February 27, 2008

Schmeekle Preserve, Stevens Point

Committee Members Present:

Jim Olive, FISTA; Matt Dallman, TNC; Dean Pelkey, PCA; Gary Edinger, RAW; Steve Kariainen, SFI SIC; Tim Tollefson, New Page Corp; Larry Meicher, TU; John DuPlissis, UWSP; Ken Adamovich, WAL; Jane Severt, WCFA; Earl Gustafson, WI Paper Council; Mike Gehrke, WWOA

DNR Staff Present:

Carmen Wagner, Kristin Shy, Kristen Tomaszewski, Darrell Zastrow, Quinn Williams, Brick Fevold, Tim Beyer, Molly Martin

Presentations:

All the presentations from the meeting are available on the DNR's Forestry BMP web-pages at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Usesof/bmp/advisory/>

Update on BMP Monitoring: Carmen Wagner

This year, we will be monitoring BMP application and effectiveness with NIPF landowners. Timbers sales will be identified using county cutting notices, information from master loggers and cooperating loggers, and MFL cutting reports. After removing duplicates, 350 timber sales will be randomly selected. Eligibility determinations will be first made in the office using the Surface Water Data Viewer, a DNR internet map server.

Sales that appear to meet the eligibility criteria during the office check will then be field checked after permission is obtained from landowners. For monitoring, we hope to have a minimum of approximately 30 MFL sales and 30 non-MFL sales. All of the final site will be field checked for eligibility. Our aim is to get the monitoring teams as much information ahead of time so that they can plan for their monitoring visits. Please refer to the presentation for our study methodology.

The BMP Monitoring Workshop is scheduled for August 20-21, 2008. We expect to hold the training in either Wisconsin Rapids or Marshfield. We will begin actively soliciting volunteers for BMP monitoring as soon as a location is confirmed.

Monitoring will be completed during September and October, 2008. BMP Program staff will join each team on the first day that they are in the field. Staff will be on hand to answer any questions and to help assure consistency between teams.

1995 - 2006 BMP Data Analysis Update: Kristin Shy and Kristen Tomaszewski

The Forestry Division is analyzing BMP monitoring data from 1995 to 2006 for regional trends. The first step was to ensure that all of the data was consistently stored and accessible – in different years different data storage systems were used and the data needed to be brought into one system with all of the data consistently stored. The next step was to ensure that spatial data was available for all of the timber sales.

For the analysis, we will be analyzing the data for regional trends based on the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units – at the state, province, section and sub-section levels. The analysis will look at:

- BMP application
- BMP effectiveness
- Effects of not applying BMPs

We may also do some additional analysis to see if there are any trends with season of harvest, equipment, or silvicultural systems.

The analysis will be limited to those areas with a minimum of 18 sales – 30 would be preferred, but there is high interest in the results for the red clay plain which has 18 sales.

Education, Outreach & Training Update: Carmen Wagner

In February 2006, the BMP Advisory Committee was asked to prioritize publications needs. The goal of this session is to review accomplishments from 2006 – 2008, discuss on-going projects, and to identify priorities for 2008-2010.

To guide BMP Program staff, there is a BMP Outreach Plan which is one a five-year schedule (2005 – 2010). The Outreach Plan identifies six strategies to provide information about BMPs:

- Publications
- Displays
- Training
- Demonstration sites
- Monitoring and research
- Web-pages.

Please refer to the presentation for a summary of past accomplishments and on-going projects. Advisory Committee members were asked to identify any new projects that were identified in the presentation and then to vote for their four highest priorities of on-going and future projects. The highest priorities were:

On-Going Projects (excluding BMP monitoring):

1. BMP Display
2. Silvicultural Exemption Checklist
3. Citizen-Based Stream Crossing Inventory System

Future Projects:

1. BMP Demonstration Sites
2. Determining the Cost of BMPs

3. Seed Mixes for Road Closures

Training Needs:

1. Stream Crossing Training
2. Integrated Forest Road-Stream Crossing-Wetland Crossing Training
Forested Wetland Training (tie)
Regionally-Based BMP Training (tie)
3. UW Classes

All of the ideas generated by the exercise will be used to help guide work planning for the BMP Program staff.

Vernal Pools: Brick Fevold and Tim Beyer

Wisconsin is just beginning to describe and study ephemeral/vernal ponds. Brick Fevold is involved in a mapping project to locate these ponds. The working definition of these areas is that they are seasonally flooded and do not have connection to a permanent waterbody. Without a connection to a permanent waterbody, fish are unable to survive in ephemeral ponds, providing a safe haven for many unique wildlife species. More detailed information is available in the PowerPoint presentation.

By definition, many ephemeral ponds are dry for a period of the year and may not be visible. However, evidence of the ponds can be documented during dry periods. Many ephemeral pond-dependent species will exist within a surrounding buffer.

Tim has been using a three-step program for managing woodlands around ephemeral ponds: 1) Inventory, 2) Public Awareness, and 3) Integration into Management. Each step offers an opportunity to identify and locate ephemeral ponds, teach the public about these landscapes and adaptively apply to timber management.

One outcome of Brick's project is a classification process that may help us develop management practices reflective of the local importance of a particular ephemeral pond in the larger landscape. Management considerations may include equipment selection, seasonal limitations, protection of downed coarse woody debris and buffers..

Electronic-based BMP Monitoring Worksheet: Kristen Shy

We've been reviewing the BMP monitoring worksheet to prepare for an electronic-based system. A work group comprised of Tim Tollefson (New Page Corp), Steve Kariainen (SFI SIC), Dean Pelkey (PCA) and Jim Mineau (USDA Forest Service) met with BMP Program staff to review the worksheet.

The plan is to use the new worksheet this BMP monitoring season and be ready to switch over to the electronic version when funds become available. A major benefit of this new format is that by using a tree question structure, BMP monitoring volunteers can skip questions that are not relevant to the sale.

Other Forestry-Related Item: Carmen Wagner

Development of Forest Biomass Harvesting Guidelines Begins: Guidelines are being drafted by a technical team comprised of WDNR Forestry staff, using guidelines recently developed in Minnesota as a framework. Initial draft guidelines will be reviewed by experts in a variety of fields that may be impacted by biomass harvest including wildlife management, endangered resources, forest management, economics, harvest systems, wood utilization, forest health, hydrology, soils, ecology, microbiology, and fire management. Following the expert review, revised guidelines will be reviewed and approved via consensus by a stakeholder Advisory Committee. This committee, selected by the WI Council on Forestry, is comprised of representatives from affected stakeholder groups including industry, government, landowners, and conservation organizations.

The Advisory Committee held its kick-off meeting February 12, 2008 where members received background materials, approved the project scope, and reviewed the list of experts to participate in the expert review process. The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 29. The committee is expected to complete its work in 2008, when it delivers the guidelines to the Council on Forestry for final approval.

Contact: Allison Hellman at Allison.Hellman@wisconsin.gov or (608) 266-8130

Wisconsin's Forest Sustainability Framework: The final Framework was presented to the Council on Forestry on December 18, 2007. The Council unanimously approved the report. The Division of Forestry recommended to the Council that the Framework be included as part of the statewide planning process, specifically as a tool to implement the next Statewide Forest Assessment and update the Statewide Forest Plan. The Division of Forestry is starting to plan the process for conducting the Assessment and will continually inform the Council on their progress and post progress on the DNR website.

The Framework contains seven criteria. Criterion 4 measures the conservation and maintenance of soil and water resources.

Criterion 4: Conservation and Maintenance of Soil and Water Resources

9. Soil quality on forestland
 - 9.1 Area and percent of forest whose designation or land management focus includes protection of soil resources
 - 9.2 Proportion of forest management activities that meet soil management guidelines to protect soil resources
 - 9.3 Total soil carbon
 - 9.4 Estimated bare soil
 - 9.5 Bulk density
 - 9.6 Calcium-aluminum ratio
10. Area of forestland adjacent to surface water and forestland by watershed
 - 10.1 Percentage of riparian areas that are forested by watershed
 - 10.2 Percentage of forestland by watershed
11. Water quality in forested areas
 - 11.1 Area and percent of forest whose designation or land management focus includes protection of water resources
 - 11.2 Proportion of forest management activities that meet BMPs to protect water quality
 - 11.3 Number of certified loggers and acres managed

- 11.4 Stream miles impaired by sediment, nutrients, and temperature
- 11.5 Impervious surface

More information on the Framework is available at:

<http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/framework/>.

Contact: Rebecca Gass at Rebecca.Gass@wisconsin.gov or (608) 266-9261.

Additional Data Added to DNR Surface Water Data Viewer: The DNR Surface Water Data Viewer is on-line at:

<http://dnrmaps.wisconsin.gov/imf/imf.jsp?site=SurfaceWaterViewer>.

The Wisconsin Wetland Inventory (WWI) maps for three additional counties have been added to the DNR Surface Water Data Viewer. Thirteen counties are still only available as paper maps. These maps can help identify approximate locations of wetlands – wetland boundaries should still be delineated in the field.

Other information on the Surface Data Viewer includes:

- information on previously granted Chapter 30 Waterway and Wetland permits (under “Permits & Related Data”),
- locations of ANSRI waters and other designated waters for Chapter 30 permitting (under “Designated Waters”)
- FEMA Floodplain maps (under “Dam & Floodplain Program”) and
- 2005 color NAIP air photos (under “Imagery & Base Maps”)

FISTA BMP Training Schedule for 2008: The following BMP training sessions are scheduled in 2008:

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| ▪ | May 16 | Sparta | Introduction to Forestry BMPs for Water Quality |
| ▪ | May 22 | Tomahawk | Advanced Forest Road BMPs (co-hosted w/ PCA) |
| ▪ | June 18 | Wausaukee | Introduction to Forestry BMPs for Water Quality |
| ▪ | Aug 19 | Hayward | Introduction to Forestry BMPs for Water Quality |
| ▪ | Sept 10 | Neopit | Introduction to Forestry BMPs for Water Quality |
| ▪ | Sept 19 | Tomahawk | Introduction to Forestry BMPs for Water Quality |
| ▪ | Oct 2 | Park Falls | Advanced Forest Road BMPs (co-hosted w/ New Page) |

Contact: FISTA at www.fistausa.org or (715) 282-4979

Loggers Conferences: The spring Logger Conferences are scheduled for:

- Mar 26-28 Cable
- April 4 Stevens Point
- April 11 Tomah
- May 2 Carter

Topics include EAB Information and Firewood Certification, Log Truck Innovations and EMS Remote Rescue Cross Training. Carmen Wagner will also be presenting on BMP Monitoring and soliciting volunteers for BMP Monitoring Teams.

Contact: FISTA at www.fistausa.org or (715) 282-4979

SAF Meeting: The Spring SAF meeting is in Waukesha on March 19-20, 2008 and will be focusing on the effects of change in forest ownership. Speakers include Sam

Radcliffe on what has happened to industrial ownership, Tom Duffus on tools for conserving land and Lew McCreery on the role of bioenergy.

Contact: Julie Peltier at julie.peltier@wisconsin.gov or (262) 670-3404

Upcoming Meetings

June 4, 2008: Tentatively scheduled for Flambeau River State Forest

November 12, 2008: Location to be determined in North-Central Wisconsin