

Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership
2020 Annual Report
Submitted by Chair Craig Halla

1. Significant Activities

Highlights:

- a) MFRP completed the year in a particularly financially sound position, with a balance of over \$8,000 at year's end 2020.
- b) Set up and successfully executed quarterly meetings using virtual software platforms to adjust to the pandemic restrictions on face-to-face meetings.
- c) Elected/approved the addition of a private landowner to the board of directors.
- d) Updated its accounting services.
- e) Co-hosted the Future Forest Stewards educational fair that drew over 200 high school students to learn about timber industry and forest careers.
- f) Developed and updated new web pages for the MFRP Web site.
- g) The Partnership was instrumental in the promotion of the "Forest Friendly Brewery." Participated in F2T committee finalizing training packet/video for breweries and establish on line training dates with participants.
- h) Met with additional breweries to solicit participation in F2T and tree seedling giveaway.
- i) Participated in the Forest Habitat Collaborative.
- j) Participated in meetings of the Bemidji Area Forestry Affairs and Grand Rapids Forestry Councils to encourage cooperative projects among members.
- k) Renewed a cooperative agreement with the US Forest Service for continued collaboration and participation in the MFRP.
- l) Hosted new Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Assistant Commissioner Shannon Lotthammer.
- m) The Partnership was sponsor and cooperator in a project with the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee that completed Project Learning Tree education materials to fit Native American cultural values and teachings; the committee achieved national recognition for this project.

2. MFRP hosted programs on a variety of forest ownership and management interests including:

State of Minnesota 10-Year Stand Review - Doug Tillma – DNR Strategic Planning and Outreach Program Manager

SFI &FSC Standards Revision and Review Processes. Pellet Industry Discussion: Katie Fernholz, CEO Dovetail Partners

Eco-Industries, Inc. of Cavalier, N.D.: Brad Kingery, Business Owner/Private Landowner

The State of the Forest Industry: Rick Horton, Director of Forest Policy & Mike Birkeland Executive Vice President Minnesota Forest Industries

Stakeholder review period for Chpts 4 & 5 of Lakes States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan. Lori Knosalla, Forestry Division Planner & Lacy Levine, Forest Policy Analyst - Minnesota DNR

SFI &FSC Standards Revision and Review Processes. Pellet Industry Discussion: Katie Fernholz, CEO Dovetail Partners

The State of the Forest Industry: Mike Birkeland Executive Vice President Minnesota Forest Industries

Minnesota Fisher Den Box Study: Preliminary Results: *Michael Joyce, Wildlife Ecologist – Natural Resources Research Institute*

“Where Will the Ash Go?” A Forest Industry Perspective: *Matt Russell, Associate Professor/Extension Spec. Forest Resources- University of Minnesota*

Site Level Forest Management Guideline Monitoring: *David C. Wilson, PhD – Guideline Monitoring Program Consultant/DNR*

The State of the State Covid-19 Forest:

Forrest Boe, Director – Division of Forestry, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

The State of the County Covid-19 Forest:

Nathan Heibel, Chair – Minnesota Association of County Land Commissioners

The State of the Federal Covid-19 Forest:

Lee Stewart, Acting Supervisor - Chippewa National Forest

The State of the Industrial Covid-19 Forest:

Craig Halla, Operations Director of North Region – Molpus Woodlands Group/Chair – MFRP

State of the Timber Harvest Community during Covid-19 Times:

Ray Higgins, Vice President for Operations - Timber Producers Association

The State of Private Covid-19 Woodlands:

Dave Roerick, President – Minnesota Forestry Association

Climate Change and Minnesota’s Forests”

Hannah Friesen – Applied Research Coordinator - Minnesota Forest Resources Council and Univ. of Minnesota

Understanding Minnesota’s Changing Climate

Kenneth Blumenfeld – Sr. Climatologist, State Climatology Office, Minnesota DNR

Helping Minnesota’s Forests Adapt

Stephen Handler: Climate Change Specialist – Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science and USDA Forest Service

Results: Private Forest Landowner Survey

John Carlson: Private Forest Management Coordinator – Minnesota DNR