

Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership
2019 Annual Report
Submitted by Chair Kirk Titus

1. Significant Activities

Highlights:

- a) MFRP completed the year in a particularly financially sound position, with a balance of over \$11,000 at year's end 2018.
- b) Organized a tree seedling give-away and distribution of healthy forests/clean waters project throughout the Mississippi River Watershed.
- c) Hosted the participation of four Minnesota native tribes in an interactive session with the members of the MFRP Board of Directors
- d) Participated in the Forest Habitat Collaborative meeting promoting forest management that benefits wildlife habitat. Began the planning stages for a fall conference.
- 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) Members of the Partnership Board of Directors participated in a field day at the state nursery, Badoura.
- g) The Partnership was instrumental in the promotion of the "Forest Friendly Brewery" project that included educating staff of small craft breweries on the connection between forest management and clean waters. It assisted in the development of a training video.
- h) News releases, announcing the MFRP awards to Mark Jacobs (Aitkin County) and Dennis Thompson (private landowner) were published in the Aitkin Independent Press, along with photos of Executive Director Kathleen Preece and MFRP 2018 Chair Bob Milne
- i) Participated in meetings of the Bemidji Area Forestry Affairs and Grand Rapids Forestry Councils to promote the Forestry Day at the Capitol, and to encourage cooperative projects among members.
- j) Hosted a field session at Cloquet Forestry Center that included guest professor/researcher from Finland – Teppo Hujala.
- k) Hosted new Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Assistant Commissioner Shannon Lotthammer.
- l) The Partnership is sponsor and cooperater in a project with the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee that is editing Project Learning Tree education materials to fit Native American cultural values and teachings.

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

Dovetail Partners: An update, including forestry influence on Water Quality BMPs in Midwest Ag Landscapes Report. *Katie Fernholz, Executive Director, Dovetail Partners*

Elk Restoration Project Update– The Fond du Lac Band and the University of Minnesota are focused on three potential restoration areas — the Cloquet Valley, Nemadji-St. Croix and Fond du Lac state forests. Final report is due to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources in June 2019. *Mike Schrage, Wildlife Biologist - Fond du Lac Resource Management Division*

Results: Research and Advisory Committee Report: *Robert Slesak*
Director of Applied Research and Monitoring-Minnesota Forest Resources Council

Minnesota Conservation Fund: Background/History including work with the BWCAW. *Kim M. Bern-Melhus-Minnesota State Director-The Conservation Fund*

'State of the Forest Health' Address: *Rachael Nicoll: Forest Health Specialist/Brainerd Region*

The Use of Remote Sensing in Forestry *Jennifer Corcoran, PhD*
Remote Sensing Program Consultant | Division of Forestry, Resource Assessment

Economic Feasibility of Mass Timber Manufacturing in Minnesota – *Tamara Lowney, President - Itasca Economic Development Corporation*

Innovative Silviculture Online and in the Field: A brief review of recent case studies published on the Great Lakes Silviculture Library. *Eli Sagor, UMN - Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative* and subsequently a **Field Session** with *Kyle Gill, CFC Forest Manager* featuring some innovative silviculture and forest management practices at the Cloquet Forestry Center.

Biomass: An Industry and a Resource Issue – Now and the Future:), *Brian Bignall (Wood Procurement Manager - PotlatchDeltic), Pete Aube (Forestry Director, Greater Bemidji Board)*

Review: EPA Renewable Fuel Standard and the Barriers Identified in Assisting Commercialization Efforts of Wood Cellulosic Fuel and Chemical Companies in Minnesota. *Kristen Bergstrand, Timber Utilization & Marketing Consultant – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*

Badoura Nursery: Yesterday and Today – *Kristina Somes, Nursery Supervisor – Minnesota State Forest Nursery*

Native American Forests and Tribal Forest Management - An interactive discussion with members of Minnesota's tribal forest land management departments.

State Timber Harvest Analysis: Moving to Implementation *Craig Schmid, Minnesota Deputy Director – Forestry*

Forest to Tap (F2T): What's to come. *Ashley McFarland, Dovetail Partners*

MDHA: Forest Habitat Project. *Craig Engwall, Executive Director Minnesota Deer Hunters Association*