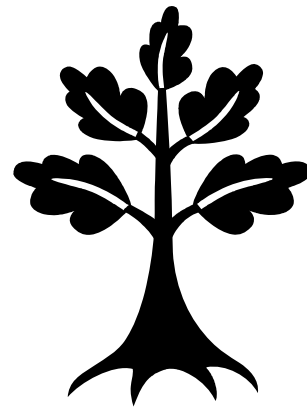


**Wisconsin's Forest Sustainability Framework
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2007**



Forest Products Lab
Room 501
One Gifford Pinchot Drive
Madison, WI 53726
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

In attendance:

Bill Klase, Darrell Zastrow, Tim Tollefson for Gordy Mouw, Mark Heyde, Mark Rickenbach, Amy Peterson, Nick Miller, John Duplissis, Rebecca Gass, Jonathan Gilbert, Stefan Bergmann, Lisa MacKinnon, Gene Roark

Technical Advisors Present:

Vern Everson—DNR, Allison Hellman—DNR, Jim Warren—DNR

Absent:

Jane Severt, Lynn Wilson, Gene Francisco, Rich Hauer, Mike Prouty

Welcome

Klase welcomed everyone at 9:00 a.m. and began with introductions. Rickenbach reviewed the focus of the committee's work, gave a summary of the day's agenda and the July 11th meeting.

Review DRAFT Criterion One

Miller spoke about a TNC database that will continue to be updated over time. It will cover protected lands at different levels of protection. It will be global coverage that is maintained on a state-by-state basis. It could help us get at indicator 1 or metric 3.5. The database should be available within the coming year.

The discussion then turned to metric 4.4 furbearers and Gilbert expressed that furbearer is too general of a metric; what specifically is that measuring? He suggested changing 4.4 to mammals and then specifically measuring the top-level forest carnivores. These include: the fisher, bobcat, wolf, and possible the pine marten. What about deer? They will have major impact on the forest and we already know a lot about them. Add deer to the list. All the information is DNR data.

Miller wondered if another metric could be added to monitor amphibian populations? There is the toad and frog survey in WI, but that might not inform us of population numbers of forest species. Mole salamanders would be better indicator of forest health. Gary Casper could provide us with a key species to monitor. Would that then be a wish list item? Not sure what data is available. For today add metric 4.5 amphibians, and Miller and Gilbert will come back with more information next month.

>>>ACTION ITEM:

Gilbert and Miller will find out what data is available and what would be ideal to monitor.

Metric 4.3 bird populations as proposed is essentially using the data that we have available and doing a more intensive analysis. Andy Paulios has offered to do the analysis and Miller would be happy to work with him and others to work through this. Other experts in the field to talk with include Robert Howe at Green Bay, Gerry Niemi in Duluth, Anna Pidgeon, and Stan Temple also.

>>>VOTE: metrics 4.3 and 4.4

All Green

The group then turned to discussing stand structure as a part of indicator 2. This would be using FIA data and analyzing it get at stand structure. No one is working on this that we could find, but it piqued the interested of people working on FIA. So add 2.4 stand structure and also add stand structure into the title of indicator 2. Maybe it will be necessary to pick forest cover types that will yield a lot of information where you can see changes over time. Other impacts like EAB will need to be taken into consideration as well.

>>>ACTION ITEM:

Everson will look into what it will take to calculate the coefficient of variation by diameter.

>>>VOTE: Indicator One

All Green

>>>VOTE: Indicator Two (not including metric 2.4)

All Green

Moving on to indicator 3, metric 3.6 road density. Data is readily available. Studies have shown that road density is the most important indicator for biodiversity. Temple and Mecquire data should be reviewed for level of road detail needed and how it affects biodiversity. For our statewide scale, town road level and higher should be sufficient.

>>>VOTE: metric 3.6

All Green

Metric 3.7 housing density: The data seems readily available and will easier to calculate in the future. Will be updated in longer intervals; at least every 10 years with the census.

>>>VOTE: metric 3.7

All Green

Metric 3.5 legally protected lands. These are land that are under easement, PDR's or TDR's where they will be forest into the future. Would also include MFL and land trust properties. The database the Miller referenced that TNC is working on will help fill the data gaps here. "Protected" is not a good descriptor in the metric title. Change to: Lands with various legal limitations on conversion.

>>>VOTE: metrics 3.1-3.5
All Green

The data for metrics 4.1 and 4.2 are monitored consistently or in a systematic manner. It is the best that we have right now. **So add to the wish list a systematic monitoring system for NHI.**

>>>VOTE: metrics 4.1 and 4.2
All Green

Jumping to criterion 4, we had added 11.5 impervious surface last meeting. This was data that Padley introduced from NDLD potentially for criterion one, but the committee thought it might fit better under criterion 4.

>>>VOTE: metric 11.5
All Green

And then to criterion 5 metric 12.5 contribution of forest products to the global carbon budget was added last meeting.

>>>ACTION ITEM:
Rickenbach is still looking into this. Move to the next meeting.

BREAK

Criterion 7

Hellman summarized the technical advisor fact sheet and how they worked through this criterion. First off they suggested the modification of indicator and metric name changes to better fit the criterion. They also suggested re-arranging a few of the metrics. Hellman discussed that the proposal for indicator 17 is no small task, but it may be the best way to evaluate the quality of laws and policies that cover sustainable forestry.

The committee wrestled with indicator 17 for some time struggling with the fact there isn't necessarily data or protocol to evaluate the laws. BMP's and certification have evaluation, but those are just a few. If the ultimate goal is effectiveness monitoring, then that is 17.1-17.7 as laid out on the fact sheet, but how do we get there? We need to start with listing the laws, polices, and guidelines as mentioned in the fact sheet. Do we need to create some bounds for that process; because that could be huge? Maybe pick some

items to focus on, some key laws like MFL, energy laws looking for biomass, maybe workman's comp? Looking at those laws it may be possible to tease out those items where effectiveness can be monitored. If an energy bill goes through and it doesn't include anything on woody biomass; then the forest sector potentially missed out. This is a data vs. analysis discussion, so when does the data become analysis? What is the base data that needs to be there and maintained over time? And then how far to you carry that data into analysis. Does data exist? Maybe it's finding laws that affect sustainable forestry and then to find if they are effective we need to ask the people that they affect. That then turns into social surveys.

LUNCH

Criterion 7 continued

After a lengthy discussion after lunch the committee decided that keeping the BASE 18 17.1-17.3 is best for the framework now because it is what we have. It will also start us creating the list of laws and policies related to sustainable forestry. **Hellman will tease out a category list from the proposed 17.1-17.7 and this will be put on the wish list as the evaluation component of 17.1-17.3.** The committee thought either 5 or 10-year intervals would be good to re-evaluate and update these metrics.

>>>ACTION ITEM:

Hellman will create a category list for the committee.

Warren briefed the committee on the proposed changes to indicator 18. Primarily there were logistical changes including title changes, separating out voluntary and mandatory standards, and others for better clarification.

The committee continued along those lines and added Tribal forest planning to 18.4; added *statutorily authorized* advisory committee to 18.6; **moved an effectiveness component of 18 to the wish list**; rephrased 18.8 and 18.9 to include all applicable forest land, and then moved those two metrics up to indicator 17; 18.5 was deleted.

Criterion 6

*** PLEASE NOTE*** As I was re-organizing and formatting the draft framework I found notes that we moved BASE metric 1.3 Forest Land and Population, to indicator 15 under criterion 6. We did not discuss this at the June meeting as a part of C6, but I have now added in to the framework.

Everson described details from the technical advisor fact sheet and the committee made recommendations and modifications indicator by indicator. For indicator 12 the committee moved a bioenergy report to the wish list and made 12.5 bioenergy and 12.6 non-timber forest products (cross referenced with C2 6.4).

Zastrow asked if there is there some way to identify ecosystem services that forests provide in the state? The committee wants to acknowledge it, but they're not sure where it fits. Maybe it's wish list? It would fit under C6 15 as in the Montreal. Essentially this entire framework leads to an ecosystem service, but it would be good to identify those and bring them to the forefront or add others that may not be incorporated into the framework. The committee decided to re-word C6 to "socioeconomic benefits of the maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem services".

BREAK

Indicator 13 primarily utilizes SCORP as the data source. That document is updated every five years. 13.2 will be changed to include all public lands and Everson will check if some Conservation Reserve Program lands are required to be open to the public. 13.3 will also include all public lands. A more intensive recreational survey that spans metrics 13.1-13.5 will be added to the wish list. 13.6 has been incorporated into 13.3 and another metric is added that covers recreation conflict on forest land. Everson will talk with Jeff Prey to gain more information on how the committee should interpret the data for this metric.

>>>ACTION ITEM:

Everson will check if some Conservation Reserve Program lands are required to be open to the public. He will also talk with Jeff Prey to gain more information on how the committee should interpret the data for recreation conflict.

Indicator 14

Metric 14.3 is changed to funding for forestry research so that it's more inclusive. It also then includes 14.4. Data for this could come right from the annual reports from the universities forestry departments. Rickenbach will look into what kind of detail is available from those reports.

>>>ACTION ITEM:

Rickenbach will look into what kind of detail is available from those reports.

A couple new metrics will be added for funding of forestry education at universities and technical colleges. Number of graduates is also important. The committee then asked if K-12 should be tracked? And what about WFREA, Trees for Tomorrow, CWES, and LEAF? These are important, how can they be drawn in? Peterson and Gass will draft one or two metrics for the group to discuss next meeting.

>>>ACTION ITEM:

Peterson and Gass will draft one or two metrics for the group to discuss next meeting.

Indicator 15

15.2 should include all public lands. 15.3 and 15.4 should reference C1-3.5. Tollefson added another data option for this metric. The federal energy regulatory commission (FERC) would include lands that are open to the public via hydro dam license.

Criterion 16

16.2 should be changed to forestry employment in the state and then it can be broken out into categories like state, federal, etc. Everson will check with Jeff Barley on County Forest Association data. BIA and tribal foresters should also be added. This metric then combines 16.2 and 16.3. 16.5 could use bluebook numbers to include faculty and possible county salaries rather than just data from DNR Division of Forestry

>>>ACTION ITEM:

Everson will check with Jeff Barkley on county forest employees and salaries.

Rickenbach is looking into the social aspect of criterion 6—how we may be able to expand it.

Bergmann brought up the name change to criterion 6 and expressed that as we moved through the indicators and metrics he thought the new name idea didn't fit as well. There was some group discussion and then people said they'd think about it and discuss it again at the next meeting.

No public comment has come in since the May meeting.

Rickenbach then moved into the prioritization of the wish list discussion. Everyone was comfortable with the process he emailed out. Zastrow suggested a matrix be created for committee members to work on so we have consistency. The idea is that the list will be emailed out, ranked, and returned prior to the 7/11 meeting. Then at the meeting ranking results can be presented and discussed. So be sure when you rank to make a few notes regarding your decisions so that you can bring that to the discussion.

Peterson added there are a number of wrap-up items to be taken care of at the July meeting. Information on where this is all going in the next six months, including level of commitment from the committee will be discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.