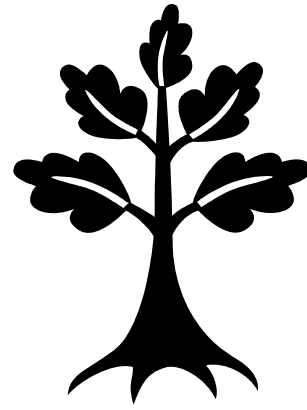


**Wisconsin's Forest Sustainability Framework
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2007**



Forest Products Lab
Room 500
One Gifford Pinchot Drive
Madison, WI 53726
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

In attendance:

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

Technical Advisors Present:

Vern Everson—DNR, Jim Warren—DNR

Absent:

Jane Severt, Lynn Wilson, John DuPlissis, 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 that included completing decisions on the framework, working over the wish list, and looking ahead through December.

Gilbert asked if the group would have time to add items to the wish list today. Is there still time for that? Rickenbach said that was up for discussion, but let's complete the framework first, then move in that direction.

Review Criterion Six

The title of criterion six had been up for discussion at the last meeting and seemed a place to start today. The point was made that not all items in C6 are ecosystem services, yet Miller stated that ecosystem services is an important point to make in the framework. Having it in the title of the criterion is important. It was also pointed out that there are ecosystem services throughout the framework, it's a very important concept, so maybe it can be described in detail and peppered throughout the report. The group finally settled on "Socioeconomic benefits of forests and their ecosystem services" as the title for C6.

Indicator 13

Metric 13.6—Value of non-timber forest products. There are few items that are tracked by FIA including birch bark and bows. Simple phone calls may be able to gain information regarding maple syrup and others. Data for items that are not easily accessible such as medicinal plants and mushrooms will be placed on the wish list.

>>>VOTE: Indicator 13

All Green

Indicator 14

In regard to 14.2 Everson stated that conservation reserved lands are not required to be open to the public. 14.4 and 14.5 had “recreation” and “number” added to the titles respectively. Everson discussed 14.6 with Jeff Prey and the data for this metric came from SCORP. A survey of recreation managers is what provided the data for the chart Everson passed out to all. Thus the data is not the perception of the recreation user, but the manager. That made a difference to the group and they decided to delete this from the framework and add a Recreational User Satisfaction Survey to the wish list.

>>>VOTE: Indicator 14

All Green

Indicator 15

Education was added to the title of the indicator, as education metrics we also added. 15.5 and 15.6 were proposed by Gass and Peterson. The group discussed why SAF accredited, and what did that then leave out of the data? Also adult education is missing in the metrics. So, add K-12 to 15.5 so it’s more specific. Then add 15.7 as Funding for continuing forestry education for foresters and loggers and number of participants. Funding and number are important. Zastrow discussed how funding could also be added to 15.6 in the form of scholarships. In the future it could be a way to increase scholarships thereby increasing students entering the programs. Scholarship funding would be hard to get at right not so the group moved it to the wish list. The group also wanted to emphasize forestry in all three metrics and ensure that loggers were included in 15.7.

>>>VOTE: Indicator 15

All Green

Indicator 16

The group moved to refine 16.7 to Forest acres certified.

>>>VOTE: Indicator 16

All Green

Indicator 17

After discussion of where the data is coming from for these metrics and what exactly is covered in each, the group thought that it would make more sense to combine 17.1 and 17.3 and then 17.2 and 17.4 into two metrics:

17. 1 Wood related products manufacturing employees, payroll and wages

17.2 Forestry employment and salaries in Wisconsin

17.2 may not be able to get at private salaries, but then that will be noted.

>>>VOTE: Indicator 16

All Green

Review Criterion 7

Indicator 18

The largest part of the discussion revolved around whether this is something that can be completed now, or is it a wish list item? It would take work to complete, thus, it needs to be on the wish list if it can't be committed to now. Then, is the table useful if it isn't completed? Does it mean anything to us or the Council? Zastrow stated that he believed that completion of the table is a doable thing within existing DNR resources, but he feels it needs to go through the ranking process on the wish list. It could be flushed out in prioritization as an easy item that is a high priority to complete. The group thought it would be best to use the table with just the first two data lines (information from the Northeast Area and BMP's) completed. This would signal to those reading the report that there is a gap in our understanding of the framework that needs to be filled and will support the wish list item of completing the table.

So then 18.1 should be modified into a descriptive sentence to include the a, b, and c, there currently.

18.2—"Evaluation" is part of the result not necessarily the metric. Or is it a gap analysis...it really is a matter of detail that we want. Are the laws in place and are they effective? Or do we just need to know they are in place? Rickenbach asked, "isn't 18.2 what the whole framework is supposed to do?" Can effectiveness be evaluated back through the other metrics? Will effectiveness be shown over time? How much time? Francisco stated "Shouldn't some of these issues surface in the statewide forest plan, then filter down to work plans within the agencies?" Zastrow thought we could get at it from the issue standpoint, meaning that when the framework has helped us identify a problem, then look to see if there are there laws that address it and are they effective. Someone who is interested in analyzing the effectiveness of a law or the framework can conduct the analysis if they want to. Then delete 18.2.

>>>VOTE: Indicator 18

All Green

Indicator 19

Gilbert liked that Tribal was included in 19.4, but maybe it would be best in parentheses after government.

Warren recommended that 19.5 and 19.6 be moved up under indicator 18 and the group agreed.

Add assessment to the description of 19.1.

*>>>VOTE: Indicator 19
All Green*

Overall Framework Modifications

The group moved to tie up the rest of the loose ends throughout the framework.

Criterion 1

Indicator 2.4—stand structure, was potentially a new metric. Everson looked into what it would take to calculate the coefficient of variation by diameter. It can be done and can be developed. It would take some work to complete and there's a possibility that Sally Dahir might be able to do it. FIA seemed very interested in this concept so potentially they could consider adding new metrics to the FIA database for this. This is between plot variation by forest type...it's mean diameter at the plot level. Clarification came when Gilbert suggested the example by where you could have multiple red pine plantations with different mean diameters that would give you a high coefficient of variation; thus asking the group if this metric valuable? The group was not convinced that the existing data is going to give us what we're looking for. This might be one avenue to find biodiversity from FIA data. Inventory units could be compared within FIA too, that would get at this. Ultimately the group decided it's all wish list because it's not standardized reporting right now.

*>>>VOTE: Move stand structure to the wish list
All Green*

Indicator 4.5—there is nothing statewide that we can report on for amphibians so it needs to be on the wish list. The group moved it to wish list without objection.

Criterion 2

Indicator 6 was re-worded to better include the non-timber forest aspect.

Criterion 4

Indicator 11.3 was made more specific as Number of certified master loggers and acres managed.

Criterion 5

Indicator 12.5—There isn't a data source and is already on the wish list so remove from framework.

LUNCH

Review Process and Timeline

Gass reviewed the proposed review process and timeline that was provided in the packet. The group liked the sequencing, but thought the timeline would be too tight. The expert review lands right around the Labor Day Holiday, and it would be great if we could add at least another week to that review. Gass reminded the group that some reviewers may choose to pick criteria within their expertise to focus on and also, reviewers will be asked for refining comments only.

The conversation turned to the wish list and whether it would be best to send out a prioritized list for review or just the basic list. Do we want reviewers to comment on what the priorities should be? Gilbert suggested the group consider new items for the list, but that the Advisory Committee should be the ones to prioritize it. The group agreed. They thought prioritization could be a remote process, but then it needs to be unanimous. The group felt that they work well enough together that conference calls would function well for prioritization and the rest of the report reviews.

The wish list needs descriptions added for reference so that reviewers will better understand. DNR will flesh those out and then send to the committee for their additional input and explanations. The whole wish list will go to the Council in the report, but Rickenbach feels it would be best to highlight the top two or three within the report, so it's best to have consensus on those at minimum. MacKinnon added that if the experts could weigh in on feasibility that would be helpful. Zastrow pointed out that he will prioritize the list now, and then use that as a way to participate in the future discussions.

Conference call dates were then set so they are on people calendars: October 1—9-4 and November 8—9-4 (Note in timeline there is a proposed change to the second call. New conference call date November 15.)

Rickenbach will also be writing a cover letter to Council that he will circulate for input.

Expert Reviewers

Peterson will ask Jane Servert for a County Forest Administrator we could add to the review list. We should also send to WWOA for review; maybe Dave Hall?

Lots of names were generated for the list, a total of 40 in fact. The groups discussion moved back into the timeline and Peterson stated that our December deadline was just picked arbitrarily; it could be extended if we need more time for review. Zastrow indicated that it is a good timeline for the Council and DNR to consider budget items for the next fiscal year. Zastrow will discuss this with DeLong and Souba for their thoughts.

Draft Report Comments

Reviewers will get the entire report (minus the recommendation letter to council) and the wish list (not prioritized).

Just a formatting item, Indicator 9 needs trends and issues linked to the statewide forest plan.

An introduction to detailed framework would be helpful; a way of giving the reader an idea of the structure of what is coming in the report. Graphics would be helpful as well. Potentially a mock up of what the report may look like?

Items moved to the wish list

- A list of all the forestry laws and the analysis to fill in the 18.1 table
- Stand structure (new)
- Amphibian population
- Recreational user satisfaction on forestland
- Scholarship funding for forestry students

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.