



SFMA Advisory Committee Meeting, April 18, 2013.
UMaine Orono Campus, Nutting Hall Room 204. 9:30am -1:00pm

Attendees:

SFMA Advisory Committee: Alison Dibble, Rob Bryan, Ken Laustsen, Bob Seymour, Chip Ahrens, Gordon Mott, Craig Troeger, Aaron Weiskittel, Joe Wiley,
Invite Prospective Members: John Bryant, Jim O'Malley, Emily Meacham, (Andy Cutko not able to attend).
BSP Staff: Rick Morrill, Dee, Kevin Osborne

Meeting Called to order by Dibble at 9:35am.

Morrill and Dibble welcomed all.

Morrill recognized invited prospective members, John Bryant, Jim O'Malley, Emily Meacham, who were in attendance as well as Andy Cutko who was not able to attend but accepted the invitation to join the committee. Formal approval of new members will occur at the BSPA meeting on 5/10/2013.

Motion:

To recognize Carl Van Husen and David Clement and convey the gratitude and appreciate of SFMA Advisory committee and Baxter State Park for their long service to the SFMA and the forestry profession.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Minutes:

25 April 2011 -- minutes approved by unanimous vote.

13 September 2012 -- passed with one abstention (Ahrens)

Dibble announced that she will be stepping down as SFMA Advisory Committee Chair in summer 2013 and so a new chair must be elected to serve a 3 year term. Dibble invited members to talk with her or Morrill about their interest in serving as chair. **Goal to have a new chair installed by Sept 2013 meeting.**

Recent Management Activities Review

Morrill reviewed 2012 harvest volumes, revenues and other statistics. Clarification of biomass product as round wood, any species, delivered to the Gardner Chip Plant at Dolby.

Morrill reviewed winter 2013 silviculture, harvest volumes, and other statistics. LURC jurisdiction relating DWA discussed briefly, DWA has not been mapped by IF&W in SFMA or BSP, Webster Stream has long been recognized as an important DWA in the Telos region. Deer density not known, but seems to be higher than it has been based on observations during winter harvest activities, some groups of 20 or more. The wildlife management district has low densities, so the fact that Webster Brook corridor has deer at all is of interest.

Question about timing of harvest with market conditions for white pine, Morrill responded that in general harvest is planned to be steady thus hitting the highs and the lows of particular species, but this is an area that should be given more attention to ensure revenues are maximized for higher value products like white pine logs.

Pine Leaf Adelgid

Identified by Allison Kanoti at fall Sept 2012 field trip-- causes tip dieback in roadside white pine, Morrill will monitor over the summer 2013. Seymour says was in outbreak status in late 1950s into 1960s -- John Diamond, Entomologist, worked on this early in his career, he had plots in Greenville and elsewhere in spruce-fir region. the insect migrates between red spruce and white pine -- damage looks like weevil damage to top, there was a salvage panic, triggered Milliken family in Princeton area to begin managing their Baskahegan property. It caused a lot of growth reduction and seems to be episodic. Mott noted that blister rust affects area below terminals, while pine leaf adelgid kills terminal. Not known to cause mortality, just damage. Morrill, Brace, Osborne, noted damage seems to be less present in the stands, more likely to be seen along roadside. Seymour says we will have to learn to live with it, can't kill off the alternate host given that it is the money tree.

Morrill will follow up with Allison and the MFS this summer and monitor impact.

Summary of Outreach Opportunities Discussion.

The SFMA was established to serve as a demonstration forest to communicate the value of long term forest management to diverse audiences. Morrill showed some elements of the current SFMA webpage, noting those areas that need improvement and have room for expanded content. *Anecdotal comment from committee member about how website content can help inform small scale private land owners about forest management.

Discussion turned to many ways that the SFMA can communicate with general public, forestry professionals, Native American community, school age students, and college level students. General agreement was reached that different audiences required different messages and media platforms, (i.e. while regular print media might reach 40+ year olds, social media required to reach those <30, especially students). It was noted that SFMA doesn't have enough staff time to reach every single audience with equal effectiveness, thus some strategy of prioritizing which groups to reach must be developed. General agreement on this topic was voiced that priority group to reach includes forestry professionals, forestry students, and forest landowners, logic given that these groups will have most influence over forest management. The general public would be an audience of secondary concentration.

It was suggested that an ad hoc outreach committee be formed, volunteers include: Wiley, Dibble, Meacham.

Other general ideas and topics discussed on the issue included: the idea of starting a simple SFMA Facebook page where staff would post updates about activities in the SFMA (one photo uploaded per week), developing an updated SFMA brochure as a handout within the Park and elsewhere, engaging with partner organizations like PLT-NESAF-FBSP, attract news coverage from newspapers etc. (don't give up on conventional methods of outreach), advertisements in pertinent publications, public TV stories about the SFMA, BSP videos about the mgt. program, complete the interpretive trail on the management mile, materials for school age students to use in classes.

*Austin Cary Lot and Mt Chase Lot Demonstration Forests -- each ca. 200 ac., mini SFMAs, not yet utilized in a serious way, ACL has had much more done to it than MCL -- has potential for outreach; management somewhat problematic because of distance from Millinocket but have access for people who can't get to the SFMA

Dibble oversaw a brief moment of silence held at 11:00am for victims of the Boston Marathon bombings.

SFMA Financial Analysis

The SFMA staff is currently engaged in a comprehensive financial analysis of the forestry enterprise, aided by forest economist Lloyd Irland. Morrill outlined the basic premise of the project and some of the key questions associated with the analysis before opening the floor to discussion. Discussion was wide ranging. It was suggested that a general article about the SFMA and the economics of the management be published by Irland in Downeast, Northern Woodlands or a similar publication. Comments were made about the potential to incorporate "opportunity costs" of forest related values such as clean water, wildlife habitat, recreation etc. The structure of the analysis should enable the professional/public audience to take away elements that may be most pertinent to them (develop a compartmentalized report of sorts). Useful comparisons could be made on a staffing per acre basis with other management entities. It was commented that what the SFMA may save by not paying taxes and lacking an original capital outlay for land purchase, it makes up for in providing diverse public benefits like wildlife habitat and recreation.

Riparian Management Zones "Guidelines" Discussion Summary:

Morrill reviewed aspects of current SFMA area allocated to Riparian Management Zones (RMZ) around riparian features such as lakes, streams, and wetlands. RMZ were delineated based on forest attributes such as topography, forest type, soil drainage. To date these areas have not seen harvest treatments, but encompass about 15% of the land base and the 2012 management plan modeling estimates that 1/3 of the area will be open to silvicultural treatment over the next 60+- years. Morrill went through map slides showing comparison of specific SFMA RMZ to what how LURC regulation would encumber. Also showed map slides of how the current RMZ policy would influence harvest activities. Morrill noted that while this "policy" is included in the current FMP, it is open for revision and is still a work in progress.

Significant (and lively) discussion followed this introduction. General agreement that the policy needs to be revised before it can be fully operation.

Clarification requested on several topics including: nomenclature surrounding zones within the RMZ which may or may not be open to silviculture treatment, how forested wetlands are managed, specific language that is too vague, such as “unique” which makes evaluation of practices against policy/rules difficult, what does not equipment entry mean (could clear cut and then use winch to remove trees), role of pre-harvest entry to determine presence of rare plants/species, is this a policy, what do “wind firm” edges look like under policy, or a set of guidelines, LURC jurisdiction may apply so SFMA practice must at the least meet LURC minimum practice, do all stated goals for RMZ have to fulfilled for each RMZ (e.g. does a wetland get same attention as Webster lake)?

*Concern was expressed that the use of the stream order classification while easy to apply may not provide appropriate protection to high value resources such as 1st order streams that flow directly into a significant feature like Frost Pond.

*Comments noted that dealing with management questions around riparian features is complex and the SFMA is not alone in grappling with this issue that involves significant grey areas.

*Next steps may involve pilot trial of policy and allow advisory members to look at real examples in the field during fall 2013 field tour.

Multiple committee members expressed interest in working with Morrill to refine RMZ document.

Forest Management Plan Updates and PCT Trials

Morrill briefly noted that SFMA FMP has been approved by the BSPA but remains a working document subject to review and revision, and encouraged advisory members to provide feedback at any time. Also discussed was idea of developing a targeted PCT program for softwood stands in the SFMA. Morrill hopes to implement beginnings of program in spring 2013 but details still need to be worked out.

Morrill thanked all for attending

Meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Morrill

Alison Dibble, Chair SFMA Advisory

Rick Morrill, BSP Resource Manager

Date: _____
