

**NSFC Fall General Meeting
Beaver Bay Town Hall
9:30 – Noon
November 18, 2016**

In Attendance:

Molly Thompson, Sugarloaf;	Audrey Butts, DNR State Parks;
Lowell Palecek, Landowner;	Bob Hanson, Landowner;
Ann Palecek, Landowner;	Renee Showalter-Hanson, Landowner;
Cory and Nora Holden, Holden Logging;	Bob Hanson, Landowner;
Tim Miller, Grand Portage Band;	Betty Karpen, Landowner;
Jeff Gniffke, Landowner;	Sarah Poznanovic, USFS/NRCS
Becky Bartol, USFS	Kurt Steele, USFS & NSFC Chair
Thor Pakosz, DNR Private Lands Forestry	Jamie Juenemann, DNR Fisheries
Marty Duscher, Private Landowner	Brooke Haworth, DNR Ecological & Water
Jim Hall, Cook County SWCD	Jim Widen, Landowner
Dave Ingebrigtsen, DNR Wildlife	Dave Howe, Landowner
John Kohlstead, Wolf Ridge ELC	Duane Lula, NSFC Coordinator
Terry Hukreide, Landowner	

Key Topics of the Meeting: Program Updates, Future Direction and Guest Speaker – Cory Holden of Holden Logging

Program Updates:

Deer Fencing/Exclosure Program

2017 Program – Thanks to the Weekes Family Foundation, NSFC will be running another program for private landowners to acquire fencing at reduced cost for the purpose of protecting newly planted trees. We hope to nearly double the size of the program from our 2016 initial year pending the results of a second grant application with Minnesota Power Foundation.

Our 2016 program was very successful, with 38 participants, 149 rolls of fencing provided at 1/3 retail cost, and over 1,300 trees planted and fenced. (Executive Summary located online [here](#))

Proposed aspects of the 2017 program (based in part on feedback from participants):

- Program roll-out will be earlier this year to enable landowners to better plan for their planting season. Likely roll-out in March of 2017.
- Better publicity of program through media, posters, etc.
- Greater emphasis given toward program to assist landowners with planting and fencing, based upon landowner's need for physical assistance.
- Will investigate having second distribution location (Two Harbors?) for those in Lake County.
- Will provide landscape mats and pins along with fencing.
- Cost to landowners not yet determined, but will be based on a percentage of cost of fencing to NSFC.
- Will strive to increase number of trees planted/fenced and decrease cost per tree fenced.
- We will keep NSFC members informed of the program through email news bulletins and via our website at www.northshoreforest.org

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- **New Information from November 29, 2016** – *We learned that we were unsuccessful in our grant application to Minnesota Power Foundation. Therefore, our program size and the amount of fencing available will be only somewhat larger than the 2016 program, rather than being doubled in size. We will also continue to investigate a Two Harbors location as a distribution location, but it may be less viable as a result of program size.*

Neighbor to Neighbor Program

This is a program where neighbors are encouraged by other neighbors to discuss their ideas for restoration of their lands, share information, learn from each other, and help each other with restoration efforts. We have talked about how this program might operate for a few years, but never had the means for getting it started.

This fall, the NSFC applied for and received a grant from the Lake Superior Coastal Program to help plan a program that we hope to begin in the summer or fall of the coming year. We will need further funding (potentially another grant) to actually run that program.

The program will involve seeking an initial 4-6 people to serve as ambassadors and to host a gathering of their neighbors to begin discussions and learn from each other. An NSFC representative will also be available if needed to help with knowledge and specifics. By working together, small landowners may be able to achieve project results (such as hiring a logger, or doing restoration work) that may not have been practical working individually. As the program expands, the hope is that participating neighbors will then reach out to others (they don't need to live right next door) and involve them in the programs.

We will be looking for those initial ambassadors from among people who have participated in Sugarloaf's Lost Forest Program, or who have already done some formal planning and restoration on their lands. More information will be available as we begin our planning for how the program will be run.

NSFC Technical Committee – Desired Future Conditions

Dave Ingebrigsten reported that the technical committee has completed a document that lists the Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) and Objectives for the North Shore Till Plain. The DFCs and Objectives for the Split Rock Till Plain have just recently been completed and reviewed by the technical committee. You can access the North Shore Till Plain DFC on the website [here](#). The Split Rock Till Plain will be posted on the website when finalized.

Restoration Updates from Others

US Forest Service – Becky Bartol

- Planted 200 acres of trees, with 150 acres of caged trees within the boundaries of the collaborative. Species were white pine, white cedar, yellow birch and some paper birch.
- Site preparation for planting on 322 acres was done in June and will be planted in spring of 2017.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Sarah Poznanovic

- Has provided technical and financial assistance to landowners, generally with larger properties.
- Jeff Gniffke reported that he has had Sarah P. out to his property and she was very helpful.
- Smaller properties may be best served through local SWCDs or through DNR Private lands forestry.
- NRCS office in Duluth is undergoing some re-organization, so level of service is temporarily in flux.

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DNR Private Lands Forestry – Thor Pakosz

- DNR cost-share program now includes up to 20 enclosures per acre and \$10 per enclosure (up to \$200 acre).

DNR Wildlife – Dave Ingebrigtsen

- Conservation Partners Legacy Grant work – 1700 trees planted and caged this spring in and around Cascade River State Park.
- CCM (Conservation Corps of MN) crews conducted invasive plant surveys and treatments near Cascade Park.

DNR Ecological and Water Resources – Brooke Haworth

- State Forest Resource Planning for the Northern Superior Uplands has been put on hold for now. (Relatively few acres of State Forest lands are within the NSFC area)

DNR State Parks – Audrey Butts

- Gooseberry Falls and Split Rock State Parks are entering a maintenance phase with planting and fencing.
- They took down some fencing where conifers have successfully grown above the browse line.
- Split Rock and Gooseberry Falls parks have been doing restoration efforts for more than 15 years and have excellent examples of successful regeneration using fencing and the parks are available for demonstrating these techniques to landowners and others.

DNR Fisheries – Jamie Juenemann

- Conservation easements are an ongoing program to protect rivers and streams.
- Currently have projects going in the Knife River watershed.
- Hope to have a resource guide for landowners available next year.

Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa – Tim Miller

- The band is thinking about using prescribed fire to regenerate birch stands on reservation lands. (Lots of interest expressed by others in the room, asking Tim to keep all informed about what G.P. learns in their efforts).

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center – John Kohlstead

- ELC has done a lot of bud capping of conifers and also removing some fences.
- Next winter, 30 acres of aspen stand will be treated along with planting conifers.

Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association – Molly Thompson

- Plantings at Sugarloaf done through the CPL grant funding
- Also did a small prescribed burn and the results are looking good.

Future Directions for the Collaborative

This was an open-ended discussion about what NSFC should focus on in the future and ideas and potential projects to be more effective in our mission of restoration.

- Placards or signs visible for restoration efforts posted at key places. Bigger signs for public areas to publicize the program (Flood Bay, Temperance River Kiosk, etc) and smaller signs (like a tree farm sign) for private landowners to recognize and publicize their efforts.
- Need better ways to reach out to non-resident landowners and seasonal homeowners.
- Need to get children more involved in the restoration effort. Boy and Girl scouts are just one example. Schools are another. (other ideas – Cook Co. environmental club advisor, Lake Count coordinator, Silver Bay environmental advisor)
- Make talking to your neighbor about restoration a requirement for getting the discount fencing.

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- Have website tell the story so people can appreciate what we've lost on the north shore with respect to vegetation and habitat. Also a slide show that can be used for presentations.
- Have a "welcome wagon" type program to provide forestry/restoration/firewise and fire prevention information and resources to people who purchase homes/property on the north shore.
- Promote long-term values and stewardship - parents teaching children how to plant and care for their land to keep the heritage going.

Guest Speaker – Cory Holden of Holden Logging

- Cory's family has been in logging business for 4 generations.
- How to engage a logger?
 - Visit MN Logger Education Program (MLEP) website:
Logger Directory: [MLEP Online Membership Directory](#)
Questions to ask when considering a logger <http://www.mlep.org/harvcon.htm>
Or contact Rachel Peterson of MLEP: rachel.peterson@mlep.org
- Minnesota Forest Resource Council's (MFRC) site level guidelines pocket book will provide idea of guidelines that loggers operate under.
http://mn.gov/frc/docs/MFRC_Forest_Management_Field_Guides_2014.pdf
- Holden Logging uses a cut-to-length system vs a conventional (skidding) operation. This is a mechanized harvesting system in which trees are delimited and *cut to length* directly at the **stump**. CTL is typically a two-machine operation with a harvester felling, delimiting, and bucking trees and a forwarder transporting the logs from the felling to a landing area close to a road accessible by trucks.
- Whether an operation is commercial depends on the number of acres, the volume of commercial wood, and the distance that logging equipment must be transported. Although one small landowner may not have sufficient acreage or volume to be commercial, several landowners working together may.
- Monetary expectations and results will depend on the site, the tree species and the volume.
- The collaborative could help by soliciting landowners within a specific area to do harvest/restoration, engaging help in the form of NRCS, DNR or Consulting Foresters, and getting several landowners to work together.
- Stewardship projects that look at objectives for what needs to be done, rather than just the value of stumpage can be helpful, when funding for such projects is available.

Meeting Adjourned at Noon