

**Winter General Meeting
North Shore Forest Collaborative
February 9, 2018 Beaver Bay Town Hall
9:30 AM to 1:00 PM**

Note: This is an overall summary of the meeting. Detailed notes with all of the ideas, suggestions and results will be posted on the NSFC website www.northshoreforest.org

Forty Two in attendance: Nathan Stewart (DNR Fisheries); Jamie Juenemann (DNR Fisheries); Steve Weekes (Weekes Family Foundation); Dana Dickson (Landowner); Todd Armbruster (Firewise Program); Jeff Gniffke (Landowner); John Bathke (Landowner, NE Landscape group); Thor Pakosz (DNR Forestry); Erin Loeffler (Board of Water & Soil Resources); Jon Sellnow (Natural Resources Conservation Service); David Henkel-Johnson (Citizen); Tim Miller (Grand Portage Band); John Kohlstedt (Citizen); Karen Evens (MN Pollution Control Agency – Watershed); John Rinne (John Rinne Tree Farm); Pat Collins (MN Land Trust); Mike Reichenbach (U of MN Extension); Greg Plumb (Landowner); Andrew Slade (Citizen); James Hall (Cook Co. SWCD); Michaela Clingaman (Cook Co. SWCD); Lisa Kerr (Cook Co. Lands); Ilena Hansel (Cook Co. SWCD); Nancy Simpson (Landowner); John Simpson (Landowner); Brooke Haworth (DNR – Ecological Services); Phil Larson (Cook Co. SWCD); Liza McCarthy (DNR – Parks and Trails); Jim Mullen (Landowner); Doug Haus (Lake Co. SWCD); Tim Burns (Lake Co. SWCD); Mac Hogfeldt (Lake Co. SWCD); Rob Wight (Landowner); Mitch Lundeen (SWCD); Nancy Hansen (DNR-Wildlife); Patricia Billman (Landowner); Dick Sigel (Citizen); Molly Thompson (Sugarloaf); Mike Crotteau (US Forest Service); Myra Theimer (US Forest Service); Rebecca Bartol (Landowner); Duane Lula (NSFC Coordinator)

9:30 Networking/Social – 20 minutes were used for people to meet friends, neighbors and new acquaintances and exchange ideas.

9:50 Introductions, purpose of the meeting and brief overview of the NSFC.

Each attendee introduced themselves to the group.

Duane Lula said the meeting's purpose was for all in attendance to focus on charting a course forward for how we can work together to restore a healthy and thriving forest on the north shore. The meeting would focus on future activities for the collaborative and how to fund the identified activities and the coordinator position. **The NSFC is all of us, therefore the results of this meeting are not just a list of items to sit on the shelf, but for everyone to take an interest and action on and help to implement.** The mission and goals of the NSFC were described, as well as some of the more recent projects and accomplishments. Steve Weekes of the Weekes Family Foundation was recognized and applauded for his Foundation's support of the Deer Fencing program.

NSFC Mission: *To revitalize and maintain a healthy and functioning ecosystem along the North Shore of Lake Superior with emphasis on restoring and maintaining native trees and associated forest communities.*

NSFC Goals:

Goal 1 - Restore – Reestablish and maintain a diverse and thriving forest along the North Shore.

Goal 2- Collaborate – Promote cooperative restoration efforts on all ownerships and work together.

Goal 3 – Educate – Share expertise and knowledge about restoration.

10:30 Work Session 1 in Small Groups

Four small groups were formed to identify what actions or projects do we need to take now and in future to increase forest restoration? And what are barriers to restoration and how do we overcome those barriers? Two groups were comprised of primarily private landowners and the agencies and organizations the work primarily with private landowners (SWCDs, Sugarloaf, NRCS, DNR Private Lands Forestry, etc). The other two

groups were comprised primarily of agencies that manage public and larger landbases (US Forest Service, DNR, Grand Portage, etc).

Ideas were written on large note cards and identified as actions, barriers or solutions.

11:30 Review of Ideas and Results from the Workgroup

Reconvening as a large group, we went through the ideas generated and grouped them into rough categories, with the understanding that a more thorough sorting would occur following the meeting. Each idea and note card would be saved and recorded so that no idea would be lost. Regardless of the group (private landowner focused or agency/land manager focused) some similar overall themes came from each of the groups. These included:

- **Increasing awareness, visibility and publicity of the restoration effort** to reach more people, raise awareness of need, and demonstrate accomplishments.
- **Identifying Priority Areas to treat**, so that we concentrate of efforts and limited funds in those areas in most need, and where we will have greatest success.
- **How to get more trees planted on private lands** – through assistance, publicity, peer learning program, and work crews.
- **Becoming more efficient and accountable** – sharing data, clear understanding of goals on how we meet them, capture and report on work that has been accomplished, do we need a full time coordinator to accomplish more restoration?
- **Miscellaneous Category** – a final category had many good, but diverse ideas that we were not able to categorize in the short time at the meeting. These ideas were captured and will be considered for action whether or not they fit into an overall category or not.

12:00 Work Session 2 in Small Groups

People returned to their original small groups to discuss how we can make the identified actions and projects come to pass. What are sources of funding and personnel to implement these projects. Also discussed was how to we go about funding the NSFC Coordinator, and should that position continue at its present work and funded level (approx. 1 day per week) or should it be increased to managed a more robust restoration program.

12:40 Review of Ideas from the Workgroups

A spokesperson from each group presented a brief overview of the ideas and suggestions of the group.

1. **Need an inventory** of forest conditions so need to know where to focus efforts. What data do we have, what is needed, and how do we evaluate it.
2. **Funding for Coordinator** – consider higher funding level to have more work time for coordinator to help grow program. If each group or agency could contribute \$2K (or higher) either through appropriated funds or via grant they applied for, then there would be \$20K or more to fund coordinator.
3. **Overall Funding** (projects and/or coordinator) –
 1. Foundations for funding – Blandin, Schultz, Cargill, Butler. Coastal Program, etc.
 - Corporate sponsors - may need outside help pursuing them. Could possibly get a grant just for making a plan to pursue corporate sponsors.
 - Donations – solicit donations from businesses, tourism industry. Have a place on fencing form for donations.
 - Increase cost to landowners for participation in fencing program – charge more for fencing with portion to go toward funding coordinator or collaborative. Charge extra for rebar and for tree mats instead of including it in fence price.

4. Projects – need to zero in on a few projects and go for it, otherwise it is too huge of a task. Need to define what is the goal and how to accomplish it. Where do we want to be in 5 years. Need good answers to what the current situation is, and what have we accomplished over the past several years. Many agencies don't have hard money to put toward a project, but could do some matching.

1:00 PM Wrap up and Adjourn

We briefly reviewed all the ideas generated and **again were reminded that everyone interested in North Shore restoration (both those at this meeting and hundreds of others on the shore) need to play an active role to help implement the good ideas, projects and actions that were identified.** All were thanked for their participation and commitment to forest restoration on the north shore.

The NSFC will be looking for a new Coordinator, as Duane Lula and his family will be moving out of state later this spring.