

October 29, 2015 1 PM – 3:30 PM
Beaver Bay Town Hall, Beaver Bay, MN

In attendance: John Bathke, Karen Evens, Wayne Russ, John Kohlstedt, Dave Ingebrigtsen, Justin Pszwaro, Alan Steiff, Garry Gamble, Jim Larson, Becky Bartol, Richard Tormanen, Todd Ronning, Meredith Cornett, Kurt Steele, Laurel Wilson, Molly Thompson, Duane Lula, Todd Armbruster, (and 2 additional people that did not fill out sign up sheet)

1:10 PM Meeting called to order by Kurt Steele, chair of the Collaborative

Introductions: Attendees introduced themselves and what, if any, organization they represented.

1:25 PM Presentation: Adaptation Forestry for Climate Change - Meredith Cornett of The Nature Conservancy. A copy of Meredith's presentation is available on the NSFC website at this link: <http://northshoreforest.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/TNC-Adaptation-Forestry-presentation.pdf>

A fact sheet on the program is available at this link: <http://northshoreforest.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/TNC-Adaptation-Forestry-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

Meredith gave a presentation about a project that TNC is doing to test new forest management strategies that may increase forest resilience to climate change. They are planting and monitoring a greater variety of tree species with diverse traits (e.g. tolerance of shade, drought and fire). This will provide the opportunity for the best suited species to thrive under new climate conditions. They are doing some test plantings of red oak, burr oak and white pine taken from seed sources from south (warmer and dryer) than the North Shore area. They also intend to do plantings of yellow birch and basswood, but had difficulty finding planting stock of those species last year. They are just in the first two years of the program and will continue monitoring the growth and success of these species. Meredith's presentation was followed by a question and answer session. A couple of key questions:

- Q: Other than the limited plantings as part of this project, what species is TNC continuing to plant on most of their lands?
- A: Planting long-lived species such as white pine and white spruce.
- Q: Should people be planting tamarack? The deer don't seem to eat it, but is it a "winner" in climate change?
- A: It is about like white cedar, it isn't great but probably do OK with a changed climate.
- Comment from audience member: Planting some hardwood and bringing it through would help shade out some of the brush, and may make future underplanting for diversity in the understory easier and more successful.

2:10 PM Presentation: MN DNR State Forest Resources Planning for Northern Superior Uplands – Dave Ingebrigtsen of the DNR. A copy of Dave's presentation can be viewed at the NSFC website at this link: <http://northshoreforest.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/NSU-SFRMP-presentation-for-NS-Collaborative.pdf>

The DNR is preparing their next 10 year plan for DNR State Forest and School Trust Lands in the Northern Superior Uplands ecological section. This area covers all of Cook and Lake Counties, and parts of St. Louis, Carlton, Koochiching and Itasca counties. The NSFC area is

within this area, although only about 2.3% of these state lands are within the NSFC area. Dave then went through the goals of the process, which are to: Consider broad resource management issues affecting **vegetation** management and produce a sustainable forest management plan that provides:

- Strategic forest management direction
- A 10-year list of stands that will be examined for possible timber harvest or other management
- Consider forest certification standards -Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

The DNR just held a public involvement period for several considerations that may be used to help develop the plan. These include the following:

- Even flow constraint – how much can/should annual harvest deviate from year to year?
- Lowland conifer old growth – how much productive lowland conifer should be reserved from being identified for harvest by the model?
- Cover type conversions – the amount of assumed or desired change from one forest type to another. Response to climate change also factors into this amount.
- Older forest - describes the amount of forest over normal rotation age that the model maintains on DNR lands, based on an all-ownership assessment of current forest age-class distributions.

The DNR will evaluate the responses they received from the recent public comment period and prepare a draft plan that will also be available for public comment. No date was given for when the draft plan would be ready and available for public comment. **Note: the comment period for the bulleted items listed above was just recently extended to Nov. 9, so people can still provide comments to the DNR – link to info and online comment form is here** <http://northshoreforest.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/DNR-NEWS-forestry-release-10-29-15.pdf>

3:00 PM NSFC Project Updates – Duane Lula

Deer Exclusions for Private Landowners – Duane reported on a program that the NSFC will be developing over the winter and that will begin for next spring's planting season. The NSFC was awarded a grant from the Weekes Family foundation that will help to off-set the high cost of fencing material for deer exclusions. The Minnesota Power foundation also has a small grant to help with this program. We have just received this funding, so we are working out the details of how the project would be implemented. The first year of this program will be small and a pilot project (treating about 50 acres with about 15 exclosures per acre). Those eligible for the program would be landowners that have participated in a training plan, such as Sugarloaf's Lost Forest program, or landowners that have an approved stewardship or management plan through the DNR, NRCS or through a consulting forester. We hope to grow this program in subsequent years and make it available to more landowners.

Again, we are in the early stages of developing this program and will provide more information as it becomes available. Periodically check the NSFC website for more information.

Landowner Data Base Project - Because private landowners are the largest landowner group within the NSFC area, it is important to be engage these landowners in the efforts to restore the north shore forest. To do so, we need good information on how to contact them, where they are located, and what size properties they own. Therefore, the NSFC is working with the

University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs to help develop a database of landowner contact information and potential ways of better engaging private landowners. We are working with Professor Greg Lindsey and three of his graduate students on this project.

3:10 PM Round Robin of Project Updates

Wolf Ridge – John Kohlstedt. Last month, Wolf Ridge finished preparing its stewardship plan and the first restoration project under that plan is already scheduled.

Lake County SWCD – Todd Ronning. Completed a white pine planting and caging project in the Two Harbors parks. Because it is highly visible, it has generated a lot of positive comments.

Forest Service/NRCS – Becky Bartol. Joint Chiefs project is on-going. Did some planting and spruce and white pine and some site prep for planting (150 acres total). A new position to work for both USFS and NRCS on this project will be hired by the end of the year. A person is currently working in this position on an interim basis.

Lutsen – Jim Larson. Tree planting program is continuing at Lutsen properties. They have been planting uncaged white spruce (80% survival), balsam fir (40% survival) (most mortality due to deer browse); and caged white pine (55% survival) and white cedar (95% survival). They have also been planting red maple and red oak in 6 foot plastic tubes.

Sugarloaf – Molly Thompson. The TNC grant to State and Private Forestry for north shore restoration projects has been approved by the state and sent on to the federal level for consideration and will hopefully be awarded and funded. There are three parts to the project. 1. On-the-ground restoration (planting, site prep, caging, etc). 2. Coordination among various partners and planning/supervision of projects, and 3. Outreach, training and field tours for landowners.

Private Landowner – Alan Steiff. Attended Lost Forest training with Sugarloaf and felt it was very good and worthwhile.

DNR State Parks – Audrey Butts. Funding for a Resource Management plan for Gooseberry Falls and Split Rock state parks is coming available and the planning will hopefully be started soon. Audrey is interested in hearing from anyone who may want to be involved in helping write the plan. Contact Audrey if interested: audrey.butts@state.mn.us

3:30 PM Meeting Adjourned.