

NDUCFA Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2014 – NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center

In attendance: Sam DeMarais, Jackson Bird, Gerri Makay, Sharon Bartels, Lezlee Johnson, Joel Nichols, Tom Claeys, Joe Zeleznik. Mike Kangas joined by phone at 11 am.

Sam brought the meeting to order at 9 am. Overview of agenda, with addition of: discussion of upcoming events, and CF council representative.

Web Page Update

(See handout) Previous host company, “Three Clicks,” has been sold. Jackson reviewed summary of proposal from potential new host company, Silicon Plains, located in Bismarck. Members concurred that the proposal appears reasonable. If an Executive Director is put in place for NDUCFA, that person may also have webmaster responsibilities. Group discussed ways to use and improve “members only” side of website. Need to update member contact information. No action was taken on securing a new host company.

Committee Reports

- Treasurer’s Report: (See handout, report for 1/24/1014 to 7/22/2014). AJ Wallevand prepared the report; information was presented by Jackson. AJ has resigned from Treasurer’s position and has turned in all materials for the treasurer position to Jackson. Position will be filled during elections at fall meeting.
- Executive Committee: no report
- NDCF Council Representative: this position had been held by Jeff Haberman. Upon Jeff’s recent move to Minnesota, Wayne Beyer has offered to serve the position.
- Species Rating Committee: Three of the listed members are no longer active: Vern Quam (chair), Jeff Haberman, and Berry Kiemele. This is a crucial document, used for appraisals in ND, and it needs to be kept credible and current. Joe Zeleznik and Sam offered to be part of the group. Williston City Forester Bruce Johnson was suggested as a member, representing western ND.

MOU Revision / Executive Director Discussion

Tom Claeys stated that NDFS looks to continue the relationship with NDUCFA and provide assistance to enable NDUCFA to grow. Existing MOU is nearing a final revision. Community Forestry Council (CFC) will review the new proposal at the December 2014 CFC meeting. MOU should include a copy of the NDUCFA Strategic Plan, and a detailed job description for the proposed Executive Director. Mike Kangas joined the meeting by phone to provide input regarding the ND Nursery and Greenhouse Association Executive Director’s (Mary Holm) role

and responsibilities. Clearwater Communications provides E.D. services for a number of entities, including ND Recreation & Park Association. Executive Committee will continue to research potential candidates/companies to fill the E.D. position, with a proposed start date of January 1, 2015.

Information on potential candidates/companies will be presented to CFC to support the MOU request.

Competitive Grant

Tom Claeys provided an overview of the USFS State and Private Forestry competitive grants, now known as “Landscape Scale Restoration” competitive grants. As the name implies, these grants are very competitive, and North Dakota is one of seventeen states and the Pacific Islands looking for funding through this process. Along with input from Sam, Scott and Jackson, Tom is proposing to draft an application for NDUCFA to implement the Strategic Plan. Applications are submitted on-line, due September 15. The group endorsed the idea to submit the application.

(Note: grant documents are available at <http://wflcenter.org/state-private-forestry/spf-grants/>)

LUNCH was catered.

Miscellaneous Forestry Discussion

A number of current ND forest health issues were discussed by the group: decline of Prairie Stature oak specimens at CREC and on NDSU campus; woodpecker damage on small oaks, incited by presence of unidentified wasp larvae beneath bark of those trees; honeylocusts – failure to leaf out; problem of laurel leaf willow decline/connection with fungus on roots.

Upcoming Events

Joe Zeleznik encouraged the group to register for the ISA TRAQ (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification) training, an opportunity for Certified Arborists at Rheault Farm, Fargo, September 16-18. NDUCFA is hosting the training.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Gerri Makay