

Minutes for Resource Management Working Group of NCSCP
Thursday January 24, 2008 10-12 am
Minutes taken by Liane Salgado ORISE/USFWS

After introductions and a validation of the contact information, the group's charter document was reviewed.

The charter was amended to appoint a Vice-Chair (VC) for a 2 year term, who then becomes the Chair for 2 years. Susan Miller, the current chair, will only serve one more year due to 4-5 years "time served" as current chair. Julian Johnson volunteered as the Vice-Chair and will take over as Chair when Susan steps down. Pete explains the role of VC is not heavy, just step in for chair if they can't be present, and collaborate with chair on decisions.

Charter will be amended to say that the group will meet at least twice a year, January and July. RMWG will try to coordinate with other groups to keep all meetings convenient and topics fresh on member's minds.

There was discussion about changing the wording of the rule about releasing information *to the public*. This refers only to work products (i.e. fact sheets) of working group, the most problematic things would reflect on the partnership as a whole.

Meeting summaries will be taken and prepared by one of the ORISE interns from the Conservation Center, submitted to the chair, who will disseminate to the members for their approval. They may be published online at a future time, password protected.

Updates from Groups:

NCSCP-Pete Campbell- The original vision of this group was to look at the sandhills landscape as a whole, and review management decisions intended to restore longleaf to sustainability. We looked at priority areas, evaluated management needs *regardless* of ownership. Partners would then make this happen. Ex: Land Manager's Group reviews management plans to make sure they are compatible with each other, like TNC, SGL, private land plans. Also, share Reserve Design Group results and data with all land protection groups. The NCSCP wants to suggest future actions for the "sub-groups", especially for the RMWG, such as working with the Fire Council and Land Manager's groups on collaborative efforts. Also, we all need to think about threats to land *management*, as well as threats to habitat itself, to move from planning to actual *delivery* of management efforts, ex: fire, hardwood treatment, spatial distribution of effort, etc.

There was a discussion of the details of sharing data amongst Partners and within and between groups. Pete promised Jesse Schillaci access to data and suggested ways to facilitate data sharing.

Fire Council-Mike Norris- Mike was, ironically, out burning, but will provide a summary of fire council news to the group soon. John Ann (US FWS Raleigh office) was at the state fire council meeting recently, and will provide a summary of that meeting as well.

We still need a lot more fire-certified people in the sandhills, and TNC is running an S-130/190 class the first week of February.

Jesse Wimberley wanted to mention three initiatives now occurring in Moore County. There has been an 18 month initiative for Area A, a 30 year plan for the whole area that will soon be presented to the County Commissioners. There was a lot of input from landowners, and support for protecting farms and forests. The group will be asking for greater “voluntary ag” protection. This prevents nuisance complaints. Also, there is an effort to encourage agro-tourism. BRAC RTF also has a strong sustainable agriculture mandate. The state is considering giving counties with land use plans higher priority for limited transportation funds, and the commissioners are likely to notice this. So, there is reason to hope for new ordinances in Moore County to control development with better planning.

Land Manager’s Group-Scott Hartley- This group has been trying to provide information and hands on training for landowners. There are 3-4 planned in the next 6 months. January 30 at Weymouth State Park, an all day workshop on hardwood control, June 18 on funding sources. Also a workshop planned for beetles. And the group would like to brainstorm with other groups on equipment acquisition plans. Jesse Wimberley adds that SALT is already doing a very similar thing with private landowner training on funding sources, and that LMG should work with SALT. Group agrees to check with Nancy Talton at SALT about collaboration.

Private Landowner’s Council-Ryan Elting- A project is moving forward, started by Dan Ryan. The PLC will communicate between landowners and the Partnership in the Sandhills so they know what resources (money and technical) and expertise are available that they might not have been aware of. A core group has been identified that will be a sounding board to prepare an information packet for a wide group of landowners. Julian, Jim Grey, Jesse and other foresters have volunteered to be resources. Ryan plans to get the resource packet out in February and pull the group together in March. He wants suggestions from the RMWG and Partners as to programs to draw more landowners into the effort. Jesse says he can do outreach at his event at his farm. And everyone agreed that working on fire is a priority, as there are so many limitations and bottlenecks. Other concerns include insurance and liability.

Meeting adjourns, but another meeting was scheduled to complete the agenda-reviewing the goals document and the mission statement, as well as future goals for the group.

Next meeting will be Monday February 11 from 10-12, at Weymouth State Nature Preserve. Please review the goals and bring ideas. Also review the mission statement.