

Upper Mississippi Steering Committee
June 23-24, 2005
La Crosse WI

June 23—GIS analysis discussion
Attendees—see attached list



Outcomes

- ❖ Staff from the UMESC met and discussed with each state GIS specialist what data is expected from IL and WI for the Stewardship Spatial Analysis Project (SAP.)
- ❖ Discussed how to combine SAP data into one UM analysis unit. Decided that while each state will do the weighting individually, there also needs to be single weighting for the UM. That weighting still needs to be decided.
- ❖ UMESC and state GIS specialist however were still not clear at the end exactly what data will be needed for any additional UM analysis and exactly what questions need to be answered.
- ❖ There will be a follow-up conference call to discuss this on July 14 at 9am central time. Teri Heyer will set up.
- ❖ There also needs to be a core group that will continue guiding the UM GIS analysis. This will also be discussed during the July 14 conference call.

June 24 UM Steering Committee and GIS specialists meet separately.
All states were represented except Indiana.

Discussion items:

Draft communication plan—regarding the IA and WI State Forester meeting with their respective Governor—wondered if there was enough of a reason to meet at this point. Samuel indicated that the Upper Miss. River Basin Association may be amending their mission statement to include a broader landscape perspective. This could be a reason to meet since the Governors are a key player in the UMRBA. Another item for discussion for the SF and the Governors could be the ACOE forestry plan that is in development. Depends on what the viewpoint of forestry in uplands in the plan turns out to be.

Recommend a 6 Governor approach not just IA and WI.

Bill Horvath is on the Gov. Council on Forestry and good to be another contact.

RC&D's could be good political connections, all know their local legislators—whole area along Miss. the RC&D, do a show and tell with local legislators and then make connects.

Also discussed connecting better with NRCS through the State Technical committees. ACTION—Teri and Samuel will discuss with State UM contacts the status of their respective NRCS technical committees, split up assignments between Sam, Teri, and Mike Majeski.

Suggested that riparian buffers are featured more prominently in the key message.

NASF/NAASF would it make sense to have an UM subcommittee?

McKnight Foundation—Mike P. needs to visit with Lora F. about McKnight.
Comment-State Conservationists more important in making a difference on the ground than the Governors.

Communication products from the Lakes States Forestry Alliance. There was about \$30K remaining from the FS grant to the LSFS from the Sustainability Roundtable. LSFA will produce an executive (easy to read) summary of the Roundtable report, UMFP logo (see above), UMFP brochure, UMFP website-hosted by the FS-meeting FS specifications, and start making meeting arrangements for the winter 06 Stakeholders 2 meeting. The grant was amended to reflect these changes. Regarding the website--need to have states link to the website--also NASF website. Here are the state web contacts:

WI-Kristen Held
MO-Mike Huffman
IA-Paul Tauke
IL-David Griffith
MN-Meg Hanisch
IN-?

The Stakeholders meeting will be held Feb. 28-March 1—Dubuque, Iowa. Grand Harbor Resort, reception at Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium. Inviting—about 50. Agenda will include progress to date, direction, what we will do in future, GIS information, MOU—if not signed already have available for signature there, implementation teams report back to larger group—any working opp. would be at the implementation team level.

Role of steering committee in stakeholders meeting—presenters, edit invitee list, approve the agenda, posters for bird projects.

ACTION—Denny give the bird project folks a heads up on meeting date, notify us if need help with poster, and if need travel assistance.

This led to a discussion about the role of the implementation teams.

Role of and population of Implementation Teams (green boxes in organizational chart.) Sam sees the states as a key lead in the implementation teams. WI-DNR could be a good fit for leading the riparian/agroforestry subcommittee.

Relationship between steering committee and the implementation teams? Each Steering Committee state representative could be a liaison to an implementation team. This person would report back to the SC on the team activities. Original idea is to have committees align as close to field issues as possible. ACTION: Steering Committee member assignments for team liaisons

migratory bird-Denny, Matt
sustainable forestry
forest regeneration
riparian/agroforestry-Larry, Darrell
information and education-Mike, Duane

ACTION-write up role of implementation team liaison--Darrell and Sam. Teri will put into organizational structure document. Next SC meeting have list of team participants, they need to meet at least by conference call before the Stakeholders meeting so they are ready to work at that time.

MOU—signed by FS and SF for Stakeholders meeting, and at that time would open it up for others to sign.

ACTION-Teri will email to Darrell for WI legal to look at. Need to include all state agency mission statements and change #1 of section III.

State Updates:

Minnesota-no State Forester at this point, Bob Tomlinson is acting, not a budget, have been asked to cut \$540,000 from private lands budget. Have a great opp. with CREP II but need staffing on the ground to get it done, submitted a proposal to NA for \$60K for technical assistance in SE and SC Minnesota. No update on bird project.

Missouri-budget has been approved. Small cut in forestry division. Brian B. —private lands and forest products/RD program—has left, discussing how to refill position. This could impact how work is done in UM. Forest Legacy coming on board, assessment of need has been approved. No areas in UM in Legacy. Big issue is how address the SAP high priority areas.

Wisconsin-budget—initially looked at 8% in staff cuts, legislature has restored most except 6 FTE's. No water quality initiative in forestry right now. Legislature has shifted priorities from private lands initiatives to state lands. Consulting foresters will be asked to develop more of the MFL plans. Certification-state and county lands have been done. Next will be all NIPF MFL lands will be recognized as certified under the Tree Farm certification system. Landowners can opt out if they wish. BMP's are required as part of the MFL. Carman Wagner, forest hydrologist, will participate in riparian/agroforestry committee. Section 319 monies—some has gone to forestry for BMP monitoring—dropped that part of the grant. Will be looking for opp. to target funding to UM projects.

Iowa-budget has been passed, flat. Nursery sales-nursery must be self-sufficient-down 25% in sales. Cannot ask legislature for funds, must cover those costs from within the forestry budget. Forest legacy—4 landowners w/ conservation easements approved in August 02, still waiting, not reappraising so this is money lost to the landowner. These properties are in the UM basin. Fire weather station—2 installed—4 more will go in, part of national fire plan.

Illinois—IL at a \$1.2B deficient. For forestry good is status quo, down in personnel, rely on graduate intern program to do field forestry. No full-time State Forester. Forestry Development Act, 4% tax on timber sales, funds projects, in return get guaranteed tax break (1/6 of crop land) is very popular. Forestry Summit was held in March 05 to push forestry issues in a united front. As a result forming a statewide landowner association.

Indiana—no report.

Migratory Bird projects—10 projects funded at \$300,000. Handout project updates as of April 05.

ACTION-Denny will send all, including Jack Capp, an electronic copy of the updates.

Question—status of Tree Farm program in your state? Missouri has seen a decline in interest and activity. Program is still good nationally but a lot of emphasis has gone in the last 10 years to the Forest Stewardship Program. In WI went to the Tree Farm certification program. Saving field foresters a lot of time, otherwise each plan needs to be reviewed every five years. In IL one format meet Tree Farm (1100 tree farmers and 80% in UM) and Forest Development Act. Suggestion need to target private landowners UMFP. Think about sponsoring landowner workshops, ie “Light on the Land” workshops. Already have a tri-state landowner conference (WI, IA, IL, MN) always in March. (NOTE—activities of outreach and education conference) MN sponsors landowner workshops through the stewardship committee, not just Extension but whomever wants to put it on. IDEA—connect to state stewardship committees for outreach and education ideas.

UM Investment Plan-Samuel handed out a spreadsheet that the subcommittees could use to organize work. These could be compiled together to organize the investment plan.

Issue

Objective

Planned Activity

Location

Expected Output

Budget

Assumptions

Concerns that the subcommittees would underestimate the needs, not see the big picture.

Looking for broad goals ie to make such an impact on WQ, this is what it will take.

declining WQ.....riparian corridor reforestation

forest fragmentation..... riparian corridor reforestation

declining wildlife habitat ... riparian corridor reforestation how many miles ?????

how much money?????

Also forestland management planning
forest restoration where appropriate, including HEL
Samuel will work on this more for next meeting.

The NA “Forestry Innovation Grants” (FIG) will be replaced starting in FY06 with an
“Investing Where It Matters Most” grant process.

Investing Where it Matters most ideas:

- continue some of the migratory bird projects
- strategically located watershed forester positions

Will discuss further at next steering committee meeting as we do not have any details as to what this grant program will look like.

Next meeting September 7-8, 2005—St. Paul, Minnesota starting 8am. Will consider looking at one of the migratory bird projects on the 8th.