



# Great Lakes-Northern Forest CESU

---

Annual Meeting  
Thursday, May 18, 2006

## Minutes

**Members in attendance:** Sheryl Kunickis, NRCS; Tom Schmidt, USFS; Kirk Lohman, USGS; Bob Rogers, UWSP; Jim Wiener, UWLax; Theresa Coble, SFA; Ron Nickerson, MSU-Mankato; Calder Hibbard, MN Forest Resources Council; Jerrilyn Thompson, NPS; Dorothy H. Anderson, UMN; Raelynn Jones Loss, UMN

**Members in attendance online:** John Anderton, NMU; Richard Straub, UW-M; Gary Vequist, NPS

### **State of the Great Lakes-Northern Forest CESU Questions & Answers**

- Q. How does the GLNF CESU want to be acknowledged in publications?
- A. We need to develop a few sentences on how to thank us in publications in reports – this will help get us recognized more and more by the outside community.
- Q. How much are Universities bringing to the table for cost sharing?
- A. Each university states their cost sharing in different ways. Example: Minnesota State University – Most researchers at Mankato cannot include cost sharing because most research projects cannot cost their university anything (ex. Ron Nickerson cannot put his time on the budget as cost sharing because it would look like the University was putting money out). Other universities such as Michigan Tech cost share tuition. Yet others cost share the difference between the allowable CESU indirect cost rate (17.5%) and their University indirect cost rate. Some universities do not show any cost sharing nor do they show their inkind contributions to projects in their budgets.
- Q. How is the GLNF-CESU website being linked back to from research project (that originated from the CESU) websites?
- A. Mostly this is not happening at all. We need to let our researchers know that we would like our site listed somewhere on their site.

### **Project Presentations**

#### **Community-Agency Trust Project Presentation**

Dorothy H. Anderson, Ph.D., University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources.

#### **Literature Reviews – Water Quality Impacts of Water Table Management & Effects of Tile Drainage on Aquatic Habitat Project Presentation**

Gary Sands, Ph.D. and Jim Anderson Ph. D., University of Minnesota

## New Partner Presentations

### Stephen F. Austin State University; Arthur Temple College of Forestry

- Every undergraduate student is trained as a forester and in their major.
- Arthur Temple College of Forestry is the second or third largest forestry campus in the Southern United States.
- Now offer an online Masters in Resource Interpretation. It was originally designed with the National Park Service in mind, but now is much more diverse.
- There are very few interpretive programs left around the country because there is so little money in parks.
- Arthur Temple is part of distance learning consortium in Natural Resources of which USFS is a member, BLM is participating and NPS and NRCS want to join.
- Only 4% of universities offer online Natural Resource courses.

### University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point; College of Natural Resources

- The University of Wisconsin system consists of four year institutions, two year institutions and technical colleges.
- There are four colleges at Stevens Point, about 9,000 students on campus.
- The College of Natural Resources has about 1,300 students and 10% of the campus faculty – 100 faculty of which 40 are tenured or tenure track.
- There are five disciplines: Water Resources, Soil Resources, Wildlife, Forestry, Human Dimensions.
- There are no departments, just discipline coordinators which have no budget or personnel. This means no huge budget battles. All the budgets and personnel rest in the Dean's office.
- Forestry, Human Dimensions, and Wildlife are the most popular with about 350 students in each.
- For most of the students the B.S. is the terminal degree.
- The graduate program has about 40-60 students.
- They have several centers of educations and outreach: Environmental education, Land Use Education, Global Environmental Management, and several others.
- They own several pieces of property around the campus. Schmekly reserve is not on campus but use as an outdoor lab as it is very close to campus. The Central Environmental Station is near campus where teachers do practicum work and where environmental education students do work.
- They also own TreeHaven – 1,100+ acres 70 miles North of Stevens Point campus. The summer camp program takes place here, all students participate in a six week program to gain field skills. While full of students in the summer, the camp can be reserved for meetings and events outside of the summer.

### University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

- They have a lot invested in their undergraduate research program; it is a \$3,000 stipend and \$500 for supplies. They are looking to place students at parks or forests, etc. This past year they were able to bring three students into one of Jim Wiener's NPS projects.
- La Crosse is increasing their faculty research.
- They have several centers at the University:
  - The River Studies Center is looking to strengthen their expertise areas (i.e. they are looking to hire specialty faculty that can teach general classes such as Botany).

- Mississippi Valley Archeology Center is one of the strongest in the Midwest. They are very good at public outreach and publish many books.
- Recreation Management center
- They have an Oral History program, the sole oral history program in Wisconsin; they recently completed a Mississippi River project and are working on a Hmong refugee project. Jasmine Saros is associated with the program and has received five NSF grants in the last four years.
- They have several upcoming conferences as well:
  - Rivers, 2006
  - International Conference on Mercury as a Pollutant, this will focus on how to be socially relevant not just targeted toward scientists. They used a preliminary workshop to raise money for the conference.

## Discussion with Federal Partners about Research Needs

### U.S. Geological Survey

- Believe that topics agreed upon in 2002 are still relevant.
- The research priorities for the Upper Mississippi Environmental Sciences Center (UMESC) in LaCrosse, WI include:
  - Large river productivity and monitoring (Upper Mississippi)
  - Invasive species – mostly aquatic
  - Habitat monitoring
  - Contaminant work
    - § UMESC has a fairly good sized chemistry and biology group – they were working heavily on lampricides, now they have moved towards pharmaceuticals and pesticides.
- Other centers in our CESU include the Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor, MI, and National Wildlife Health Center in Madison WI.
- How they believe they can work better with the CESU:
  - Work to develop projects with University partners.
  - Work collaboratively with other non-federal researchers.
  - While they don't use a lot of grad students now, they probably will be in the future.

### U.S. Forest Service

- They see the whole 2002 list as fitting somewhere into their priorities.
- The North Central Research Station and the Northeast Research Station are now the new Northern Research Station. It contains 42% of the U.S. population and is the most heavily forested region in the country, of which 90% is privately owned. They are the largest research station in terms of funding, about a 100k research budget; which is the largest in the world.
- Currently the station is working on creating the United Science Program.
- Their research in natural resources look at the landscape scale, and how it affects management on a particular stand rather than looking solely at the stand level.
- Trying to have individuals understand their health, well being and vitality are linked to their community as their community is linked to the environment.
- They have four research themes:
  - Sustainability
  - Urban natural stewardship of community

- Air and water quality
  - Disturbance and restoration
- They would like to provide a whole suite of science within the science community, not just USFS.
- They would like to see 10% of their budget in research and development by 2010 as well as 20% to be partnerships.
- They see the needs of this region to be research on contaminants such as mercury.
- They have a Scientist Recruitment Initiative; they are growing their own scientists by putting their employees as grad students at universities..
- Some of their researchers are joint hires at universities, which provides unified science.
- Their challenge to the CESU:
  - Facilitate research getting done and improve the research being done. Either accomplish this through relationships or facilitate it to be easier to get research done.

#### Natural Resource Conservation Service

- The 2002 list looks like NRCS issues.
- The NRCS does not have research authority, they work with ARS and CSREES to do research.
- Unique to the NRCS – everyone at NRCS can use the CESUs for projects.
- The USDA and the DOE are meeting in August in St. Louis to work on the two major needs of the USDA:
  - Energy – there is a council at the USDA on sustainability
  - Market based initiatives – not just about trading credits, its about valuing our environment. – Example, Batcaves to Bowling Alleys – valued bats against bowling alleys and the batcaves won.
- NRCS is dedicated to partnering with people. Recently attended the White House Cooperative Conservation Conference. When they see a relationship between agencies, those agencies have a better chance of getting projects funded.
- They believe is important to work with external partners outside of the federal government.
- What the CESU can do:
  - There will be a national efficiency workshop in June – follow that.
  - Developing their protocol – unfortunately Sheryl really needs to deal with every project because the protocol is often different for each one.

#### National Park Service

- The 2002 list is still relevant to the NPS.
- The Midwest Region of the NPS has recently completed a science strategy. Thirteen priority issues were identified:
  - Non-native invasive plant and animal species
  - Land use change
  - Water quality and quantity
  - Air quality
  - Wildlife management
  - Rare, threatened and endangered species
  - Ecological restoration
  - Visitor use impacts
  - Fire effects and fire management
  - Physical and geological processes

- Fossil resources
- Climate change
- Inventory and monitoring needs
- They are working to identify overarching regional priorities, needs, and projects that can be addressed in multiple parks.
- Partnering with others is very important for getting research and technical assistance to parks because many impacts come from outside park boundaries, and the NPS doesn't have a 'research' mandate. Developing partnerships is essential for them to meet the goals set out in the science strategy.

### **Items for Possible Inclusion in the CESU Workplan**

- GLNF CESU should develop an acknowledgement statement that would be used by all researchers working on research projects supported by the GLNF CESU.
- Request partner university technical representatives talk to researchers at their institution and request that these researchers acknowledge the CESU when they prepare papers and talks from research supported through the GLNF CESU.
- Possibly develop a workshop or conference to work with tech reps to market the CESU internally (the CD mentioned on the CESU annual work plan could be part of this.). Host University will begin work on a marketing CD for tech reps at partner institutions.
- Should Wisconsin DNR be a member of the CESU? How many members should the CESU have? Should anyone who applies be allowed to join?
- The CESU should have more visibility at conferences. The Midwest Natural Resources Group may be a group the CESU could partner with on future conferences. Raelynn Jones-Loss will contact this group and begin conversations with them.
- Future federal workforce development: Develop a subcommittee to look at ways federal partners might employ undergraduate and graduate students in internships or summer jobs.
- For conference funding: build a team, have attainable goals, a pilot project with high impact and visibility to catch people's eye and enable lobbying for additional funds for further research. Jim Wiener volunteered to head a subcommittee to look into this.
- Think about developing a conference for our partners that would focus on research themes related to the GLNF CESU strategic plan.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.