

MEETING SUMMARY
NC Mountain Resources Technical Advisory Council
February 17, 2012
11:30 - Noon
Bent Creek Experimental Forest Facility
Asheville, NC

Members in Attendance: Jim Fox, Rick Wooten, Todd Cherry, Eric Romaniszyn, Marvin Hoffman, Bill Eaker, Karen Smith, David Ray

Others in Attendance: Rob Bell, Linda Giltz, Judy Francis

Call to Order

Chairman Fox called the meeting to order at 11:30 and welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of February 3, 2012 Meeting Summary

Chairman Fox asked everyone to review the February 3rd meeting summary that had been previously circulated. Marvin Hoffman made a motion to approve the summary as presented. Rick Wooten gave a second to the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Election of TAC Leadership

Judy said that the new MRC bylaws specify that TAC leadership is appointed by the Chairman of the Commission. We need to make a recommendation to the Commission regarding the Chair and Vice-Chair positions on the TAC. Chairman Fox opened the floor for discussion and said he would be willing to serve again if that was the pleasure of the members. The group unanimously supported Jim Fox as Chairman. There was a discussion about Vice-Chair position. Rick Wooten asked Eric Romaniszyn if he would be willing to serve and he said he would. The recommendation that will be forwarded to the MRC Chairman is for Jim Fox to continue to serve as Chairman and for Eric Romaniszyn to serve as Vice-Chair.

Discussion of Project Draft

The group discussed the final draft of the index project and made the following points:

- The state geology map will be updated and is not incorporated yet. Additional geology layers will be added as they become available.
- There are over 160 metrics included. 55 of them are from the original USFS project and 107 new.
- There are 95 maps and hundreds of graphs.
- 2 UNCA students were employed.

- The corrections suggested at the last meeting and additional data sets have been added including housing affordability, correlation between flood events and landslides, education levels, farm values,

Other issues to be determined include need to link to main website and addition of contact info. Google analytics can help us understand what people are looking for on the site and how they find the project. Some data may need frequent updates, but a lot will depend on available resources. About 85% of the data can't be automatically updated. Some data is static though and won't need updating (ex: some geology layers). The economic layers should be updated annually. Todd will help with that as he will soon be resuming the economic index. He will send out a questionnaire and then provide the responses for the MRC to consider.

The members then discussed the concept of shortening the name of the product, and agreed to recommend taking the word "sustainability" out of the title due to the misunderstandings that term has the potential to create. Jim said that the product is all science-based and from trusted sources of information. David Ray mentioned that it might be good to just remove that term from the home page. He will help Jim with revised language. The changes can probably be easily made by RENCI staff, so the group did not see a need for another meeting before April.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Rick Wooten made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Todd Cherry and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:25.