

FOREST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2020

FMAC IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Jeff Stampfly, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
Dr. Ellen Holste, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute
Mr. Chris Fredericks (for Leslie Auriemmo), United States Forest Service, Huron-Manistee
Mr. Scott Robbins, Michigan Forest Products Council
Mr. Gary Melow (Chair), Michigan Biomass
Mr. Warren Suchovsky, Suchovsky Logging
Mr. Ben Schram, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)
Ms. Makhayla LaButte (for Amy Trotter), Michigan United Conservation Clubs of Michigan
Dr. Richard Kobe, Michigan State University (MSU)
Mr. Bill Botti, Michigan Forest Association

FMAC ADVISORS IN ATTENDANCE

None

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Debbie Begalle, MDNR
Mr. Mike Walters, Michigan State University (MSU)
Mr. Keith Kintigh, MDNR
Ms. Kathleen Lavey, MDNR

- I. **Welcome** – Gary Melow, Chair
Chair Melow called the April 15, 2020 Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. He thanked all for attending.

- II. **Consent Agenda**
 - **Adoption of April 15, 2020 Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) Meeting Agenda**

It was noted that on item number 6, Carbon Markets Update, there were no updates to report on, and it was requested this item be removed from the agenda.
Mr. Suchovsky moved to adopt the April 15 FMAC meeting agenda, as amended; supported by **Mr. Robbins**. Adoption of the April 15 FMAC agenda was supported unanimously.
 - **Adoption of February 22, 2020 FMAC Meeting Minutes**

Noted corrections: Page 4, first paragraph, should read “Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program” rather than “Michigan Agriculture Environmental Insurance Program”; Page 6, Dr. Kobe noted a change to item c to change “MIFPE” to “MIFBI – Michigan Forest Biomaterials Institute”; Mr. Bill Botti noted a change from “Extinguished” speaker to “Distinguished” speaker at Michigan State University; on page 2, under #5, Ms. Begalle was asked to be removed as only Mr. Stampfly reported out for the State Forester report.
Mr. Suchovsky moved to adopt the corrected February 22, 2020 FMAC meeting minutes, supported by Dr. Kobe. Adoption of the amended February 22, 2020 FMAC meeting minutes was supported unanimously.

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Election of Vice Chair and Other Vacancies (who is represented and who needs to be)

Chair Melow began by commenting that assuming the Chair and Vice Chair would be a non-Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) representative, he asked for volunteers.

Chair Melow stated that according to the bylaws, the FMAC should have acted at the last meeting to replace Vice Chair Bill Manson. He recommended that the FMAC at least elect a replacement Vice Chair to fill the remainder of Mr. Manson's term, to serve until the end of this year, and then to hold a round of elections at the first meeting next year and every 2 years thereafter, to get back on schedule. This was agreed to by the FMAC members in attendance.

Nominations: **Chair Melow** commented that as Vice Chair, the person adopted would have to run a meeting from time to time. Since Mr. Suchovsky had served as Vice Chair before, Chair Melow nominated Mr. Suchovsky to fill the remainder of Mr. Manson's term. He asked for other nominations; there were none. He asked for all those in favor; Mr. Suchovsky was elected unanimously as Vice Chair to serve out the remainder of Mr. Manson's term. Chair Melow thanked Mr. Suchovsky for his service.

- **Discussion on Nomination for Trail User Representative** – Committee

Chair Melow stated the FMAC had held conversations the last couple of meetings, and that it now has two tasks; one to nominate and elect a Vice Chair, and two to fill a vacancy. The FMAC has been talking about the possibility of recruiting the new member from a trail users' group. Chair Melow asked to discuss filling the vacancy first.

Mr. Jeff Stampfly, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, commented that at the last meeting they had talked about the FMAC vacancy that is to replace Bill Manson. It fell off the table for a bit, but he has now been discussing meeting with the MDNR Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) to come up with a replacement for the FMAC. He stated that is where it sits although it is ongoing. **Mr. Stampfly** reported he also has some homework to do before Ms. Begalle leaves and hopes to have a nomination at the next meeting.

Mr. Suchovsky commented that appointments for the FMAC are made by the director of the MDNR which Ms. Begalle confirmed. **Ms. Begalle** commented that she didn't think the FMAC had replaced anyone while she's been on the committee, so wasn't sure of the process. **Chair Melow** asked if the MDNR would be filling vacancies in both committees at the same time, the FMAC and the Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council (TFPAC). **Ms. Begalle** responded that the TFPAC had discussed and supported a couple of people to be appointed and those names are being moved forward to the director. **Mr. Stampfly** confirmed that the TFPAC appointments are already in process. He reiterated that he would talk with PRD to let them know the FMAC is looking for a new appointment.

Dr. Holste suggested the North Country Trail Association. She commented that she has been talking with them and they are a group that may be interested in serving on the FMAC. **Mr. Suchovsky** commented that he didn't see why the FMAC couldn't have a representative of "silent sports trail activities" as well as one for motorized trails, since the two groups have now merged together. **Chair Melow** responded that he didn't know if the FMAC needs representatives from both user groups. His tendency is to have someone in

that position who understands trails in general. He commented that he knows there is a Parks Commission but doesn't know how they would function in that position. He would prefer someone with knowledge of all trail users. He believes the Michigan Trails Advisory Council would be a good resource to get someone from. He went on to say it is the directive of the MDNR to find someone with the attributes the FMAC is looking for. He finished the conversation by saying the FMAC will put a name in for nomination, and then present the nomination to the MDNR's director.

- V. **Update on the Walters/Roloff Research Project** – Mike Walters, Michigan State University
Mr. Walters thanked the FMAC for the invitation and stated he was happy to talk about the project. He said he would also cover what they have been doing for public and professional development outreach.

Mr. Walters reported that northern hardwoods are predominantly single trees or small groups that rely on regeneration naturally by caps and periodic harvest. They define sustainable management of systems as a diverse set of species that is resilient in the face of climate change, pests, etc. They found in a lot of the work they've done over the last 20 years that, including state forests, industrial forests and fed inventory data, tree regeneration is off and poorly stocked, with low diversity and at least in this part of the world beech and ironwood dominated.

In the Lake Superior snowbelt they found some places where the system seems to be working. They found a selection of silviculture and deer, tree generation in small gaps, both beech and ironwood. Problems challenge the sustainability of these systems. You may need to change the silviculture or try something other than selection silviculture but there are other factors to overcome such as continued high deer populations, establishment substrates, and competing vegetation. Northern hardwood systems need to be increasingly managed by more gentle harvesting methods, i.e. equipment that causes very little interruptions onsite.

Another possibility would be to selectively harvest, but unless you treat stems and beech, and ironwood understory you still have understory dominating advanced regeneration. Something needs to be done about that.

They did find things that are hopeful regarding high deer populations and other issues. On the Emmet County site, on state land a couple miles out of Goodheart, they found that the larger openings and physical obstructions like treetops, equals less browsing pressure. They were actually getting recruitments of fast-growing birches and aspen, etc. There is a potential of being able to raise trees with high deer pressures with larger harvest openings. They found that scarification is really improved. They also found poor advance regeneration can be controlled with herbicides. They found that scarification is really improved and found poor advance regeneration can be controlled with herbicides.

Given this backdrop, Mr. Walters and Gary Roloff worked to establish a study to find solutions. The goal was to find non-silvicultural practices to promote regeneration. The challenge was to raise trees despite high deer populations. They implemented this across the hardwoods in Michigan because of variation in site quality, deer density and populations, etc. **Mr. Suchovsky** asked about results and large vs. small acreage; **Mr. Walters** stated they found that if they had gaps between a quarter to half a half acre, conditions were much improved. The maximum study was .7 acres, and above a quarter acre worked better.

Mr. Walters stated they established a study where they dispersed 140 30-acre stands over state and industry lands. About 25 to 27 stands were on industry land including Hancock Holdings east of Shingleton and KRG, a former GMO in Menomonee, Dickinson and Keweenaw. They came up with a way to impose four overstory and two understory treatments. The four overstory were single tree and small groups, with three systems they call novel silvicultural systems. The three other treatments are a group patch cut treatment which includes gaps one-quarter acre in size up to an acre in size (236 feet), and in those treatments they cut 35-40% of the area. They used a shelterwood treatment that was designed to leave about 50% cover, and the basal area was about 50 feet squared per basal area. They left large, good seed-bearing trees in that treatment. The C treatment had the same sort of criteria, dispersed trees – things like Hemlock, and left protective trees around the split up with a total number of 140 sites. On 70 sites they imposed a leaf top treatment and left slash on the ground. The other half of the stand they applied herbicide with advanced regeneration, followed by scarification treatments. **Mr. Botti** asked if they established that deer are the problem; **Mr. Walters** replied that they are part of the problem.

Focusing on the forestry part of it, the idea was to impose the treatments and then follow for several years, looking at the vegetation and looking at browsing damage on the saplings, and then Mr. Roloff monitored deer use. There are multiple cameras on 60 sites where they will be able to, with motion cameras, be able to quantify deer use of the sites. Ultimately, they will be able to put together the effect of silvicultural treatments on vegetation and deer interaction on these sites. At the 5-year mark it is a good time to look at deer browsing impacts; at the 10-year mark the experience says you can pretty well call what was successfully recruited, beyond deer and shrubs.

In 2016 they went through with Michigan State University crews with help from Michigan Technological University, to locate and mark stands. In 2017 then went into all 140 stands, established a 25-point grid which is permanently marked, and measured vegetation. In September of 2017 and by March of 2018 all stands were harvested. They marked and MDNR foresters took over the administration. They lost a couple of stands but got almost all of them done. It was a testament to the hard work of the field foresters, district managers, etc. This summer there is planned scarification on half of the sites and in 2022 they plan to do tree regeneration measured in 2-year scarification treatments, 5-year focus on deer impacts, post herbicide scarification, and at the 10-year mark they should know what they're going to do for leaf top treatments by 2027.

Mr. Walters went on to pre-harvest results. Students are working on early post-harvest pre-regeneration results. They have all their early pre-harvest results and the students did some modeling on what the driving pattern is.

Early results pre-harvest:

Saplings – 2 to 4-inch saplings

Saw timber size class stems

Zero to 2-inch diameter maple saplings; measures of deer youth based on pellet counts.

Expectations based on Arbogast NH guide post-harvest.

This shows that if you use Arbogast to define what you should have; your saw class by and large is well stocked. Pole and saffron classes are understocked. One reason is that a lot of the stands selected for harvesting is more like thinning. There's been as little development of a regeneration class as possible. Regardless the stands have been subject to selective marking for quite a while, some due to deer and some that were the youngest stands.

Sapling and pole classes are understocked; saw class is overstocked; there is a saw class dominance across the stands. Beech and ironwood were not included in the diagrams. This tells you the structure that you assume in these stands based on uneven aged management is not happening. And the sapling class being largely missing of the desired stems, could be a function of high deer population.

There are large areas where density is quite low; many are of the Southcentral Upper Peninsula; there's nothing going on there. Most of those stands have far fewer than 200 stands per acre. Much of northern Lower Peninsula is in tough shape too.

Given the size class that could be from a relatively high basal area, but that doesn't seem to be the case. There is a lot of evidence for beech and ironwood size class (0 to 2 inch), but maples and other desirable species not so much.

Areas are characterized by pretty high beech and ironwood density. There is not much to eat in those stands for deer; they formed a sub-density in stands so there is nothing to eat in the southern UP area.

Bottom line is there is a lot of saw timber in stands; Kathryn is looking at age, distribution of stems. In 60 of the stands she cut about 25-30 basal cookies from trees of all sizes and has found that the stands by and large are about 110 years old (a lot of them), and mostly even-aged stands. They have hardly found a sapling that's less than 30 to 50 years old.

From other work looked at, it would suggest that they have another 30 to 40 years of time to continue to selectively harvest, at declining productivity, before you run out of trees. After that, the quality begins to decline. The time to do something is now, move forward for the sake of wood quality.

Early Results – Resources – public outreach, Michigan public radio, a couple of newspaper articles in collaboration with a Bill Cook segment, developed flier, developed website, and have done a lot of professional development and outreach. They have tried to get word out to forest managers, districts, industry, and see this as being an exercise in adaptive management. Preliminary results can be observed and applied elsewhere. This is a very effective means of having results adopted in forest management. They will be presenting at other venues as well and have had an invitation to present to the United States Forest Service.

Meetings with Staff – Tim Greco organized an experiment of equipment that could be used for scarification of the sites. He did a demonstration that involved field staff and did demonstrations and comparisons of use of scarification near Shingleton. It's a partnership and co-development – researchers are paid to follow things up, and they know statistics. The guys in the field have the best ideas for implementation.

Chair Melow commented that the FMAC had toured a site by Frederic, Michigan and felt it would be beneficial to have interpretive signage for these sites. He asked if anything was done in that regard. He thought there was some signage where they were leaving slash and stuff. The response was that they think the MDNR did something along those lines, but it would have been at the time harvest was occurring. **Mr. Walters** added that they have a flier at the district office that explains what they are doing and signs up to ask people not to grab firewood. **Chair Melow** asked Mr. Stamply to follow-up on what signage, if any, is at these sites. He would like follow-up with the

field to see if there was signage, how many sites, verbiage, etc., and asked Mr. Stampfly to give a brief overview of what's been done, what's working, and what isn't.

Chair Melow asked if under a business as usual scenario we 30 to 40 years of supply left and won't have to resource. **Mr. Walters** responded as a small point of clarification on the synopsis at the end, he would argue the following. Yes, given business as usual we will run out of trees/trees of quality to harvest in a few decades if lack of recruitment from smaller classes persists and given age-related declines in wood quality. However, the time to find and employ new management approaches to get the regeneration we want is now. New age cohorts of desirable trees are needed now to help fill the coming northern hardwood wood supply trough. In other words, we can't continue to practice business as usual and liquidate everything 40 years from now and then regenerate stands. If we did that, we would have nothing to begin harvesting until 60 years after that.

Chair Melow thanked Mr. Walters for his presentation who responded he is happy to present at any time.

VI. Carbon Market Update – David Price, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) None; **Mr. Price** indicated there were no updates to give since the last time he presented in front of the FMAC.

VII. Bat HCP Update – Keith Kintigh, MDNR

Mr. Keith Kintigh thanked the FMAC for the opportunity to give an update on the progress of the Lake States Habitat Conservation Plan (Lake States HCP). He reported that hibernating bats in Michigan are in decline because of white nosed syndrome. They will eventually probably all be listed as endangered; the long-eared nosed is listed as endangered and the tricolor and little brown bat are on the way to being listed as well.

Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin are currently developing the Lake States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan. Developing an HCP is complex and time-consuming. Once approved by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, states can apply for a federal permit. The permit would allow the incidental take of Indiana bats, northern long-eared bats, little brown bats, and tricolored bats during normal forest management activities across the three states.

Under the Lake States HCP, once they become endangered, private landowners will have to consider forest management to be conducted without interfering with the endangered species. The MDNR is in the public comment period for a portion of plan (chapters 4 and 5 and Appendix E). Minnesota and Wisconsin are doing this at the same time and will be compiling feedback and modifying the draft plan as appropriate. They will be seeking public comment on the remaining chapters later this summer. Highlights of some of the changes being made follow:

The most important part is a proposed conservation measure listed in chapter 5; enrollees would have to apply these measures to their land. There are 5 goals to the measure:

Goal 1: management and sustainability

Goal 2: retention guidelines objective – states will continue to maintain a 150-foot bumper around known roost trees (occupancy within the last 25 years), about 1.6 acres around trees. Special buffer around Indiana bat known roost trees of 2.5 miles. Would impact state game areas and state parks.

Goal 3: promoting stewardship.

Goal 4: developing hibernacula; a quarter mile buffer around each hibernaculum is in place already. Objective: maintaining gates.

Goal 5: avoid negative activities; protect roost trees during prescribed burns and during season restrictions; tree removal within 150 feet or 2.5 miles of known roost trees and hibernacula.

Mortality estimates and offsets from conservation benefits, and species is impacted so severely, our estimate mortality is very low. Indiana – 50-year term of plan loses 2 bats, less than 100 for little brown bat, 8 annually across all ownerships for tricolor bat – less than one annually.

There will be additional opportunities to provide public comment. They will take public comment for the last 3 chapters and then during the scoping. There is not a lot of detail on land enrollment yet, but there will probably be significant land amounts. The plan will include distribution maps, etc.

You can Google Michigan Bat HCP and there are downloadable chapters. The MDNR is seeking comment on. Comments will be sent to Ms. Mary Rabe. You can also contact Mr. Keith Kintigh. From the state's perspective, we're happy with the approach taken in these conservation measures. The MDNR received some pushback on the models proposed but were successful in recommending a less impactful approach. **Ms. Begalle** commented that this has been a long process, and the MDNR was thrilled to get chapters 4 and 5 done. It could have been more restrictive or difficult to measure and employ. Forest certification has helped all 3 states, but there is a way to go yet. The MDNR has a good team working on this and are getting there.

Mr. Suchovsky commented he had been out in the bush a lot and hadn't seen any roosting trees; he asked what to look for. **Mr. Kintigh** responded that states will have to describe monitoring efforts moving forward. The appendix describes what maternity roost tree looks like. He doesn't think there are any in the upper peninsula. He said to look for flaky bark and larger diameters. The preference is different by species. Little brown bats like old structures.

VIII. State Forester's Report – Deb Begalle or Jeff Stampfly, MDNR

- **Legislative Updates** – [February 13, 2020](#), [March 19, 2020](#). The FMAC was told to view at their leisure; there was no discussion.
- **Timber Advisory Council Update** – Gary Melow
Chair Melow reported the Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council (formerly Timber Advisory Council – TFPAC) continue to deal with meeting issues due to the state shutdown. **Ms. Begalle** reported there are two new member recommendations currently with the Director, and the bylaws were updated and should be posted soon.

Ms. Begalle reported she is on the last 2 days of state employment; she will be retired officially tomorrow. She stated that Mr. Jeff Stampfly is the Acting Chief and State Forester going forward. He has as many years in state service as she does and she's happy that he accepted the acting position. She knows he'll do a great job.

She commented that most of their time over the last 3 weeks has been dealing with current environment and executive orders that have come across their desks. One hundred percent of Forest Resource Division (FRD) staff is telecommuting, and they were geared up previously to this happening. The transition for FRD and a good part of the MDNR went well. It has been

conservative as far as interpretation; FRD staff have not been doing any field work and are dealing with most timber sales issues via phone. The FRD suspended bid openings for a few weeks but will probably start up again after May 1. The FRD is trying to keep its staff safe and to minimize contact. For this fire season burn permits for debris burning will not be issued. They want to minimize staff running on fires. The division will see what happens after April 30, and whether FRD can do some modifications and get staff back out in the field. The division is still getting mail and receiving checks for timber sales. There has been a hiring and spending freeze imposed on the department, and they have certain criteria to meet to get approval. The whole state is trying to figure out where its at financially.

The FRD currently has five staff at Cobo working the incident command team for a couple weeks on COVID19 efforts. The division suspended prescribed burning. It is an interesting time, and the division is doing the best it can and will see what happens at end of month. Ms. Begalle assumes there will still be some limitations.

Forest action plan – it is a federal requirement to receive federal grant funds (fire, health, legacy), and there was a deadline of June 1. The MDNR has asked the forest service to push that deadline back and believes it will get an extension.

The North Country Trail (NCT) and Association that Dr. Holste mentioned goes through Michigan and the MDNR has had NCT on state lands for quite a while. The MDNR does not put a buffer around the trail; they mark it etc. and had a recent timber sale. Nine hundred feet of the trail went through a red pine clearcut. Foresters contacted the contractor; the sale isn't done and will be administered again next year. One of FRD's managers walked it with his kid with a camera and had his 8-year-old hike ahead of him to see if she could keep track of the trail. The MDNR will follow up on any concerns or complaints.

Mr. Stampfly discussed other states related to COVID. He said he has had contact with a couple of northeastern and northwestern state foresters, and it's been interesting to hear what others are doing in response. Some are somewhat consistent, i.e. the have stopped camping, most have left their trail systems open, a lot are talking about what to do with nurseries, most have some reduction in place, others are still able to everything they were able to do prior to COVID. It is kind of "quite restrictive" to "still fairly liberal."

Mr. Suchovsky asked what's going on with the markets for timber products; he has heard some mills are not taking in wood, others won't take in some species, etc. **Ms. Begalle** responded that the trend is everything is slowing down. Brenda Haskill and Dave Neumann stay in touch, and they have seen a significant slowdown. Weight restrictions are still on in some areas, and construction in much of the nation has slowed down and industry has followed suit.

Mr. Robbins stated we need to get residential construction going again. His group has been working with the governor. Markets are filling up because those products are not being used. **Ms. Begalle** the effort the MDNR has been taking while monitoring is a reduction in the minimum bid and cost-free extensions on sales expiring on June 30. There is quite a bit on contract with the state and there is wood out there on contract but in certain areas they are only taking certain species. They are working with people to get stands up, bid or no-bid, and will put it up again. They are trying to be proactive and monitor the market.

Mr. Suchovsky said he heard from loggers with the lower demand for hardwood saw logs they are hesitant to buy sales that have a lot of hardwood logs on them, but if it's strictly pulpwood they can't do that either. He asked if that could determine what sort of sales to put up in the future. **Ms. Begalle** responded they would have to hear from folks on what is selling and what isn't. It would be difficult to get done what they had planned to do and have some contractors who are continuing to work. They are working to get approval to continue to plant trees and are working through a lot. Any feedback from mills or producers will be helpful to decide on which stands to put up.

IX. Action Items Follow-up – none

X. New Standing Items

Timber Harvest Numbers - Mr. Stampfly reported that when we get past the “stay home stay safe” order and are able to get a handle on where they're at, they will know more. This coincides with weight restrictions; things have slowed down because access is tough. If he were making an educated guess right now, he can't really get a handle on it. They've talked about prioritizing what they could put out for bid first. They would put up sites with good access and good ground first, then begin looking at the rest of this year's Plan of Work and try to prioritize from there.

XI. Standing Discussion Items

- Trails - none
- Communications from the Field - none
- FMAC Member Program Updates

Scott Robbins, Michigan Forest Products Council - Mr. Robbins reported SFI training has mostly been canceled; they are working to get online training to get 4 hours earned, hopefully pretty soon. With CORE training, they were able to do three-quarters using Zoom and teleconferencing, they just can't do a field tour until the “stay home” order is lifted. Some folks may have difficulty getting all their training completed. They will have about 11 hours of various online training available.

Ellen Holste, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute – Dr. Holste reported things have changed; they've canceled programs through the end of May. They are looking at online resources. There were happy to see the MDNR's nature videos. The California state parks system has been doing a lot of online for teachers and students, and this is something she'd like to talk with the MDNR about. It's a great way of highlighting things. She thinks this time is bringing out the creativity in people. As a family, the Run for the Trees 5K for planting of trees on state parks has been a nice thing to look forward to, and she appreciates the MDNR doing the virtual 5K. With her own work, she has been learning how to use video and technology, etc. to get stuff out to people.

Chris Frederick, USFS Huron-Manistee – Chris congratulated Ms. Begalle on her retirement and commented on the good relationship they've had through Good Neighbor Authority, etc. They have been working through the executive order and how to continue operations the best they can by converting to a virtual work force. They do have some folks coming in to do timber sale administration. They are going to be doing sale extensions for their timber sales in the national forest. They are looking at firefighting efforts nationally and looking at how COVID ties into those operations. They have contracts that are still ongoing. They are trying to figure out

the tension between the state and national forests. In Michigan, all national forests have postponed planting for this year; it will be picked up next spring.

Andrew Storer, Michigan Tech – Dr. Storer reported that Michigan Technological Institute has moved all classes to a distance education format, including lab classes. To facilitate this, faculty have held multiple meetings to discuss distance teaching. Student feedback has been provided on multiple occasions, and faculty are to continue to receive formal training in online course delivery. Overall things are going very well and feedback from the students has been positive. All agree that distance education is not the ideal, but they are willing to work through it. Summer classes will at least start as distance education, and they are closely monitoring the situation for later in the summer and into the fall. Summer Field Camp will be held remotely over 11 weeks during the summer.

Research has been greatly slowed down as a result of the stay at home order. They hope there will soon be more guidance relating to outdoor, field-based research that is very low risk from a pandemic perspective. Proposals continue to be submitted and funded during this time.

Michigan Tech has established a certified COVID-19 testing lab which is about to start receiving samples from Western UP hospitals to help with the need to do Coronavirus testing. We expect this to scale up in the coming weeks.

- [Registered Forester Board](#)
No discussion.

XII. Next Meeting Date

Meeting Date: July 15, 2020

Location: TBD, normally field tour; possibly virtual

XIII. Future Agenda Items

None

Chair Melow adjourned the April 15 FMAC meeting at 3:34 p.m.