

MOHAWK TRAIL WOODLANDS PARTNERSHIP

Forest-Based Economic Development and Conservation

Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership

Executive Committee Minutes

August 20, 2020

Zoom Virtual Meeting hosted by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments as allowed by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker's Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provision of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30 sec.20.

Attendance

MTWP Executive Committee Members

H. Art, Chair – Williamstown MTWP Board Member
J. Nowak – Adams MTWP Board Member
B. O'Connor - EOEEA

MTWP Staff

T. Matuszko, Executive Director - BRPC
P. Sloan, Director of Planning & Development – FRCOG
M. Buccowich - USFS Liaison

MTWP Board Members

A. Peteroy - FLT
R. Chandler, Vice Chair – Ashfield

Actions

H. Art called the MTWP Executive Committee meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

R. Chandler reported that the MTWP Bylaws Subcommittee met and prepared possible amendments which were distributed to MTWP Executive Committee members prior to the meeting. P. Sloan highlighted the substantive changes proposed to the bylaws. Discussion followed including whether changing the section on meetings to allow teleconferencing during health emergencies was needed since the Governor has issued an order allowing teleconferencing during the pandemic. The advantages of Zoom meetings for smaller groups such as the MTWP Executive Committee and Subcommittees was discussed. The topic needs further discussion at the MTWP Board meeting since there was preference for in-person meetings during normal times.

B. O'Connor reported that the RFP to hire an Administrative Agent has been delayed. The timeline needed to issue the RFP and receive and review proposals was discussed. In order to provide time for the process, including the Administrative Agent Subcommittee review and preparation of recommendations it was decided to move the next MTWP Board meeting back to November 17, 2020.

The MTWP Executive Committee reviewed agenda items for the next meeting

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including: 1) Review, Discussion and Potential Vote on the MTWP Region joining the Forest Legacy Program; 2) Review, Discussion and Prioritization of Possible USFS Research Projects for the MTWP Region; 3) Review, Discussion and Vote for the Administrative Agent for the MTWP and 4) Review, Discussion and Vote to amend the MTWP Bylaws.

M. Buccowich reported on items important to the MTWP including the appointment of Gina Owens as the new Regional Forester for Region 9 (20 States including Massachusetts) and the presentation on the MTWP by B. O'Connor at the Region 9 Planners Group. M. Buccowich also announced that the Request for Applications for the U.S. Forest Service Community Forest Program 2021 has been released with proposals due on January 11, 2021. In addition, the FY 2021 Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) competitive grant program has been announced which provides funding for priorities identified in State Forest Action Plan which includes forest conservation in the MTWP region. Objectives for the Landscape Scale Restoration Program include conserving fish and wildlife habitats and important forest ecosystems. The [LSR website](#) has more about the program and how to apply. Applications must be received by 6 p.m. EST on September 17, 2020.

Votes (All votes taken by roll call)

B. O'Connor moved to approve the July 16, 2020 MTWP Executive Committee meeting minutes. H. Art seconded the motion. There were no suggested changes. Minutes approved unanimously.

J. Nowak moved to recommend the proposed amendments prepared by the MTWP Bylaws Subcommittee except for the addition of allowing teleconferencing which requires further discussion by the MTWP Board. H. Art seconded the motion and requested that the dates Berkshire County towns opted in be added to the Appendix. Unanimously approved.

Adjourn: J. Nowak moved to adjourn at 3:07 p.m. H. Art seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.