

Managing the Impacts of Changes in Wisconsin's Land Use and Forest Ownership

Preventing and Mitigating Forest Fragmentation and Parcelization



SESSION FORMAT

Champion: Lisa MacKinnon
Lead Facilitator: Suzanne Wade
Total number of participants: 88

Objectives for session.

- To get agreement from stakeholders on the goals relating to preventing and mitigating forest fragmentation and parcelization
- To identify, prioritize and establish general agreement on a list of actions to achieve implementation of the goals
- To create action plans for implementing the priority actions
- To get a commitment from stakeholders to work toward implementing the action plans and achieving the goals

Session Format: *(For more detailed info on format, see Appendix A)*

- I. **Introductions of Theme Team and Overview of Session** (Theme Champion—10 min. allotted)
- II. **Introductory Power Point Presentation Covering the Session Theme and Goals** (30 min. allotted)
 - General intro and three goal groups presented by theme champion and members of leadership team
 - This was done in power point format.
 - The power point slides for the intro and each goal generally were developed by the individual presenters and then the theme champion edited, formatted and compiled the final power point
- III. **Introduction of Process for the Session** (Facilitator – 15 minutes allotted)

The following was done via a power point presentation:

 - Handed out action lists – top lists plus appendix with all other actions
 - Reviewed process the leadership team had engaged in to this point and went over methodology for conference session.
 - Discussed small group process: reviewed Priority Actions, took questions
 - Discussed breaking into groups based on action type within goal
 - Reviewed top actions, discuss which people are interested in working on each action. Divide further if group wishes to work on individual actions.
 - Reviewed action planning steps.
 - Summarized actions on an overhead
 - Return to your larger group of 27 – 30 where you will review each others work and make comments.
 - At 11:45 come back together in this room to summarize your whole groups work. We will need one volunteer from each of the three goal groups to make this presentation. Each goal will be given 10 – 12 minutes.
 - End with questions and what will happen next.

- Introduced 2 other facilitators.
- Goal One Suzanne Wade, Goal Two Susan Gilchrist, Goal Three Julie Graziano
- Took Show of hands for each Goal group. Gave meeting room directions.

IV. **Goal Breakout Sessions Summary** (30 minutes allotted for the three breakout goal groups)

- The participants first broke into *three groups* based on the three goals identified by the leadership team.
- Each of these groups had posters in their rooms with the main goal and then all the related priority actions listed.
- They discussed all the action categories and actions for the goal.
- Each participant had the opportunity prior to the conference to rate the actions based on their own view of priorities. They were also given an opportunity to add new actions that the leadership team had not added. So the posters reflected not just the opinions of the leadership team members, but also those of the participants who were registered and who took the time to fill out the survey (17 leadership team members plus 24 registered participants)

V. **Action Planning Breakout Session Summary** (1 hour 45 minutes allotted)

- The three goal groups then broke into smaller groups of three for each goal group.
- The action planning breakout groups were divided into *nine groups total for the whole session* (3 action category groups for each of the three goals)
- Prior to the conference session at least one leadership team member had been assigned to be in each of the breakout groups as a resource and quasi-facilitator of the discussion.

VI. **Whole Group reconvened in main room** (35 minutes allotted)

- A leadership team member representing at least each goal and some representing each action category group reported progress to all participants (i.e, actions selected and key steps.)
- Comment sheets were handed out for anyone to make comments or suggestions or to volunteer to work on implementing an action.

VII. **Questions and Comments and wrap up of session** (10 minutes allotted)

Summary:

- Overall, I think our session was very well planned and organized.
- Having professional facilitators to help the theme champion plan and run the session was *absolutely* essential.
- I think that having the web-based survey re: the priority actions prepared and sent out to registered session participants before the conference so they could give their input in advance was critical. It saved us a lot of time. Not all participants chose to submit the survey beforehand but they all had that opportunity; so when we held the session it was easier to hit the ground running and move toward action planning. I received just two comments re: the session that indicated the participant thought it was too planned out or settled by the time they got to the session. But again, they had the opportunity to influence the direction of the priority actions before they attended.
- I think the introductory power point presentation was good—it set the stage and gave participants a preview of what was expected of them in the session
- We had a number of visuals--both power point handouts and large posters with the web-survey reprinted and the action categories and priority actions listed. I think these were useful in providing information and getting the participants to focus on the task.
- Things felt a bit rushed near the end. Next time I would leave a little more time for the wrap-up presentations to the whole group and for questions or comment.

BACKGROUND ON HOW WE DEVELOPED GOALS & PRIORITY ACTIONS:

As part of its conference preparation, the Leadership Team for this session developed 3 Main Goals to address the theme of Preventing and Mitigating Forest Fragmentation and Parcelization:

Goal # 1: Maintain and expand viable tracts of forest land for ecological, economic and social values.

Goal # 2: Promote public understanding & appreciation of forests & the need to prevent forest fragmentation and parcelization.

Goal # 3: Identify economically, ecologically & socially important forest lands.

After establishing the goals, the Leadership Team developed a broad list of possible actions that might achieve the three goals. Those proposed actions were then integrated into a web-based survey. All leadership team members were required to fill out the web-based survey in order to determine which actions would be considered priority actions. From the result of this initial survey, the team then refined the proposed priority actions (deleted those actions that scored extremely low, were redundant or needed clarification, etc.). They then sent the revised web-based survey to all registered participants of the conference session so that they could also prioritize the proposed actions, as well as add new actions for consideration.

The results were then scored, with a score of 2.0 or higher (out of 3.0) indicating a “priority action” to be addressed through action planning at the conference.

****** TO VIEW THE WEB MATRIX AND THE SCORING CRITERIA PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT ENTITLED: “PreConference Web Survey”**

******TO VIEW THE LIST OF PRIORITY ACTIONS, SCORES AND THE APPENDIX OF ALL ACTIONS PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT ENTITLED: “Priority Actions. Land Use Session. V1.xls”**