

November 10, 2020

MFC

Zoom Meeting

Participants: Gordy Sanders & Scott Kuehn – *Pyramid Mountain Lumber*, Paul McKenzie, Chuck Roady & Cameron Wohlschlegel– *FH Stoltze*, Jason Todhunter, Tim McEntire & Coleen Michael – *Montana Logging Association*, Bruce Rowland – *Stimson Lumber*, Roger Ziesak – *MT DNRC*, Jared Richardson & Tom Ray - *Weyerhaeuser*, Skyler Hoefer – *Idaho Forest Group*, David Nikonow – *National Wild Turkey Federation*, Peter Kolb & Cindy Peterson – *MSU Extension Forestry*, Christine Johnson – *Nine Mile Venture*, Brian Sugden – *American Forest Management*, Rich Lane – *Willis Enterprises, Inc.*

MFC Administrator: Julia Altemus

Guests: Barry Graden, Nadine Block, Gordy Mouw - SFI Program

Chairman's Welcome & Anti-Trust Statement: Gordy Sanders

June 23, 2020 Minutes: Paul moved to approve. Bruce offered a second. Motion carried

SFI Standard Revision Comments: Scott commented on the SFI Standard Revision, Montana made comments and are waiting for response from SFI. Jared, different subcommittees (fiber sourcing and forest management) Gordy M, Standard Revision, MFC commented on several of the proposed revisions. The task groups have all met, still working on forest management. Fiber sourcing and chain of custody are done. 2021 SFI Board approval in the spring, will see enhancements that outline the changes. Not many major changes, but will be some around climate change, water quality, water quantity. Should finalize by April/May and the final out by the end of 2021. Have the year of 2022 to implement or decide to be audited to the current standard or the new 2022 standard. Barry Graden, encourage council members visit the website...www.forests.org. Go to the Standards tab and then the proposed versions vs the current standards. The old website will be up for about 2 years but will slowly transition to the new website. Redlined from what is proposed to change. Nadine said there will be a webinar on December 17 11:00 MST to review proposed changes. Barry reminded everyone that the email addresses have changed as well and will slowly switch over to forests.org. Barry highlighted information provided in the supporting documents.

SFI Forest Partners' Program: Nadine Block and Barry Graden – SFI, Nadine said the Partner's Program has been around for years and is intended to grow the program across land management jurisdictions, including agencies. The program has been successful in growing land certification and mill certification. Washington state lands are SFI certified. Dan Rogers has been contacted to make him aware of the program and opportunities that exist. SFI has particular interest in certifying lands in the Pacific Northwest. They have reached out to IDL and MT DNRC. Dan's message is similar as IDL. Montana must manage state trust lands for school revenues. Forest markets are important to their program and need to hear from Montana timber manufacturers. SFI drafted the letter to Dan. Maybe the MFC as the SFI SIC would sign. Idaho member companies would prefer to make individual contacts with IDL and that is certainly an option for Montana as well. Gordy S wanted to know what the main concerns are that are raised during the process. Barry said each state is different and has different questions or positions. State agencies are very front facing to the public and are careful of the optics. Nadine said that states

(like mills) need a cost benefit analysis. Paul wanted to know if a market analysis regarding preference by the consumers to buy state certified wood? Any data, or empirical information available? Barry said that they do not know if there is a premium for stumpage for state lands that are certified. Empirical feedback from some states are the bids are better because other markets open up. Gordy S wanted to know how the MFC would want to proceed? Julia suggested individual conversations with the DNRC as not all mills belong to the MFC. Jared would like to encourage the state to be SFI certified but recognize there are significant hurdles to overcome. Bruce agrees individual companies should visit with DNRC. Skyler IFG will have discussions with the DNRC. Need more information and follow Idaho's lead at this point. Paul, it would be difficult for the MFC to pursue this with the DNRC. Will talk individually. Gordy S that those that want to visit with DNRC individually will do so.

Barry, program encourages certification to all 3 SFI Standards. Set goal of 10million acres and mills certified. Funding through 2017. Met the goal. Went back to the supporters and said they are looking to expand to the west. Commitments through 2020, goal of an additional 15 million acres and new mills. The program officially sunsets end of 2020. They will continue to support the program and will waive the dues for a year and help to develop a SFI manual for certification.

Educational Brochure Progress/Bird Habitat Management: Gordy S, Forest Service is going to provide \$2500 in funding. There is additional funding already set aside to see the project to completion. The project is slowly moving forward. Roger gave an update on the printing of the Bat brochure. Would be happy to print more but has not been able to get the information in order to reprint. Paul will look for the contact information and let Roger know.

Spring 2021 Training Program: Tim McIntire, the coronavirus caused many of the programs in 2020 to be canceled. There are still 37 loggers that are missing some training. They will have to really ramp up training in spring 2021. Tim wanted to know what is being planning for spring contractor meetings and is interested in knowing what is planned for next year. Tim said they are not sure if the logging conference will take place next year. This is where a lot of the Montana & Idaho loggers get their training credits. Safety fest in Kalispell next year. This will provide opportunities and will encourage the members to participate. Gordy M wanted to remind everyone that SFI has online logger training programs too. He is going to send out an email to the SIC to the tiered approach and costs for the 20+ training modules. Gordy M will follow-up with Tim directly. Gordy M will send info to Julia and she will send it out to the council.

Project Learning Tree/SFI: Cindy Peterson, there are quite a few updates lately. Connecting teachers with the Standards that are correlated to the activities. It has been a bit daunting for states that did not update to the new science standards. In person meetings have been a challenge as well. 2021 funding is good with a new 5-year cycle on the grants. Women in Timber gave a donation last year. Gordy S wanted to know how teachers are actively pursuing the program and she sent out a survey as to how many are implementing the program, but she doesn't have the numbers readily available and will get back to Gordy S. Cindy provided an update on the State Stewardship Program. 4 workshops this year. Next year, will repeat locations that were well received last year. IFG and Stoltze have been providing foresters to help with the workshops. Weyerhaeuser is interested in having their foresters advise as well. Scott with Pyramid is also an advisor. 2500 ownerships have gone through the program and 1.3 million acres.

MFC Financial Report: Coleen Michael, AMF joined in July. Have solid financial commitments. Limited travel and an increase in technical costs may affect the bottom line. They are in the process in revamping classes with one MLA staffer at each workshop instead of all three logger training staff at each class.

Member and Partner Updates: Cameron – completing burning slash piles on company lands, Paul – SFI surveillance audit in October. Everything went fine. Roger – were not any HRA takeovers in the past couple of months. SMZ settled 2 cases since the last MFC meeting. Both were done with a written warning. Relatively minor incidences. Currently have 3 SMZ violations investigations underway that are significant and could lead to penalties. The office is ready to print brochures. Getting calls from landowners regarding their lands and want to learn about their forests. Roger forwards those inquiries to the service foresters. Gordy S wanted to know if the BMP audits will be next year? Roger said, probably not, will go right into the 2022 audit cycle. Talking about working with MFC, MWPA and MLA regarding the internal audits that are ongoing and use that information for the state legislature. The DNRC did not meet with EQC regarding the regular audit update. Bruce, had a surveillance audit on western timberlands in Oregon that was done virtually. Used a drone to fly the property. Everything went well. Brian, SPP bought WY lands. AFM is managing the lands. AFM has a group certificate and rolled the SPP lands into that group. Had a desktop audit. SPP plans to sell 300K to Green Diamond that will settle early 2021. Green Diamond manages 1.7 million acres. AFM is under contract to manage the Green Diamond lands through 2021. They have not talked about SFI, yet. But believe they will continue to manage under SFI. Peter wanted to know the status of the lands under consideration under the Legacy program under a conservation easement. Scott, Pyramid had a surveillance audit. Gordy S they are up for recertification under the old Standard. Peter, in the works is a Fire Salvage Logging instructional video. Spring newsletter is focusing on thinning this year. Mini College will be virtual spread out over a week or two in the evening. He is also getting a lot of calls from the public about managing their trees or timberlands. David, recently surpassed the goals of the save the habitat save the hunt initiative. Completed 2 years early. 2 million acres, new hunters, etc. Locally, continue to work on the Bitterroot Front project and grant proposals. Skyler, had fiber sourcing audit in early June. Everything went well. All their contractors were able to get the training they needed. Mill in St. Regis is running 2 shifts and fully staffed. Rich, he is also seeing an uptick in the public interest in managing their private lands. Bonner has reconvened sending chips into WA. He will reach out regarding MFC membership. Jared, had surveillance audit for fiber sourcing for Montana lands in August. Everything went well. In September had a remote audit, mostly through drones. This also went well and received one notable practice. Julia said is she busy with state and federal legislative issues and gearing up for the 2021 legislative session.

Next Meeting: February 9, 2021 9:30 – 12:00