

MFC

June 21, 2017

Attendance: Gordy Sanders – Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Paul McKenzie – FH Stoltze Land and Lumber, Bruce Rowland – Stimson Lumber Co, Peter Kolb and Cindy Peterson – MSU Extension Forestry, Jim Kranz, Lorin Hicks and Jared Richardson – Weyerhaeuser, Roger Ziesak – DRNC, Lorrie Woods – MLA

By Phone: Chris Childers – Ponderay Newsprint Co

Administrator: Julia Altemus

Anti-Trust Statement: Gordy Sanders

March 10, 2017 Notes: passed as presented

SFI Regional MOU Final Reciprocity: Gordy presented the signed agreement. Julia will email a final to everyone on the Council.

SFI 2017 Regional SIC Meeting in Seattle: Jared attended the meeting and provided handouts of the agenda and the notes he took. SmartLam is now SFI certified. They should be contacted regarding participation in the MFC. Gordy Mouw is our new contact person and would like to attend the next MFC meeting. A lot of discussion around label use as there is confusion. SFI assured that there will not be a national standard for logger training or 100% logger training compliance. The WA SIC offers an “Exceptional Logger” award periodically. Also the WA SIC reached out to the UW school of Architecture regarding LEED, SFI, mass timber design. Gordy and Julia relayed the information regarding the SFI webinar regarding the new fee structure. SFI plans to send the letter out in July and the new fee structure will start January of 2018 on the previous two-year average. Fees are based on net sales and have adjusted percentages. The desire is to “equitable”, “practical”, “durable” and “scalable”. The plan is to be revenue neutral. Lorin shared an update regarding issues emerging with West Virginia SFI logger training, which is currently every four years. An auditor suggested that this might be too long of a time frame. The concern was this issue may be addressed in the next Standards revision, however, SFI assured Jared

that West Virginia is an anomaly and is not of concern at this point in time. Weyerhaeuser is offering tailgate logger training in West Virginia to help buffer future scrutiny.

Spring 2017 Training Results: Lorrie said they had 35 days of training. Break-up was late this year, so first few workshops were not as well attended because loggers were still working.

First-Aid/CPR	- 937
Wildfire	- 647
Drugs, Alcohol & Bears	- 42
Log Yard Safety	- 144
Active Sustainability	- 39 (very well received)
Splicing & Rigging	- 9
Electronic Log Devices	- 58
BMP/SMZ	- 140

Basic	316 (up)
Advanced	79 (down)
ALP	121 (stayed the same)

MLA formed an 11-member ALP steering committee. Mike Newton is the chair. They have had 2 committee meetings and talked a lot about where the program is going. How do we get to the audience in between the Basic, Advanced and ALP? One of the options is to go to the job site and offer an education program that is pertinent to that specific job, offering two topics within one hour. Lorrie will compile a notebook of information that she can then pass on to someone else to replicate the training. The ALP committee reviewed the four-day forest stewardship workshop as isn't always well attended. They are going to look at pulling the class apart and offering more of a building block approach to attract more participants. Peter wanted to know what are the logging contractor numbers? Lorrie said they are declining and finding quality employees is a problem. Peter and Bryan have talked about how to educate potential employees possibly through a 2-year technical program. Peter said that their federal funding is going to drastically change and move more towards competitive grants. Peter suggested that we pulled together a coalition to develop a more formalized training program.

Reports will be emailed to member companies first week of July. Forest Service did participate this year. The Forest Service has reached out for help to create mini workshops on laying out timber sales. Lorrie will go and see what is presented and how our information could help inform their workshops. They are also looking at setting up virtual designated skid trails. Lorrie will pursue with a logging contractor.

Educational Bat Brochure for Woodlot Owners: Lorin updated the Council on the status of the Bat Brochure. Lorin passed out the nearly completed draft of the brochure. Peter suggested more forest management information such as what happens if the forest burns up since the brochure is geared toward wood lot owners. Forest management vs. non-management should be included. Lorrie suggested a reference about grazing and the impacts on bats. Paul suggested a potential solution is to reference the Wildlife Habitat brochure, which focuses on forest management. It was suggested that 2,000 copies be printed when the publication is ready. Paul suggested that we pull together a printing and reprinting budget for the Bat Brochure and the Wildlife Habitat Brochure. Lorin is volunteering his time, however Janina and Nate have billable hours that will be paid from the \$2,000 MLA earmark. Lorin hopes to have it ready for release this winter. Lorin said he will email the next version to everyone and not wait until the next meeting.

Project Learning Tree and SFI: Cindy updated on PLT in Montana. PLT is moving from American Forest Foundation to SFI. Mission is "Teaching students how to think, not what to think about complex environmental issues."

PLT Curriculum for PreK-8:

Early Childhood

PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide

Energy and Society

Energy in Ecosystems (3-5) online

Carbon & Climate (6-8) online

PLT for Secondary:

6 printed modules

2 online modules

In May of 2017, AFF decided the program needed to be moved so they went out with RFPs. Subsequently, SFI was awarded the transition from AFF to SFI. The agreement should be finalized by the end of July 2017. Montana's PLT is funded through the end of the year. The national program will be funded for the next 5 years through AFF. After that, the funding source will need to be put in place. Lorin suggested that the Forestry Expo syllabus should be augmented with some of the PLT information since over 1500 students go through the event. Lorin also offered to help with a grant request to Weyerhaeuser for help financially support the program.

MFC Financial Report: Lorrie updated the Council on the income and expenses to date. The only real change from last time is staffing which is Lorrie's time and the estimate on the cost of the Bat Brochure was identified as \$1,000 but past notes indicate \$2,000. Boise will not be participating next year. We need to reach out to Willis Enterprises. Gordy will follow up with Rich Lane and Paul will reach out to SmartLam.

Montana Natural Heritage Program: Julia gave an update as she and Joe Peterson participated in the program overview. Due to state budget constraints, HB 2 and SB 261 will a considerable shrinking of staff and program deliverables. Lorin wanted to know if there was something the SIC could do to help to advocate for their program which could be specific about the services offered. Gordy suggested that Patrick Holmes be aware. Peter suggested that maybe the program should be moved out of the State Library and put in DNRC or FWP since that is where most of their funding comes from. (Preferably in DNRC)

Member and Partner Updates: Roger Ziesak (DNRC) said there was one HRA take-over in the last 3 months. The HRA was reassigned to another entity. Not a lot of activity because of the prolonged break-up. No SMZ violations investigations at this time. Update on DNRC staffing: there is an acting state forester, and the Forestry Assistance Bureau Chief will be advertised soon. Going out as external position. Hopefully around the 1st of September should see the position filled. Going to out with biomass position. The position is a modified FTE with federal dollars available for the next 1.5 years. Will allow reengagement with

the biomass projects, Forest Products Week and Roundtable. 16 total service foresters.

Weyerhaeuser: Procurement audit coming up end of August. There is a chain of custody audit end of July. Jim Kranz is retiring the first week of July. The council gave Jim artwork as thanks for his years of dedication to the Council.

Stimson: Fee audit in July on Idaho and Montana timberlands.

Stoltze: Audit in October

Pyramid: Audit in October

MSU Extension Forestry: Budget hits coming.

Next Meeting: November 15, 2017