

**MFC**

**June 30, 2016**

**Attendance:** Gordy Sanders – Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Keith Olson and Bryan Lorengo – Montana Logging Association, Ken Swantrom – Swanstrom Logging, Paul McKenzie – FH Stoltze Land and Lumber, Bruce Rowland – Stimson Lumber, Rich Lane – Willis Enterprises, Jim Kranz – Weyerhaeuser, Peter Kolb – MSU Extension Forestry, Roger Ziesak – MT DNRC

**Administrator:** Julia Altemus

**Chairman's Welcome:** Gordy Sanders

**Anti-Trust Statement:** Gordy brought the group's attention to the statement.

**February 24, 2016 Notes:** Approved as presented

**SFI Regional SIC Update:** Gordy was not able to attend, but the discussion was centered on ongoing activities and the new standards. They did talk about the reciprocity agreement that Jim signed back in 2008. Idaho, California and Oregon were all fine with not changing anything. Washington wanted to make a change. A new draft was written. Washington's SIC met and reviewed the document and approved it with eliminating #4. Other SICs believe the language in #4 is important. It is likely that there will not be agreement until the end of the year. Some SIC's have not been talked to, including Montana's SIC. Stimson has provided comments to Gordy, and he suggested changing #3 to "SIC" participant instead of "program" participant. Jim suggested that we need time to consider, but the original agreement was drafted by Patrick Heffernan and Jim Kranz. It was more general on purpose. New contractors coming into the state is not addressed in the proposed agreement. They should be given information on Montana's BMP and SMZ regulations and law. Another item not in the new proposal is that each state can give credit or recognize credits earned in another state towards their certification or training status within a state. Both these items should be carried forward in the new proposal. Peter has an issue with #5 because it negates all other provisions. He believes #5 should be modified to include the MT rules and regulations and there should be a timeframe included as well. Gordy said there needs to be consistency and believes that #5 should be deleted. Rich said that BCA contacted him and wanted to add additional training requirements in MT's training program. Paul said he can see the need for including #2 and #6 (don't really need #1). Peter wanted to know if there was a question as to the credibility of the program nationally? Gordy wanted to know if this question has come up from auditors during an audit. Jim responded that "yes" auditors have brought it up but after reviewing Montana's program, they have gone away satisfied. Concern have not come up with other SFI members. Gordy believes that the reason Washington has concerns is because of all the salvaging logging in that state and because the last agreement was signed in 2008. Our preference is to stay with the old agreement until we are given the rationale for changing the

agreement and if a conference call is needed, then he will participate. The other issues they spent a lot of time on was to get all the SICs to spend more time on education and outreach on the new LEED recognition of SFI and came up with message points. There is a webinar July 11. Roger offered to put this information on the state's Wood is Good website and Peter offered to post information as well. Jim said that outreach and promoting is a good idea, but the companies need to understand the LEED recognition better. Gordy suggested that Roger and Peter formulate thoughts on what information they would want to post to the website.

**Spring 2016 Logger Training Results/Reports:**

First-Aid/CPR	1095	(14 workshops – 11 statewide locations)
Wildfire	761	(12 workshops – 9 statewide locations)
SFI/Advanced	17	(1 workshop – Kalispell)
Trucking Safety	85	(2 workshops – Kalispell & Deer Lodge)
BMP/SMZ	198	(4 workshops – MSLA, Kal, Libby, DL)
FSW Refresher	4	Missoula
Grant Writing	15	Kalispell
Logging Costs	15	Kalispell
FSW for Loggers	17	Yellow Bay
Basic Training	316	(2015 – 287)
Advanced	79	(2015 – 92)
ALP (preferred)	121	(2015 – 114)

Bryan said the logger training was well attended. Bryan and John are working with Colorado State for some new information for next season, including staging accidents so the training is a little more applicable. Wildfire had good attendance because of all the wildfire last year in the region. There was some inconsistency if the fire training program and it gives us an opportunity to fine-tune the training program for next year. Advancing the information on how many ALP loggers we have trained in the state is important. The final reports were sent out to the MFC distribution list June 29, 2016. Bryan said there would be another trucking class next year, offering a different topic. Roger said he received feedback after the BMPs that we may need to look at expanding the class farther east such as Lewistown or Bozeman. We should do a Helena, Lewistown, Bozeman rotation each year. Bryan said that he heard feedback that adding cruise information to the Forest Stewardship Workshop refresher would be welcomed. One comment on the Logging Cost was that BBER is having a hard time getting information back on the logging costs inquiry. Bryan said we need to encourage the loggers to respond to the inquiry. If we are going to engage in grant writing in the future, we should involve Roger. Paul also said that we should include writing proposals for stewardship contracting and GNA proposals.

**Educational Brochure on Bats:** Jim said he talked to Loren Hicks and said Loren is interested in taking the lead on crafting an educational brochure. Loren said he would see if Nate had time to help. Peter said he would like to be involved including the mills that were involved in the bat study. The brochure would be something

that would be made available for private landowners that includes best practices. Gordy is going to talk to Roger and see what is the state level of interest.

**Spring 2017 Training:** Bryan said regarding wildfire training, there is talk that Region 6 is providing a 40-hour class on wildland fire. It will be difficult to bring a similar class to MT but conversations are ongoing. Idaho provides training, but attendees do not get a certificate when completed. Forty hours is not practical. Peter suggested that putting together a class on burning might be possible. The other suggestion on classes is to offer one on weeds. Peter said that we used to offer a weed class annually and can certainly bring this class back. Extension Forestry can offer a basic and advanced class. Another one is drug and alcohol recognition. Bring in an outside task force person that can show people signs and symptoms of workers that might show signs. Because of the LEED recognition we may need to have a chain of custody class. Weyerhaeuser has a Power Point called "In the Clear", which is a good safety-training product that if it would be good to incorporate into the training program, it is available.

**MFC Financial Report:** Keith said the 2015 – 2016 revenue was \$26,250 cash and \$11,250 in-kind. Expenses total \$39,143.42. Keith said the data base management for 2017 should be less than this year. Peter suggested that MSU Extension and DNRC should be captured as in-kind contributors. Keith agreed.

**Tree Farm Funding:** Gordy raised issue of funding the Montana Tree Farm program. We still do not have a number from them and just wanted to remind the group that this issue is out there still.

**Member and Partner Update:**

**Roger Ziesak DNRC** had 2 HRAs that were taken over the last couple of months. Settled one outstanding SMZ violation. It was a financial penalty case. Currently investigating one SMZ violation. More people are calling and inquiring about Alternative Practices. Alternative Practices is designed to facilitate good management practices. Peter offered to work with the DNRC and put together a one-page fact sheet on Alternative Practices that they can offer to landowners.

**Peter Kolb MSU Extension Forestry** – Tom DeLuca was selected as the new dean of the School of Forestry and Conservation. He wants to get engaged and will start January 2017. Julia suggested that a functioning advisory committee would be good. Julia will call Mike Patterson (associate dean) to schedule a meeting with Tom early in the year.

**Bruce Rowland Stimson** – They have a surveillance audit in September and a BMP audit in Montana.

**Jim Kranz Weyerhaeuser** – Have a SFI audit in July for the fiber sourcing system.

**Paul McKenzie Stoltze** – Has a full audit scheduled the first week in October. They are hearing a little from their customers about certification.

**Keith Olson MLA** – They are in the process of creating a long-term strategic plan since it is their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Rich Lane Willis Enterprises** – Pulpwood is biomass and we have a good inventory of pulpwood in Montana. It seems like Boise is audited a lot and look to Rich for information. They come over quarterly and do a harvest site inspection.

**Ken Swanstrom Logging** – 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as well. He has two Forest in Focus grants, which are great projects.

**Gordy Sanders Pyramid** – Have a full audit in October. They now have an SFI coordinator.

**Julia Altemus MWPA** – Forestry Forum for Legislators is December 6 from 1 – 5 at the Radisson Colonial Inn in Helena. In conjunction with MLA, MT Tree Farm and MFOA.

**Next meeting:** November 17 9 - 12