

MFC

November 10, 2015

Attendance: Jim Kranz – Plum Creek, Rich Lane – Willis Enterprises, Dylan Brown – Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Keith Olson – Montana Logging Association, Patrick Heffernan – Pafti, Inc., Ken Swanstrom – Swanstrom Logging, Paul McKenzie – FH Stoltze Land & Lumber, Gordy Sanders – Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Steven Kloetzel – Nature Conservancy, Nate Scwab – ABR, Inc., Bryan Lorengo – Montana Logging Association, Roger Ziesak - DNRC, Doug Mote - Lumber, Dyrk Krueger – Montana Logging Association, Chuck Roady – FH Stoltze Land & Lumber, Peter Kolb – MSU Extension Forestry

Administrator: Julia Altemus

Chairman Welcome: Jim Kranz

Anti-Trust Statement Jim referred to the Anti-trust statement in the packet

July 1, 2015 Minutes – Approved

MFC Chair Position – Jim Kranz brought to the council his request to step down as Chair since he has held that position for 12 years. Dylan Brown has offered to step in if acceptable by the council. Jim will continue to be Plum Creek's representative on the council and mentor Dylan. The transition will be effective at the close of this meeting. The MFC operates under a Mission Statement and not a set of by-laws so there is no specification as to how long a Chair serves. It might be good to revisit the term of a Chair, at least bring to the attention of the Council annually for review and approval. Paul made a motion to accept Dylan as Chair. Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed.

SFI Annual Conference Update – Jim attended the conference and relayed the high quality of the speakers, subjects and how the conference is presented to participants. Access sfiprogram.org and go Annual Conference - Sessions, you can view imbedded presentations. At a minimum go to the bottom of the Sessions screen and click on Michael Green on "Green Building". He had a very fascinating presentation. Jim attended a Western Region SIC meeting and another by All SFI Regions together. Shared thoughts and suggestions pertaining to training. Qualified Logging Professional and Certified Logging Professional designations were discussed. Only 3 states (WI, MI, MN) have the Certified status with minimum programs. Currently the SFI Standard has both, but in the future Certified may be dropped. There was some discussion about attaching a value to the Certified Logger so that if the wood is harvested by a Certified Logger, it could be considered equivalent to wood from a certified forest. This could possibly add value for additional volume available to the Chain of Custody Program. In the future, it would be good to have the Chair continue to attend the annual meeting. Currently the cost

is covered by Plum Creek for Jim to attend, but the council should entertain adding the cost of attending into the annual budget for Chair or Coordinator's attendance.

Bat Study Update & Grant Request – Nate Schwab (ABR, Inc), documented a diversity of bat species (11 of 15 known species) on MT SFI certified lands and the bats have had high activity levels. There are now 4 stations (2 on Plum Creek and 1 each on Pyramid and Stoltze lands). On Plum Creek lands, bat activity has been noticed every month of the year. Acoustic monitoring and radio telemetry are on going. So far, white-nose syndrome has not reached this far west. The National Council for Air and Stream Improvement has applied for an SFI acoustic monitoring grant from the SFI Conservations Grant Program. They are open to more partners to go in on the study. Asking for the partners to buy their own equipment. The cost of data analysis would be covered by the SFI grant. The grant will provide for year-round studies and data collection. The information will also get submitted to a continent-wide study. The MFC is listed as a partner to the grant application. The selection announcement is December 19th. The Montana Natural Heritage Program is a partner as well. The grant is \$30,000 a year for 3 years. Gordy suggested preparing a one-page publication for landowners to raise awareness. Nate said that it was a good idea.

On-line Training Option - Jim suggested that this option has been mentioned before and continues to be of interest. Gordy provided a written white paper regarding a webinar approach to BMP/SMZ training, which is interactive and participants have an opportunity to give feedback on the webinar at the end. The SFI conference had a presentation regarding the benefits of on-line training. Alabama uses this tool with 25 on-line classes set up on their website and it is set up like an on-line store with a shopping cart function. The system emails links once paid for. Classes are structured so that the user has to go through subsections and answer questions correctly before you can move on in the program. Once successfully completed, the user can print out a certificate. The certificate is sent to the Alabama Forestry Association, which is equivalent to the MWPA handling the program or in our case the MLA. They charge \$35.00 per course if you're a member. Non-member is \$45.00. There was consensus across all state SIC's that the core programs should be in the classroom and on-the ground presentation of the information. This is the best way to communicate and the best way to learn the information. On-line is a good tool for refresher and elective courses. There was discussion given to SFI producing on-line courses but they would need to be more generic. The software is around \$5-10,000 then you actually have to build the program. Developing a module could be several thousand dollars. Extension Forestry is using You Tube for their safety awareness programs and this was discussed as a possible approach. Core training programs really need to be in person. The challenge is to reach people that we are not reaching now and provide more information to the logging contractors. We need to be careful to not spend too much money for minimal return. We just don't have enough people in the business to justify producing on-line courses. It was decided to keep studying the subject.

Member and Partner Updates – Plum Creek had their MT lands and fiber sourcing audited this year. Had an opportunity for improvement on the fiber sourcing side. Outreach regarding reducing wildfire risk is required in the new standard and was an item missing in the packet that is given to suppliers. There was discussion with the auditor about how to reach the 100% trained logger target and also the written agreements regarding training from controlled and non-controlled fiber sources. In the end, the auditor was satisfied they were doing everything they could.

Pyramid – Their audit did not trigger any non-conformance or opportunities for improvement. Next year will be a full audit under the new Standard.

FH Stoltze – No non-conformance and no OFIs. Got a notable practice for their Facebook site in how they communicate with the public. They will have a full audit next year as well.

Generally, the auditor gave good reviews on the level of logger training and the knowledge of landowners.

Draft Spring 2016 Training – (All subject to possible date changes and additional courses to be added)

March 11 – 12 MLA Spring Meeting – Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

15 – 17 1st Aid/CPR & Wildland Fire Training Missoula

18 Salmon River 1st Aid/CPR

22 – 24 1st Aid/CPR & Wildland Fire Training Kalispell

29 – 30 1st Aid/CPR & Wildland Fire Training Libby

31 1st Aid/CPR & Wildland Fire Training Plains

April 01 1st Aid/CPR & Wildland Fire Training Sanders County

06 – 08 Intermountain Logging Conference

13 1st Aid/CPR & Wildland Fire Training Big Timber

14 1st Aid/CPR & Wildland Fire Training Deer Lodge

15 1st Aid/CPR & Wildland Fire Training Sun Mountain

19 1st Aid/CPR & Wildland Fire Training Seeley Lake

20 1st Aid/CPR & Wildland Fire Training Stoltze

24 – 28 Forest Stewardship Workshop for Loggers @ Yellow Bay

26 Advanced SFI Kalispell

28 Advanced SFI Missoula

May 02 – 15 BMP/SMZ Libby, Kalispell, Missoula, Deer Lodge

20 – 21 MLA Annual Meeting Missoula

Peter talked about offering the Forestry Mini-College and will work with the MLA on course ideas. Ken suggested the possibility of a field guide that helps loggers prepare and respond to an auditor with examples of what an auditor might ask.

New Member: The MFC (MT-SIC) welcomes Ponderay Newsprint Company as a new member. Chris Childers will be their representative.

Next meeting – Late January or early February in 2016.