

Montana Forest Council

December 11, 2013

Present: Jim Kranz *Plum Creek* – Chair, Keith Olson and Bryan Larengo *MT Logging Assoc*, Gary Ellingson *Northwest Management*, Gordy Sanders *Pyramid Mtn Lumber*, Kevin Donnaly *Quartz Logging*, Bruce Rowland *Stimson Lumber Co*, Craig Rawlings *Forest Business Network*, Peter Kolb *MSU EF*, Nicole Meredith *Boise Paper*, Steve Kloetzel *TNC*, Roger Ziesak and Paula Short *DNRC Forestry Division*, Mark Boardman *FH Stoltze*, Pat Tagman and Rich Lane *Willis Ent.*

Coordinator: Julia Altemus

Chairman's Welcome: Jim Kranz

Anti-Trust Statement

Minutes: June 19th Minutes Approved as Presented

SFI Update from National Conference: Jim Kranz, attended the annual conference that was held in San Antonio, Texas. Conference was well attended with more than 250 people present. A lot of company CEO's participating. Theme was "Writing the Next Chapter". SFI has been around for a while, so looking ahead and what is in store. Offered American Tree Farm volunteer training. Regional SIC meetings. Jim attended the western regional meeting. Agenda and minutes of the regional meeting were inserted into the MFC packet for member information. SFI and outreach was discussed at the western meeting. It was suggested that SFI develop an outreach brochure about SFI, sustainable forestry, certification and what that means. Should this be a national scope or customized to fit regions. SFI is willing to take this on and provide the SIC's in 2014. Peter suggested a National brochure that has a spot for a regional insert to keep the focus on the fact that SFI is an international program. Another subject at the regional meeting was the SFI revision and any particular issues from the SIC's that need to be conveyed to the SFI leadership. In general, it seemed like nothing emerged, but as they get more into the revision details something could come up. After the regional meetings, the national meeting commenced and focused on sustainability and corporate commitments. Companies talked about their brands and how important that is to sustainability. Discussion about healthy forests and healthy communities. Then discussed federal lands including Tribal Nations move to certification. Touched on forest research, everything from wildlife to fisheries to soils. There was also a section on Europe and what is happening with changes there, new timber regulations that affect operators and traders. Guidance if sourced from outside North America and making sure they meet the standards. This concern will be reviewed within the standards revision process. Gary wanted to know if there was discussion given to looking at a risk analysis within the North American Standards? Jim will look into that suggestion. Also, information presented regarding pellets going into Europe.

European companies are looking for certification. Under recruitment, has the MFC talked to the Tribes. Jim said we had talked to them and at the time they were not interested in certification of any kind, but since it has been a while, we should talk to them again. Peter has talked to some tribes about Tree Farm, but the tribes response was they have enough internal mechanisms to track chain of custody. Next conference in 2014 will be in Montreal.

SFI Standard Revision Update: There was a section on the Standard Revision process at the conference.

Timeline: 2013

June 5 – August 6

First 60-day public comment period on current SFI 2010-2014 requirements.

August and October

Task Groups develop and Resource Committee reviews first working draft of new SFI 2015-2019 requirements for Section 2, 3, and 4.

November

Washington D.C. Standards revision workshop

First working draft of SFI 2015-2019 requirements (Section 2, 3 and 4)

submitted to SFI Board

December

SFI Board reviews first draft (Section 2, 3 and 4)

Timeline 2014

January – March

Second 60-day public comment period

First draft of SFI 2015 – 2019 posted to SFI web site

8 Regional Revision Workshops in US (5) US and (3) Canada

March – April

Task Groups resume work

April

SFI Board meet to review any emerging issues and work items

April – May

External Review Panel review of how comments were addressed by the Task Groups

June

Resource Committee review of 2nd draft

September

Board meeting at Annual Conference. Start of day 45 Board review period.

November

Board call to determine if any outstanding issues.

Timeline 2015

January

SFI 2015- 2019 Program Requirements launched

Timeline 2016

January

SFI certified companies conformant to SFI 2015 – 2019 Program Requirements.

Discussion was given to logger training standards and confusion when some states have different categories. Some states call their loggers certified, and they aren't really certified under the SFI Standards. They think there maybe one or two certified logging programs. Not sure there are any because who would do the certifying? There is a subcommittees formed to discuss and present recommendations to the Revision Committee. Jim Kranz was appointed to this subcommittee. There was discussion about connecting the logger to certified fiber instead of just certified logs. The other issue that came up is continuing education, but this is not in the Standards. Most states have continuing education in their logger training program. We do have continuing education imbedded in our training program. The new Standard needs to address the expectation that continuing education in the Standards, but each state should develop their own education requirements. The national Standard may identify a basic program such as BMPs. There was a suggestion that 95% should be trained. A lot of discussion was given to that suggestion. Having a numeric standard could result in a minor or major-nonconformance or an opportunity for improvement by an auditor. How the supply comes from trained loggers was kicked around. The majority agreed 95% should be pushed up to the next level of hierarchy within SFI. What counts and what about multiple sites. Should be a trained person on each site. As long as there is reasonable oversight by one person on both sites, that is okay. Reasonable oversight is open to interpretation. Distance will enter in and who is trained. Expect some tightening up of the standard regarding the on-the-ground, trained, person on the site. May need to add more emphasis regarding biodiversity, old growth management, soil standards, etc. MFC already provides this training. Jim has signed up for one of the workshops in Portland, OR in January 28, 2014.

Spring 2014 Logger Training – Preliminary Discussion: Keith Olson and Bryan Larengo, presented a three-month draft calendar. The GPS training may have to be rescheduled at a later date because of the uncertainty with the MSU Forestry Extension Service staff's ability to continue with his position. Peter may be able to step in and provide instruction, but will probably not be able to fill-in entirely. Mark suggested that we find an alternative instructor as loggers are definitely using the technology and we should not reschedule or drop the class. Mark offered to go to a workshop and learn how to teach the class if needed. Other suggestions for future are Succession Planning, DNRC/FS Contract Law, maybe an Introduction to Carbon Credits (half day carbon and half day climate change).

Training Schedule:

March

- 11 – 13 1st Aid/CPR & Wildfire – Missoula/Ruby's
- 18 – 20 1st Aid/CPR & Wildfire – Kalispell/Outlaw
- 25 – 26 1st Aid/CPR 7 Wildfire – Libby/City Hall
- 28 Basic GPS – Missoula
- 29 Google Earth GPS – Missoula

April

- 1 1st Aid/CPR Wildfire – Plains
- 2 – 4 Intermountain Logging Conference - Spokane
- 9 1st Aid/CPR Wildfire – Big Timber
- 10 1st Aid/CPR Wildfire – Deer Lodge
- 11 1st Aid/CPR Wildfire – Sun Mountain Lumber
- 11 – 12 MT SAF Conference
- 15 1st Aid/CPR Wildfire – Seeley Lake
- 16 1st Aid/CPR Wildfire – Columbia Falls
- 17 Technology for Logging and Trucking – Missoula
- 18 Technology for Logging and Trucking – Kalispell
- 21 Safety and Loss Control – Kalispell
- 22 Advanced SFI – Kalispell
- 23 Safety and Loss Control – Missoula
- 24 Advanced SFI – Missoula
- 29 – May 1 Accredited Logging Professional Workshop – TBD

May

- 5 BMP/SMZ – Libby
- 6 BMP/SMZ – Kalispell
- 7 BMP/SMZ – Missoula
- 8 BMP/SMZ – Helena
- 22 Ties to the Land – Missoula
- 23 Landowner Workshop – Helena
- 24 Ties to the Land - Helena

MFC Organization and Budget: Jim, Keith, Julia, Total contributions including cash and in-kind is \$35,000 (23,750 cash and 11,250 in-kind). Total expenses include \$24,243. Keith said what is not reflected on the annual report is all the in-kind contribution from all the members through workshops, etc. All members are current in their 2013 contributions.

Member & Partner Updates: **State** - Roger, no takeovers of HRAs in the past several months or any SMZ violations (just a minor verbal warning on state trust lands regarding SMZ law). 2014 BMP audit process is starting back up again and always looking for team members and a team leader in the Northwest. Roger is leading the committee on BMP book revisions and will be ready by the 2014 workshops. **Plum Creek** – Jim, procurement audit in July went well, SFI and PEFC Chain of Custody audit on December 12th. **Northwest Management** – Gary, a NWM, Inc. forester left and went to work for the state. Foresters Forum in CDA February 5 – 7, 2014. Register at Northwest Management, Inc. website. FSC and SFI will be discussed. Workshops in 2014. SAF annual meeting in April in Kalispell. **Pyramid** – Gordy, recertification last October. Two auditors, one went to the field and one stayed in the office. Everything was good. **Stimson** - Bruce, surveyiance audit on northern Idaho and Troy lands and a HCP audit. Recertification audit in June of 2014. **Forest Business Network** - Craig, Small Wood conference in June 3 – 5,

2014. **TNC** – Steve, inherited the Fiber Agreement from Henry and Bee Hall is on extended medical leave. Had recertification audit in October of 2013 and went very well. Most fiber coming from the Mill Creek block. Blackfoot Community Conservation Area, 5600 acre community forest, treating 80 to 200 acres per year with commercial fiber going to Pyramid. Tour opportunities if anyone is interested.

Stoltze and Tree Farm – Mark, Stoltze audit went well. Tree Farm, because of third party certification is more work and a strain on the budget. The National Tree Farm suggested a fee with a pilot program, which did not work. The next possible solution is to make the states choice with an opt-in or opt-out program which is referred to as the “State’s Voice, State’s Choice”. Montana Tree Farm set up breakfast meetings to talk to different Tree Farmers about the program. There may be a fee if they opt-in if they want to be a Certified Tree Farm. Tree Farm is going to send out a survey to get some preliminary feedback. Right now it looks like Montana Tree Farms may decide to opt-out. This may affect the mills and certification. There may not be an advantage to have land certified. Looks like there is more reason to certify the logger and not necessarily the land. The deadline is 2014 or 2015. Signed first community forest, Foy’s Lake Community Forest which tied in with the 2013 Forest Products Week. **Boise Paper** - Nicole, Boise Paper had their multi site certification in July 2013 and all went well. **MSU Extension Forestry** – Peter, lead team member on a \$10 million dollar grant national Bioenergy of the Rockies like the NARA project is to study the feasibility of developing biofuels. NARA is in its third year. Preliminary feedback looks like they can produce biofuels at \$30/gallon, which is not marketable even in the airline industry, which is where the carbon credits come in. The BANNER project is looking at using beetle-killed trees, which apparently has no market value to the current wood manufacturers. In order for this to be viable they need to get \$2/gallon federal credits and the federal credits are not available on federal lands. Two most reasonable places to put a system is Pablo or Seeley Lake. Peter has been asked to give a presentation to the EQC regarding SJ 15 in January 2014.

Other: SIC Webinar on Friday the 13th. Julia sent out the information and the link to join. A major focus is to give Tree Farm an opportunity to talk about the Tree Farm Initiative “State’s Voice, State’s Choice”

Next Meeting: February 19, 2014