

## **Montana Forest Council**

**February 19, 2014**

**Present:** Jim Kranz – *Plum Creek*, Paul McKenzie – *Stolzte*, Rich Lane – *Willis Enterprises, Inc.*, Gordy Sanders – *Pyramid Lumber*, Peter Kolb – *MSU EF*, Craig Rawlings – *Forest Business Network*, Gary Johnson – *Tree Farm*, Joe Frazer – *Logging Contractor*, Gary Ellingson – *Northwest Management*, Bryan Tinnin – *Boise Paper*, Bruce Rowland – *Stimson Lumber*, Roger Ziesak – *DNRC*, Dylan Brown – *Pyramid Lumber*, Bryan Lorengo – *MT Logging Assoc*, Julia Altemus – *MWPA*

**Coordinator:** Julia Altemus

**Chairman's Welcome:** Jim Kranz

### **Anti-Trust Statement**

**Minutes:** December 11, 2013, approved as presented

**SFI Standard Revision Update:** March 6 ends the second draft comment period. Comments will be reviewed and there will be a 45 day final review period beginning on September 16. Everyone has one year to transition to the new Standards beginning January 1, 2015.

SFI provided a document entitled Key Enhancements that highlights the main areas for proposed revisions. Everyone is welcome to comment through the SFI website.

Concern was expressed regarding the revision establishing a limit of 5% for de minimis deliveries by untrained loggers to SFI certified program participants. Proposed change, "Certified program participants should strive to limit their deliveries from untrained loggers to no more than 5% of their raw material with allowances for turnover in the logging workforce, availability, timing and length of training programs, other wood supplies and availability of trained logging professionals locally." After much discussion, the SFI subcommittee decided to propose the 5% and see how it was received. Participants with fee ownership and controlled stumpage vs. those heavy to open market purchases could be an issue with the percentage performance. Also, the inference that logs from an untrained logger is bad wood is concerning. Even though procurement sources are more convenient from trained loggers, there are many loggers that are not trained but do a great job of harvesting. Paul said the national average is consistently under 95%. A more appropriate statement should incorporate "continual improvement that strives towards a goal of 95%." Rich, the current definition of training can be hard to achieve for a new start-up that accepts almost 100% gate wood. Roger suggested there may be a way to capture the training level during the biennial performance audits. Service Foresters visit active logging sites with a two-page BMP checklist. Maybe something that can be added to the field checklist. This might help get to the

95% percent because they are often involved at the gate wood level. Jim, the SFI subcommittee supports each SIC retain their ability to decide what the training level is in each individual state. Peter suggested changing the language from “limit” to “goal”. Gary E suggested “continuous improvement over time” to make sure the an off year performance doesn’t skew the overall objective. The consensus is to submit a letter suggesting the change in the language from “limit” to “goal”.

Also need to define a “qualified logging professional”. The new revision tightens up who is on the site all the time. A “qualified logging professional” will no longer be able to bounce back and forth between sites. Proposed language suggests a “working member of the crew”.

Indicator 17.1.5 proposes written agreements stipulate the use of qualified logging professionals. The new Standard proposes a written agreement which stipulates the use of certified logging professionals or wood producers that have completed training programs and are recognized as qualified logging professionals. Not sure what this exactly means. Jim called and didn’t get adequate clarification regarding the written agreements. Will add this concern to the MFC letter.

The new revisions specify an element of continuous education. Some states have this program already, but some do not. In Montana, we’ve had this provision in place for many years.

**Definition concerns:**

**Forest Type** should say classification of a forest stand by the dominant tree species “present on the landscape” or combination of tree species...

**Section 13 b.** “That is, if a logger completes all the components or modules “required” in a given year ....”

**Vernal Pool** definition could be problematic. Peter suggested “decadal consistent” Jim will get more information on why this is a new definition. We may need to add Vernal Pool to our brochures. It could be as simple as addressing this in company contractor meetings.

**Conservation of Biological Diversity** is pretty nebulous. Jim said that Loren Hicks is working on this and will get a response. “**Temporal**” is a concern. We already address spatial issues. Peter, this affects Tree Farm. “**Assessment**” is also a concern. What does “assessment’ mean.

**Spring 2014 Logger Training:** The 2014 Training Schedule was reviewed. May 1 and 2 training course is still open. Suggestions included; a contract language course from FS and DNRC timber contracts, how to write stewardship contract proposals, carbon, climate change or soils. The roll of biomass and carbon credits is a pretty new national topic. Joe suggested that we need a general program for the young logger. Peter suggested a Basic Forest Field Operations. Peter will provide a basic

class on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. May 1<sup>st</sup> could be biomass and carbon workshop. Stoltze contractor meeting is April 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>. Plum Creek contractor meeting is April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Conservation & Community Grants Program:** SFI has a program where they award conservation and community grants. The community grant is \$5,000 or less. Available for a non-profit or an SIC. The bigger grant program is the conservation grants. Generally a conservation group makes application with support from other SFI entities. Can be a school or a non-profit like the TNC. More of a research grant that informs or improves the role of the SFI Standard. It is expected that the majority of the funds will support projects in the categories of Carbon and Bioenergy, Forest Health, Water, Capacity Building and Wildlife, Fish and Biodiversity and has to be on SFI certified lands. Blackfoot Community Conservation Area, with TNC and Pyramid, is looking and making application. Deadline to apply is February 21, 2014.

**Member & Partner Updates:** Plum Creek had an SFI Chain of Custody audit in December, which was successful. Most field audits will be in the southeast this year. There will be a procurement audit in August followed by another chain of custody audit in December at the CFalls location. Northwest Management had a good Forester's Forum in CDA. Family Forest Strengthening Connections is the theme for the Forest Landowners workshop in Helena in April. Ties to the Land workshop in Missoula and Helena with the Forest Landowners workshop sandwiched in between. Willis Enterprises and Boise Paper appreciates the effort Montana puts into the education program. Boise Inc was purchased by a packaging company at the end of 2013, which makes them one of the largest in the country now. Tree Farm System needs to make a decision as to how the program is going to be run in Montana, either continued on 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification or go back to the original program. The MFC needs to provide a clear message to the MT Tree Farm system as to what the MFC supports. Tree Farm standards are up for review. Comments due in March. Pyramid hired a new forester. Extension Forestry BANNER project funded to \$8 million out of Colorado State U in conjunction with Blue Planet to turn biomass into fuels and a biodiesel alternative. Modular units requiring about 5 acres of space, smallest unit 100,000 tons of dry biomass. Forest Business Network is hosting the Small Wood Conference June 3-5, 2014 in Rochester MN. DNRC is investigating one potential SMZ violation, but the weather has hampered the ability to investigate. Hired new forester in Helena and in the process of hiring a new forester in NE Montana and one to fill a position in Missoula. BMP workbook is under revision with printing in April and distributing in May at the workshops. Stimson is up for recertification this year on procurement and lands in western Oregon in June. Contractor meeting in CDA April 16 for Idaho contractors. MWPA planning is underway for the October Forest Products Week, the marketing team hired to develop a proposal to promote Montana manufactured wood products has completed their findings and gave a presentation to the committee last week. The committee will likely make application to the Softwood Lumber Board for funds to support the campaign over the next 5 years.

**Next Meeting:** June 25