

MFC

July 1, 2015

Attendance: Jim Kranz – Plum Creek, Peter Kolb – MSU Extension Forestry, Rich Lane – Willis Enterprises, Dylan Brown – Pyramid Lumber, Keith Olson – MLA, Gordy Sanders – Pyramid Lumber, Mark Boardman – Stoltze, Bruce Rowland – Stimson, Ken Swanstrom – Swanstrom Logging, Doug Mote – Mote Lumber, Roger Ziesak – DNRC Forestry Division

Administrator – Julia Altemus

Chairman Welcome – Jim Kranz

Anti-trust statement

March 4<sup>th</sup> minutes - approved

Spring Training Follow-up and Looking Ahead – Jim, thanks for all who participated, taught or helped out pulling the training session together.

Keith:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. First-Aid/CPR        | 1054 (14 workshops in 11 statewide locations)    |
| 2. Wildfire             | 583 (12 workshops in 9 statewide locations)      |
| 3. SFI/Advanced         | 33 (2 workshops in Missoula/Kalispell)           |
| 4. Bioenergy Harvesting | 18 (Lubrecht)                                    |
| 5. Shop Safety          | 47 (2 workshops in Missoula/Kalispell)           |
| 6. BMP/SMZ              | 108 (4 workshops in Msla/Kalispell/Libby/Helena) |
| 7. Millenials           | 5 (Kalispell)                                    |

#### Participant Update

Basic	287
Advanced	92
ALP (preferred)	114 (5 new ALPs!)

2016 Forest Stewardship Workshop @ Yellow Bay scheduled for April 25 – 28

1. Numbers were up this year from last.
5. This workshop grew out of OSHA activity in Idaho. Bryan put together a workshop. Well attended. Fosters good feedback.
6. Numbers were down a bit this year, but probably due to the 3-year cycle. They did a field audit, which went well and will likely do this again in the future. Brian Sugden wanted to know if we should offer a fall class? Would this cause spring attendance to drop in opting for a fall session? Contractors have not been requesting a fall session, but Roger is open to having a fall session. Wouldn't want to shift from a spring to a fall because of hunting season, but one class in the fall is something to think about. Peter suggested offering a BMP/SMZ class for landowners in the fall and invite loggers to attend. Everyone thought this was the

best approach. Peter will work with Brian and Roger on offering one fall class. Roger is also available to offers classes to county road crews, but there doesn't seem to be follow-up from the counties. Peter offered to pursue through extension channels, via county extension agents.

7. Millenials workshop grew out of everyone's frustration with finding good employees. John Manz did a great job in delivering the workshop. It was poorly attended but great information shared.

Keith provided an update on the 2015 expenses. With a budget of \$35,000, which is \$23,750 in cash and \$11,250 in in-kind. Currently we have spent \$23,783.00.

Upgrading the software program is an expense and will continue until the upgrade is done.

Gordy asked Keith if the national FRA state study of logging practices brought any practice to his attention? Montana ranks well. Gordy noticed that some states offer on-line training. On-line training is not of interest to the logging professionals in MT, at this point.

One of the states had a training program called "Visual Management". There may be a need for a workshop for landowners and loggers in MT. This would be a great spring training workshop. Many times the decision is made on the ground. Old growth management could be part of this workshop.

Gordy wanted to know if we should be offering classes for the woods foreman.

Jim suggested that SFI trainees should receive a certificate of completion. The same would apply to Basic and Advanced graduates. A card would be very helpful. ALP could be under MLA and Basic and SFI could be under MFC.

Roger said he would check to see if the DNRC can provide a \$500 cash contribution to the budget with an in-kind contribution as well. He will get to the group.

Bat Study Update – Jim checked with Loren Hicks and since March both Stoltze and Stimson have purchased monitoring equipment and are part of the bat study. The sites are actively monitoring bat activity. Loren said that the results have been very interesting. Ten or eleven different species of bats (of the 15 known for the area) have already been identified. The project received a \$15K grant to analyze the results. Doug wanted to know if any comparative studies have been done like pre and post harvest. Jim was not sure. Gordy wanted to know how long the study is going to go on and how is the data going to be used. Jim wasn't sure, but suggested that Loren come and give an update to the MFC. Maybe TNC should be participating in the bat study as well. MFC should produce a document that frames the study, the results and the recommendations. Jim believes there will be a thorough, comprehensive report produced from the people involved in the study.

Montana Forest Products Week Update – Jim updated the Plum Creek Foundation Lecture Series, which is tied into the Forest Products Week this year. Andrew Larson and Loren Hicks are working on the program. Dates are Oct – 22 and 23 at the UC Center in Missoula. The theme is “Future of Wood”. Three panels, one on new building materials, second is wood is energy, and third is carbon. Tied into the carbon panel is climate change. Keynote on Thursday and the panels on Friday. The atrium at the UC Center is open and free to vendors. MFC should have a display.

Jim said that the SFI annual meeting is October 6 – 8 in Tahoe. Amy Doty wanted to know if the western region SIC’s wanted to help sponsor the annual conference since it is in the West this year. It was decided that we need focus on making sure our own program is successful with training programs in MT.

Revised Standard Discussion – Preparing for Audit – Plum Creek has fee lands, procurement and label audits in August. Stimson has audits in July. They are first to go through an audit with the new standards. Pyramid and Stoltze audits are in September. Requirements under the new standards for labeling have been expanded and the auditors are going to be spending more time on labeling. Also under label requirements, an enhanced management system for internal audits must be in place. Company must have a label use policy and identified procedure. In addition to fiber sourcing risk assessment, there must be a label conduct risk assessment. Reason it is included in the new standards is to make it compatible with international standards. New standard under fiber sourcing is the use of written agreements to purchase a load and must show that the logger has had BMP training. Auditors are going to want to see the company plan that moves toward 100% certified. Need to demonstrate. Also, must be aware of science and studies and participation. Must have written agreements regarding training. Jim assumes this information is in the contract with the logger. Under forest management standard – recognize and respect indigenous peoples and their rights. Jim called SFI and the answer was, if you are contacted by a tribe with concerns, the SFI participate is required to work with the tribe. Peter said he could develop a tribal workshop for loggers focusing on sensitivity towards Native American values.

Member and Partner Updates – Rich wanted to know if there membership levels to belong to MFC? Could MT Trout Unlimited be member? No one is ever precluded from joining the council. RMEF, NWTF, TU should be invited to participate. Rich also suggested that we find a way to reduce the cost of certification. Roger, in the last three months, three HRA’s have been taken over. Two in Sanders County and 1 in Flathead County. Four active SMZ violations. Two on private lands, one on trust lands and one state land but not trust lands. Roger just completed that PO for 12,500 new BMP books. Should have them by mid-August. Bruce, SFI audit in July. Mark, audit in October, Gordy, audit in October. Peter, Jim Burchfield is retiring the end of August. Mike Patterson is Associate Dean. He is serving as interim. Also, University did a bus tour on forestry that went very well. Doug, has 40,000 acres up for review under Tree Farm.

Next meeting should be in the fall after the audits are completed.