

MFC

November 17, 2016

Attendance: Gordy Sanders – Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Chuck Roady – FH Stoltze, Paul McKenzie, - FH Stoltze, Bruce Rowland - Stimson, Keith Olson - MLA, Ken Swanstrom – Skookum Timber Co, Rich Lane – Willis Enterprises, Jim Kranz - Weyerhaeuser, Doug Mote – Mote Lumber, Jarred Richardson – Weyerhaeuser, Loren Hicks – Weyerhaeuser, DNRC Staff Melinda Kitchens, Roger Ziesak, Angela Wells

Administrator: Julia Altemus

Chairman’s Welcome: Gordy Sanders

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

June 30, 2016 Notes: Paul made the motion to approve, Jim second, approved

SFI Regional MOU – Draft Reciprocity: The discussion was a continuation from the June meeting. Northwest and California agree, but Canada has opted out of the agreement. Jim suggested that the draft could be acceptable, but wanted to bring to the attention the statement allowing each state to set their own standards, as individual states may not like the standards a state has set. Criteria #4 takes the responsibility off the company and puts more of burden on the logging contractor. Keith’s interpretation is that the logger needs to be in compliance with state and provincial requirements. Paul brought attention to the current MOU. Paul believes that the proposed #4 is low bar. SFI is supposed to elevate the standard. The audit process will eventually address these concerns. Jarred and Doug recommended dropping the words “temporary or short term basis”. Paul suggested this language addresses the issue that is raised when a logger may not be trained in a certain state and goes across the border to work. The original defines temporary as “24 months”. Paul said that the two issues need to be addressed: Short Term needs to be defined and #4 needs to meet a higher standard that involves the member companies, than what is suggested. Jim said that Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota and Montana are okay with the original. Maybe for now, we stick with the current agreement. Maybe we have a 4 state MOU and let Washington, Oregon, California and maybe Idaho has their own MOU. Roger said from a state perspective, service foresters encourage private landowners to hire ALP loggers. The state would not recognize the MOU. It could confuse landowners and non-SFI companies as to what the rules are. He believes the original language was fine. Paul made a motion to stay with the original MOU dated November 12, 2008 and Doug Mote second, approved. Gordy will talk to Gretchen and David of the decision.

SFI 2016 Annual Convention: Gordy said that he got an email from Gretchen and said that there really wasn’t anything new that emerged. Jim was not able to attend but you can go to the website and SFI Program.org and you can click on the links to

all the presentations. The SFI outreach brochure "Conservation at SFI" was presented at the meeting.

Spring 2017 Training: Keith handed out the spring training calendar and suggested the calendar is tentative and not complete or finalized yet.

March 2017

10 – 11 MLA Spring Quarterly Meeting
13 – Advanced SFI Lubrecht or Missoula
14 – 17 1st Aid/CPR & Fire Missoula
20 Splicing & Rigging Kalispell
21 – 23 1st Aid/CPR & Fire Kalispell
24 "In the Clear" Kalispell
28 – 30 1st Aid/CPR & Fire Libby and Plains

April 2017

5 – 7 Intermountain Logging Conference
12 – 14 1st Aid/CPR & Fire Big Timber, Deer Lodge
18 – 19 1st Aid/CPR & Fire Seeley Lake, Columbia Falls

May 2017

1 – 4 BMP/SMZ Libby, Kalispell, Missoula, ?
19 – 20 MLA Annual membership meeting Bozeman

Keith brought up a letter he received from Boise Paper offering some suggestions for logger training. Gordy wanted to know if Boise sent the same letter to Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. Roger offered to meet with the Boise representative. It was suggested that the MFC either respond via a letter or a conference call to address their concerns and suggestions. Paul believes it is a misdirected letter because the BMP audits do not reflect the suggestions in the letter and we need to respond initially by a formal letter. Gordy will draft a response and work with Roger on the 2016 audit results and offer Roger to visit with Boise Paper over the phone to talk through their concerns. Rich suggested that we invite Tom Agens and John Dick to a MFC meeting.

Education Bat Brochure: Loren has been busy working on bats. In the last couple of weeks he has been talking to Jim and Nate Schwab. Nate has been very involved in doing the field research. Loren is not sure how to proceed with compensating Nate and producing the brochure. Gordy said they should go to print in the spring. Loren wanted to focus on white nose syndrome, which is now in Minnesota, Nebraska, Mississippi and Washington state. So moving west. ESA is working down the list of bats that might be susceptible to white nose and listing them as threatened. Montana's brown bats are susceptible. There are 15 species of bats in Montana and 11 live in the forest. Loren suggested that we need to provide information on how bats are studied and how they use the habitat i.e., snags and rock outcrops and they are even using live trees. Bats are the focus, but he wants to

make sure woodlot owners are doing a good job managing their forests. Loren wants to use Nate and tap into someone to do the graphics in putting the brochure together. They will need to be compensated for their time. Angela offered to fund the printing costs for 1500. MLA can cover the request for the \$2,000. Jim made a motion to budget \$2,000 and Ken second, approved.

MFC Financial Report: Keith talked about the financial report. SFI participants provide cash of \$23,750 and \$11,250 in in-kind contributions. The in-kind contributions aren't really reflective of all the work that is donated through the logger-training program. This is hard to capture. Expenses equal \$32,011.56. Gordy said it would be helpful to try to get a better in-kind contribution number to Keith by the end of the year. Paul suggested that maybe we need to capture training fees and add it to the financial report as well.

MFC Rotating Chair SFI Companies: Gordy said that some SIC's rotate every two years among SFI companies. Jim said most states have set a rotation of the chair. Gordy wasn't looking for a determination at this point. General agreement was that MFC leadership was fine as it is, but the idea of rotating chairs can be discussed further at a later date.

Member and Partner Updates

MT Tree Farm: Angela is the chair until December 31, 2016. Allen Chrisman is the new chair starting January 1, 2017. They voted a membership fee of \$30 per year starting January 2018. This will offset the annual fee to belong to the national organization and the rest will go to hiring a part time person. MT Tree Farm is up for their 3rd party audit in 2017. They are asking stakeholders to participate but she would like to have MFC participate. Jarred is participating under a different hat but may be able to participate as a MFC member as well.

Pyramid: Gordy said they had their audit the first of October. Everything went well. They received a notable practice for "Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach". Gordy wanted to remind everyone that when operators get out of their machines, they need to put their hard hat on.

Mote Lumber: Doug has a lot of interesting projects going on. He has a Forest in Focus project coming up and others.

MWPA: Julia updated on the Forestry Forum for State Legislators that was held in Helena on November 13 and a repeat is planned for December 6, same location. Ten legislators attended the first forum. MFOA, MT Tree Farm, MLA and MWPA presented information. Response from the legislators was very good.

MLA: Keith wanted to note that he had taken TNC off and we need to add Montana Tree Farm in. It was decided to keep TNC on the email distribution list. Keith wanted to know if the logger-training program was adequate, the response was yes.

Willis Enterprises: Rich wanted to focus on the letter from Boise Paper. The letter is to MLA but it is appropriate that MFC respond. He would like to see MLA call a meeting that would involve the state, MFC, and MLA representatives to talk about all the effort that goes into the logger training program.

Stimson: Bruce said they will have a surveillance audit in July 2017 covering Washington, Idaho and Montana. They will also have an internal audit in May and an HCP audit in 2018.

DNRC: Roger said they have resigned the SMZ law MOU with the FS. The MOU is good for 5 years. They finished the 2016 field reviews and the executive summary ready. Ratings of 97 and 97.5 for application and effectiveness. Outstanding work. They are completing the long report as well and will be available online only. Keith suggested we do a news release now that the report is ready. Roger offered to talk to the marketing person that they have on staff to see how best to accomplish getting a press release out. Forest in Focus just awarded another \$1.5 million, which spends out the \$5 million for this biennium. Depending upon what happens in the 2017 legislature, there may or may not be monies available starting July of 2017. There is still about \$5 – 10 million in projects that could utilize the program. HRA program, the state had 2 take overs in the past couple of months. They also took one over in June. SMZ violations, they settled 2 incidences in the last 2 months. One on state and one on Weyerhaeuser ground.

Stoltze: Paul said they had recertification audit first of October. Notable practice for stewardship outreach to private landowners.

Weyerhaeuser: Jim said they had a surveillance audit in August on fiber sourcing. Everything went well. Columbia Falls sawmill closed which had a chain of custody certification. They went ahead and applied for chain of custody on all remaining mills in MT. Not sure if they are going to have another audit in 2017 because of the new change in ownership.

Next meeting: March 10 9 – 12. Julia will check with Steve Marks to see if we can use his conference room.