

Montana Forest Council

June 23, 2020

Zoom meeting

Participants: Gordy Sanders/Scott Kuehn – *Pyramid Mountain Lumber*, Christine Johnson – *Nine Mile Venture*, Skyler Hofer – *IFG*, Cameron Wohlschlegel – *FH Stoltze*, Roger Ziesak - *DNRC*, Bruce Rowland – *Stimson Lumber Co*, Tim McIntire/Coleen Michael/Bryan Lorengo - *MLA*, David Nikonow – *The Wild Turkey Federation*, Tom Ray/Jared Richardson - *Weyerhaeuser*, Gordy Mouw – *SFI*, Peter Kolb – *MSU Extension Forestry*, Brian Sugden – *American Forest Management*

Guests: Peter Stegnar – *Riley & Associates*, Lorin Hicks – retired Weyerhaeuser

MFC Admin: Julia Altemus – *Montana Wood Products Association*

Chairman's Welcome: Gordy Sanders

Anti-Trust Statement: Gordy Sanders

February minutes: Peter Kolb made motion to approve and Tom Ray second – minutes approved

SFI Regional Meeting – 2022 Draft Standards: Gordy Mouw, SFI hosted 7 virtual regional meetings. Meetings covered SFI updates and new SFI tools and SFI is going to help SIC websites. Also talked about logger training during COVID times. Online training. Presentation from Michigan SIC program. Entire logger training program online. Regional meetings are recorded. SFIprogram.org. Click on member portion, SFI implementation committee, password protected, and click on the regional meetings. Gordy S wanted to know if MI shared the attendance. Gordy M said originally, they had around 20% participation and now they are up to 50%. Peter K, is there a training standards module? Gordy M said there are several modules on the SFI Standard revision online. Jared, WY has had several meetings on the draft standards and which ones are important to weigh in on: Collaborative approach, risk assessment being required for resource standard – regardless of size can be burdensome for fiber sourcing for the smaller sales, logger training requirements – a portion of the logger training needs to be reviewed every two years is what the Montana does already. Achieving 100% is a high bar. Striving is a better measurement. Climate Smart section is overly prescriptive. Scott wanted to know about the core logger training every two years. Gordy M says the Standard says **at least** every two years. Core training is up to the SICs to decide and this is where it sits today. Some people want this more clearly defined. Scott suggested that clarification is needed. Also, the Forests of Exceptional Value section and the stand level requirements. MT is a large state and this is tough Standard. Tim, ALP program will continue to offer classes every year. Brian Sugden, objective 3, over-arching goal of protecting water quality and quantity. Quantity is new. To Brian this is not timing of the water, more a water yield and forests produce water in sufficient quantities. Brian wanted to know if there is background. Gordy M said the insertion is the conservation team focus to add this to the Standards. It's the impact of forest management decisions on water quantity or run-off that effects water quantity. The standard must meet provincial or state or local water quantity rules or laws. SFI has yet to define Water Quantity. Brian suggested the devil is in the detail, as hydrology deals with quality, quantity and run-off and could be problematic depending upon how SFI defines quantity. Could be a problem is more agency lands become SFI certified. Gordy S said that Clearwater Paper has concerns over Objective 9 – Climate Smart forests. Gordy S said a new term is showing up regarding soil health. Gordy M was not aware of the

term or the expectation of SFI. Roger wanted to be clear regarding the water quality and quantity, because of MT SMZ law identifies water quantify as being important but does not define the word. Gordy M said there was reference to BMPs but now added water quality and quantity meeting BMPs. Peter K suggested using the word **water supply** since they originate in watersheds. Brian said that maintaining stream integrity is an overarching goal and purpose of the SMZ law. Gordy S that we will use a collaborative approach within the MFC and possibly other SICs and develop comments. Roger, Peter K, Jared, Brian Sugden, Gordy S, Tree Farm and MFOA. Peter Stegner said the Idaho SIC has draft comments ready to go. **Gordy S suggested that if people have comments to forward to Julia for incorporation into the MFC comments.**

Educational Brochure: Lorin Hicks, making progress on the Bird brochure for Woodlot Owners. The project has slowed, but he may have located a person (Nancy Seiler) who has done work for the DNRC that may be able to help. Nancy is interested in the project but has not yet submitted an estimate. Lorin is still looking for funding to get the project done. Gordy S reminded everyone that MFC had committed \$3000 for this project. Odds are we will need more to finish the brochure. Gordy S suggested that it might be a good time to bring David and Bryce Maxell back to help with project. Lorin suggested that we may need to simplify the document and will continue to work to get the brochure completed. Gordy S said that member companies may be able to help with funding and we will look for other grant opportunities. DNRC and MFC Extension committed \$1,000 each for printing costs. Gordy S asked if TWTF could help as well. David said he will check with his supervisor. This type of support comes from the grants program which usually sends out requests in the fall. Due to COVID, they have a very limited budget because they are not able to fundraise. Peter K wanted to know where the original document will be stored for future printings. Roger doesn't think the DNRC currently has the originals, but will check and get back. Lorin will do some checking as well.

Spring 2020 Training Recap-Covid Virtual/in person: Tim,

First-Aid/CPR	340 completed online
Advanced SFI	15 registered for 6/26 in Kalispell
BMP/SMZ	67 Missoula, Kalispell, Libby, Belgrade 6/24
FSW for Loggers	10 Kalispell @ MLA office

Workshops cancelled due to COVID-19

- New Technology for Handling Steeper Slopes
- Tree Diseases & Weed Spraying on Agency Contracts
- Managing for Wildlife
- BMP/SMZ for Road Building – postponed

Participants from 2019

- 310 Basic
- 106 Advanced
- 154 ALP (preferred)

Tim and Coleen pulled together several online training options, but members didn't really respond. Online training may not be the best option for MT loggers.

Gordy S said that Tracking developing trends for logger training is in the draft standards and something we should keep in mind going forward. Tim would like to have a good offering for training next year, so please get in touch with him if you have suggestions.

Project Learning Tree/SFI: Cindy Peterson was available to Gordy S the update. They have funding for 2020 materials and training. Somewhat curtailed due to COVID-19.

MFC Financial Report: Coleen said Roseburg Forest Products decided to not participate this year, but income and expenses are static. Gordy S has been reaching out to various companies in WA, ID and AFM and SPP to become dues paying members.

Member and Partner Updates: **DNRC – Roger** said reminded everyone, he is the DNRC liaison for MT timber industry and would like to see if there are projects that we think would be good to have the DNRC involved in to let him know. **BMP audits and field reviews are delayed until Aug 5 for calibration. May or may not stick due to travel restrictions and COVID issues. There has been talk of cancelling this cycle, but not in favor at this point.** Over 40 yes responses from the non-industrial landowners and only need around 9. Had one HRA takeover in the 3 months. Have had a few SMZ issues. Number of requests for alternative practices have declined but the number of violations have increased. Over the past couple of years, the issues could have been addressed with an Alternative Practice request. Currently have 2 SMZ investigations underway. **MLA – Tim**, had their Emerging Leaders program in Kalispell. Next Emerging Leaders meeting will be in September. **Coleen**, need help getting the loggers to attend the virtual First Aid training, which is the basic. **Bryan L**, 2nd simulator from John Deere. Doesn't have a firm date yet. **FH Stoltze – Cameron**, moisture has delayed a steady flow of fiber. They are encouraging loggers to complete their training. **Weyerhaeuser – Tom Ray**, update on online training, the firewall blocked the certificate at the end. **Jared**, external audit for fiber sourcing on August 3. Tree Farm, still planning to hold annual meeting Oct 3 at Marks Lumber in Clancy and a field trip just west of Marks mill on a tree farm. **Stimson – Bruce**, working on a 28,000-acre conservation easement in the Fisher area, close early 2021. **AFM – Brian S**, is under contract with SPP Montana to manage the old WY acres. AFM had an internal audit based on the transfer of the WY lands and will have an external audit later. **MSU Extension Forestry - Peter K**, stewardship program is continuing with a reduced program but have full enrollment. Peter provided soil health science and literature review for another project and will forward his review to Julia to send out to the council. Youth camp was cancelled. **Pyramid – Gordy** will have an audit in October. MT SIC joint letter for a grant request for a research project regarding tethered logging and impacts on soils. Data gathering and when will the results be available. Gathering data this summer with final this fall, will confirm. **Scott**, getting ready for field season. **IFG – Skyler**, last week had a fiber sourcing audit for MT and ID operations. Went to a tether logging operation in Idaho. Visited Forest Service and private sales in MT and Idaho but do not have the audit results back yet. Re-opening the St. Regis mill in mid-July. May have trouble finding employees.

Gordy asked about logger training progress reports this year. Coleen said they will send out a progress report and will start in July through the rest of the year.

Next Meeting: November 10th