

Montana Forest Council
February 11, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Participants: Peter Kolb & Cindy Peterson – *MSU Extension Forestry*, Paul McKenzie & Cameron Wohlschlegel – *Stolze Land & Lumber*, Gordy Mouw - *SFI*, Gordy Sanders & Scott Kuehn – *Pyramid Mountain Lumber*, Director Kaster & Roger Ziesak - *DNRC*, Jared Richardson - *Weyerhaeuser*, Tom Agens – *Packing Corporation of America*, Coleen Michael & Tim McIntire – *Montana Logging Association*, Skyler Hoefler – *Idaho Forest Group*, Brian Sugden – *American Forest Management*, David Nikonow – *National Wild Turkey Federation*, Christine Johnson – *Nine Mile Venture*, Dan Claridge – *Thompson River Lumber*

Guests: Lorin Hicks, Patti Case – *Green Diamond Resource*

MFC Coordinator: Julia Altemus - *MWPA*

Chairman's Welcome and Anti-Trust Statement: Gordy Sanders

Minutes: Motion to approve by Paul, Peter offered a second, motion carried

SFI Standard Revision Update: Gordy M, The Standards are close to being done. Fire Smart Forestry performance measure to be completed. Fiber Sourcing Standards are done. You can go to the SFI website and see the standards. Next step, the April SFI Board will approve and then the Standards will be distributed. New Standards go into effect January 1, 2022. Gordy S, will there be a webinar to go over the new Standards? Gordy M, said they had a webinar already and can still be viewed online. Major Enhancements revisions will be available soon. This will highlight the specific language changes. Allowance for the SIC's to meet the Standards collectively and will lead to a governance document revision. Gordy M will get back to the MFC on this issue. Roger, what is the Fire Smart Forestry? Gordy M, to have program participants to consider the impact of fire on forest management. Not mandated, but a "shall consider". Could look like a regional risk assessment. A due diligence. Consider ways to reduce impacts to fire. The Climate Smart Forestry is a new performance measure that is done. Brian, is there a phase in for the new Standard? Gordy M, audits in 2022 are to the new Standards. Recertification audits this year is to the old Standard. In 2022, a recertification audit is only a surveillance audit no matter which standard is chosen to use. Gordy S, new 2022 Standards is to what year? Gordy M, no end date as of now. Gordy S, the Fire Smart Forestry performance Standard, will the state forest action plan be a component of the Fire Smart Forestry? Gordy M, will forward some draft concepts with the Fire Smart and Climate Smart Forestry Standards. Peter, when we look at the Standards, and want to make suggestions is Gordy M the contact person. Gordy M said the comment period for the standards was final in 2020. Gordy S, updated on his conversation with the WA SIC Community Grant on tethered logging systems. MFC had supported their request and the WA SIC. Conversation with forest partners. All the individual companies were going to contact Dan Rogers regarding the SFI inquiry about certification of MT Trust Lands since the MFC was not in consensus.

Educational Bird Habitat Brochure: Lorin Hicks ran through the draft document. Wood lot operations, biological diversity, step two landscape conditions for birds and step three is a stand-level chart, management options for landowners. Patti wanted to know what the distribution of the brochure is. Roger said he will send out to the service foresters. When forestland owners ask for a HRA the service

foresters send out all the brochures to individuals and Gordy S said that we all send out brochures to our contacts. Jared said he includes in the SFI packet to landowners and tracks who gets the information. Lorin, fortunate to have the \$2500 grant. Nancy's most recent estimate to finish the project is \$2170. Will probably need a different format when done. In the past, has be a tri-fold. Nancy is suggesting a Z-Fold. Julia wanted to know if printing a Z-fold is the same cost as a tri-fold? Roger was going to look into it. Paul suggested to run the brochure by the Fish, Wildlife and Parks to make sure our messaging is the same as theirs. David will run it by FWP. There is a budget in the MFC \$2000 and DNRC and MSU EF offered to help. Roger said we would run between 2500 – 3000 copies initially.

Spring 2021 Training Program: All in person classes this year. A lot of smaller first aid classes but with a new video. Forest Stewardship workshop will be at the MLA with 5 already interested. BMP and SMZ, New Technology in Logging, 6 – 8 ALP credits, Log Trucking class, WC class in April, Cutting by Description, Managing on Private Ownership for a total of 44 credits offered. Preregistration is a must because of the size of the class restriction. Gordy S wanted to know if the companies have their contractor meetings set yet. Tim hasn't heard from anyone. Peter said Landowner Workshops are online this year. Tree Planting and Insect and Diseases maybe offered for MLA credits. Gordy S, SFI online training program link was sent out. Tim did look at it.

Project Learning Tree: Cindy, many national changes. Revised business model and classes. Trying to help teachers meet their standards with their curriculum. Need to keep the facilitators up to speed and received a donation from the FS of about \$4000. Have done some online training, has been a little slow for early childhood. Pre-service teachers with the colleges and conferences coming up. Hoping the teachers will want to have in-person training this year. Stewardship workshops, registrations went out, but several locations are full for August. September still has openings. Gordy S, how many people have gone through the program? Cindy, 3000 + for ownerships and 5000+ individuals.

MFC Financial Report: Coleen, PCA and AFM joined. Budget of \$23,750 for 2021. Workshop mailings are going out. Gordy S is still working with Clearwater Paper and in conversation with Green Diamond.

Member and Partner Update: Cameron, 2020 had a fiber sourcing audit passed. After last meeting, have added a few parcels to land base. Harvesting DxD on FS projects. Stoltze will offer intel to the MLA classes. This spring will schedule their crew for MLA classes. Running 2 shifts, 75 hours full capacity. Peter, a lot of zoom trainings the last year. Reaches more people. Salvage logging video. Natural Resources Youth Camp scheduled for the 3rd week in July. Newsletter, pre-commercial thinning. Tom, a lot of changed as Wallula since pulled out of the pulp market. Fully converted to brown production, two machines. Went from the smallest producer to ranked #3 in monthly production totals. Third highest producer of wood costs in the system. Undergoing some capital upgrades to try to reduce wood costs. Hauling chips out of Bonner, MT for about a year. Roger, moderate uptick in open HRAs, usually run around 1600 but now running around 1800. West and central region of the state. DRNC recently wrapped up the work of the Forest Action Plan which does tie into the SFI program. Will be awarded grants to implement the Action Plan. Forest Pathologist on staff soon. Cancelled the 2020 field reviews. Sticking to the regular cycle. Next audit is in 2022. Start process around November of 2021. Settled one SMZ penalty case #47485. Have an HRA revert back to the DNRC case #43082. Patti, introduce the MFC to Green Diamond. Date back to 1890. Green Diamond is the landowner, own or manage 2.1 million acres in 6 states. Hold HCPs in CA, WA, and MT. Conservation easements in MT. Work with Trust for Public Lands to offer public access. Still privately owned. 5th generation. Brian, Green Diamond 291,000 acres rolled into the SFI certificate. AFM has an external audit of the certificate in the fall hope to do a simultaneous surveillance audit. SPP Montana has sold about half of their lands to Green Diamond and

another 126,000 acres to the Flathead Ridge Ranch. Cindy Henderson is a new forester with AFM. Coleen, March meeting will not be in Helena this year. Trying to schedule in Kalispell. Tim, spent time with FVCC with the heavy equipment simulator and will get out into the woods soon. Skyler, IFG 2020 recap started back up July due to upgrades. Converted from a 9' mill to be able to process 8'-10'. Running 2 shifts. Preparing for SFI audit first week of June. Holly McKenzie is the new chair of MT Tree Farm and Skyler is the new vice-chair. 20 tree farm audits scheduled for July. Jared, Tree Farm gave out 4 awards. WY continue to make capital improvements to all the mills in MT. SFI central office audit in March. Scott, Forestry Day is cancelled this year. Gordy S, certification audit this fall.

Next Meeting: June 22, 2021 Zoom