

Montana Forest Council
June 22, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Participants: Peter Kolb – *MSU Extension Forestry*, Cameron Wohlschlegel – *Stolze Land & Lumber*, Gordy Mouw - *SFI*, Gordy Sanders & Scott Kuehn – *Pyramid Mountain Lumber*, Roger Ziesak - *DNRC*, Zack Miller - *Weyerhaeuser*, Tom Agens – *Packing Corporation of America*, Coleen Michael, Tim McIntire & Bryan Lorenzo– *Montana Logging Association*, Brian Sugden – *American Forest Management*, David Nikonow – *National Wild Turkey Federation*, Christine Johnson – *Nine Mile Venture*, Ben Super – *U of M School of Forestry*, Patti Case – *Green Diamond Resource Co.*, Cody Daiutolo – *Thompson River Lumber*, Bruce Rowland – *Stimson Lumber Company*

MFC Coordinator: Julia Altemus - *MWPA*

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

Minutes: Patti moved to approve the notes, Bruce offered a second. Notes approved.

SFI 2021 Conference Summary: Gordy M reported out on the conference. The summary is also on the Forests.org website along with videos. Over 600 participants attended. Centered around 5 topics including climate change and fire resilience and awareness. How SFI certification is helping to mitigate these topics. ESG (Environmental, Social and Governmental) rates companies and indicates preferences. ESG is a rating company based on specific criteria factors. How certification can meet the ESG factors. Session on species recovery and conservation. Another session on work force needs and careers. Last session on urban and community forests. The need for a certification system around urban and community forests. Had an SIC session on the last day of the meeting that focused on work of the SICs and one was green building, focused on standards and breakouts. Because the conference was held in the spring, Gordy M plans to host a fall SIC meeting focusing on the 2022 standards. Not sure if it will virtual or face-to-face. More to come on this meeting. Next year’s conference will be in Madison, Wisconsin in conjunction with Project Learning Tree. Gordy S wanted to know when to expect the next version of the Standard to come out. Gordy M, the Standards are done and on the web. They are final. The guidance document Section 7 is final, but a bit of wordsmithing is being done. The only thing left is the PEFC endorsement, which will be in the next couple of months.

Bird Habitat Management Brochure: The brochure is done. Roger printed 3500 copies. He also has 3500 copies of the Bat Brochure. Contact Roger to make arrangements to get copies. The brochures are free to the public. Gordy S wanted to know what the MFC should work on next. Zack supported pre-commercial thinning brochure. Roger also suggested a brochure that explains about spacing of trees and maybe can be incorporated into a PCT brochure. Peter, Roger, Dave, Zack, Cameron, and Tim will work on the next brochure.

Community Grant/Tethered Logging Soil Impacts: Scott reviewed the report. There are several different types of tethering systems and people seem to get confused. FS is still limited to 35% ground based within the Forest Plan. Scott believes that is the old technology. The use of tethering allows work on a steeper-slopes with less impact to soil compaction. Also, safer the traditional line machines. Tim, a little more corridor disturbance, but less corridors. Basic takeaways are Less soil compaction and narrows the disturbance to plant growth. Gordy S, were there agencies that participated? Scott, WA

well. **Cameron**, Stoltze is running 2 shifts. Contractors back in the woods. Surveillance audit scheduled for October. **Ben**, U of M uptick in enrollment this fall. Over 900 students at the Forestry school. New Dean, Alan Townsend. Ben and he are getting out to the mills. **Tim**, participated in Teaching the Teachers in conjunction with the Forest Service. **Brian**, AMF certificate that covers several of their clients audit first week of October. **Dave**, habitat treatments this spring and helped with a wildlife class with the MLA this spring. **Tom**, paper mill had a 10-day maintenance outage in early May. Set 3 production records in the last quarter. Have a lot of chip and sawdust inventory. **Peter**, Stewardship workshop classes are full in western MT. Eastern MT is always a bit for challenging to get participants. Peter met with a real estate office that works in Sanders County. Prices are through the roof. WA, CA, FL people are buying tracks of land. As larger landowners subdivide their properties, we are going to have a forest management education for new landowners. He needs a Geology instructor for Luebrecht. Gordy suggested Dave Cheff. Scott will have Forestry Days during the 4th of July. **Gordy**, Pyramid annual surveillance audit in October.

Next Meeting: November 9th. Will try in-person. Julia will have to find a location and have a phone available for those that will not be traveling to the meeting.