

NC SFI SIC MEETING

*NORTH CAROLINA SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE
STATE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE*

North Carolina Farm Bureau - Raleigh, NC – November 14, 2012

1. CONVENE NC SFI SIC MEETING AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Jim Durham called the SFI-SIC meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Members present for all or part of the meeting were:

Mike Adams	Bob Ordnung	Scott Smearman
Scott Brewer	Amy Phillips	Lynn Stephensen
David Castle	Ron Phillips	Glen Sheehan
Joe Cox	Danny Maness	Jaime Teel
Tony Doster	Rand Mathews	Marshall Thompson
Ken Goodwin	Russ Newton	
Ron Heatherly	Greg Ricks	
Ed Listerman	Bernard Rose	

Others present for all or part of the meeting were:

Jay Boyette	Tom Gerow
Chris Brown	Leslie McCormick
Steve Cox	Jack Swanner

2. ANTITRUST COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Jim Durham reminded members that the meeting would be in full compliance with the NCFA's policy on antitrust compliance contained in the meeting materials.

3. RECOGNITION OF PARTICIPATION OF QUORUM

Jim Durham declared that a quorum was present at the meeting and that the meeting would proceed as planned. It was noted that Jim Durham would serve as the proxy vote for Matt Thuman and Chip Miller, who were not able to attend the meeting. Ed Listerman would serve as the proxy vote for Bryan Hulka.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Jim Durham asked members to review the minutes from the last meeting. On a motion and second to approve the minutes, they were approved as submitted.

5. TREASURERS REPORT

Bernard Rose presented the treasurers report and the complete report can be found on page 2 of the meeting materials. Rose commented that the new grant process makes the reporting of where NC SFI SIC funds are being appropriated is more transparent than in previous budgets. The report reflects the percentages of the budget designated to the specific areas such as general administrative, landowner outreach, training and education, information resources market outreach, and inconsistent practices program. Rose stated that the current checking account balance is 60,360.24 and that he expected to receive an additional \$14,000.00 in outstanding dues. The NCFA is the monitor of the dues collection process and the NCFA's Interim Executive Vice President Jack Swanner said he would review the dues payments to the NC SFI SIC and provide reminders to any company or companies that had outstanding dues to the NC SFI SIC. Rose also proposed a budget for the 2013 year. Since the grant process produced seven projects, totaling \$101,700.00, the budgeting process was relatively easy. The report and proposed budget for 2013 was approved unanimously.

NC SIC 2012 Budget

	'12 Budget	'12 Actual		
Income				
SIC Dues	\$119,600.00	\$125,916.05		
Interest	\$550.00	\$545.01		
Total	\$120,150.00	\$126,461.06		
Expense				
Administrative				
NCFA	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	FECF-NCFA Prog Support	
Misc Exp	\$200.00	\$59.84	Grant Comm Lunch	
Travel	\$2,500.00	\$3,860.26	FECF-NCFA Prog Support 2529 & SFI Conf 1331.26	
Total	\$23,700.00	\$24,920.10		
Landowner Outreach				
Landowner Guide	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00		
Tree Farm	\$15,000.00	\$27,500.00	12,500 for Stewardship Program & 15,000 for Program Support	
Misc. Landowner Outreach	\$7,000.00	\$250.00		
Total	\$32,000.00	\$32,750.00		
Training and Education				
Logger Training	\$0.00			
Silvicultural Contractor Training	\$0.00			
Certified Logger Program	\$0.00			
Total	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Information Resources				
Promote SFI at NC Legislation	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	FECF-NCFA Prog Support	
Certification Workshops	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	FECF-NCFA Prog Support	
Purchase 1 Display/Materials	\$1,500.00			
Scholarship	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	FECF-NCFA Prog Support	
SFI Certification at Universities	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	FECF-NCFA Prog Support	
NC SIC Website	\$5,000.00	\$4,989.90		
Teachers Tour	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00	FECF-NCFA Prog Support	
Forestry Camp	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	FECF-NCFA Prog Support	
Total	\$69,500.00	\$67,989.90		
Market Outreach				
NC SIC Booths (5@\$450)	\$2,250.00			
Purchase Displays/Materials	\$1,500.00	\$720.56		
Customer Communication	\$2,500.00			
Recruitment	\$0.00			
Total	\$6,250.00	\$720.56		
Inconsistent Practices				
Monitor/Phone Lines	\$1,500.00	\$1,743.31	Monthly	Qtrly Rate
Reporting	\$1,000.00		174.31	1569
Consultants	\$3,000.00	\$2,158.80		
Total	\$5,500.00	\$3,902.11		
Total Expenses	\$136,950.00	\$130,282.67		

NC SIC Proposed 2013 Budget	2012 Budget	2012 Actual 14-Nov	2012 Estimate	% of Actual	2013 Budget	% of Budget
Income						
SIC Dues	\$119,600.00	\$125,916.05	\$140,000.00		\$140,000.00	
Interest	\$550.00	\$545.01	\$650.00		\$550.00	
Total	\$120,150.00	\$126,461.06	\$140,650.00		\$140,550.00	
Expense						
Administrative						
NCFA	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00		\$21,000.00	
Misc Exp	\$200.00	\$59.84	\$150.00		\$250.00	
Travel	\$2,500.00	\$3,860.26	\$3,860.26		\$1,500.00	
Total	\$23,700.00	\$24,920.10	\$25,010.26	17%	\$22,750.00	16%
Landowner Outreach						
Landowner Guide	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00		\$0.00	
Tree Farm	\$15,000.00	\$27,500.00	\$27,500.00		\$0.00	
Misc. Landowner Outreach	\$7,000.00	\$250.00	\$500.00		\$2,000.00	
Total	\$32,000.00	\$32,750.00	\$33,000.00	23%	\$2,000.00	1%
Training and Education						
Logger Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Silvicultural Contractor Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Certified Logger Program	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00	0%
Information Resources						
Promote SFI at NC Legislation	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00		\$0.00	
Certification Workshops	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00		\$0.00	
Purchase 1 Display/Materials	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Scholarship	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00		\$0.00	
SFI Certification at Universities	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00		\$0.00	
NC SIC Website	\$5,000.00	\$4,989.90	\$4,989.90		\$1,000.00	
Teachers Tour	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00		\$0.00	
Forestry Camp	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00		\$0.00	
Total	\$69,500.00	\$67,989.90	\$67,989.90	51%	\$1,000.00	1%
Market Outreach						
NC SIC Booths	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$2,150.00	
Purchase Displays/Materials	\$1,500.00	\$720.56	\$720.56		\$2,250.00	
Customer Communication	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$1,250.00	
Recruitment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Total	\$6,250.00	\$720.56	\$720.56	5%	\$5,650.00	4%

(continued)

Grants Approved						
LO	Wake Soil & Water Conservation FECV - Sustainable Teachers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,700.00	
IR	Academy FECV - Forestry & Environmental	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	
IR	Camp	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	
IR	FECV - NC Science Teachers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	
TE	FECV - Skid Trail Rutting Video	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	
LO	NC Tree Farm - Landowner Outreach	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	
LO	NC Tree Farm - Stewardship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	
Total					\$101,700.00	73%
Inconsistent Practices						
	Monitor / Phone Lines / Reporting	\$1,500.00	\$1,743.31	\$2,310.00	\$3,000.00	
	Reporting	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Consultants	\$3,000.00	\$2,158.80	\$2,158.80	\$3,000.00	
Total					\$6,000.00	4%
Total Expenses		\$136,950.00	\$130,282.67	\$131,189.52	\$139,100.00	
Carry Forward Income/Loss		-\$16,800.00	-\$3,821.61	\$9,460.48	\$1,450.00	

6. SFI ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW AND 2013 NC SIC SFI WORK PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

As the chair of the NC SFI SIC, Jim Durham attended the national SFI meeting in Milwaukee. He noted that Bryan Hulka and Ron Heatherly were at the conference as well. Durham reported that he was able to review what other SFI State Implementation Committees in the southeastern region were doing in their respective states in the southeastern region. The NCFAs ProLogger program with its annual continuing education component was regarded as one of the best. There was a discussion on how the regional states may be able to partner going forward on this important training, spreading the costs over the participating SICs.

One of the main themes for the conference was the push for more certified forests in the United States. Currently, only 10 percent of the nation's forests are certified. One of the programs highlighted was the Forest Partners Program. Four leaders of the North American publishing industry have partnered with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative to help spur the growth of certification on private and public lands. Time Inc., the National Geographic Society, Macmillan, and Pearson will become Founding Partners of the SFI Forest Partners Program. The alliance was announced at the SFI annual conference in Milwaukee, attended by foresters, land owners, conservation groups, First Nations, industry and government agencies.

SFI Forest Partners will work collectively with the SFI community to make certification more efficient and accessible by providing resources for activities such as shared consulting expertise, group certification or audit coordination. By the end of 2014, SFI Forest Partners aims to certify five million acres (two million hectares) of forests to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. By the end of 2017, the Forest Partners Program hopes to certify 10 million acres (four million hectares) of forest across the United States and Canada. It will also seek to certify more small and medium-sized mills to SFI certified sourcing or chain-of-custody certification.

Durham was asked to review a SFI national document that outlined specific outreach plans and opportunities that it hoped state committees would review to see how they were matching up in their own work plans. Durham led the review and in most cases, the NC SFI SIC did address each category at some level either through the grant process, committee support and/or individual members within the committee participating in an activity.

It was clear from the meeting that the SFI national is trying to build upon its growing relationship with the Boys and Girls Scouts of America. The committee discussed this and pledged to promote the grant process to the Boys and Girls Scouts contacts they may have within the state.

It was also noted that the NC SFI SIC members should also be reaching out to various groups with information about the SIC's grant program. One of the goals of the grant program is to increase the SIC's outreach to a wide range of groups interested in conserving forests in our state.

After completing the review of the national document, Durham noted that many of the objectives found in the national document were already identified in the NC SFI SIC's work plans as a result the strategic planning process of 2011.

The final item Durham addressed was the NC SFI SIC's annual progress report. The report once was a written document that was held on file after being submitted to the national office. It was moved to an online report this past year, making it harder to share among committee members who need to share it with auditors. Durham was able to obtain a printed copy and it is now posted on the SIC's website under the members only section.

7. FORESTRY ISSUES UPDATE

The North Carolina Forest Service's (NCFS) Tom Gerow provided the following report to the committee.

Personnel Update: NCFS has some key vacancies including State Forester, Eastern Regional Forester and two Water Quality Foresters in eastern North Carolina. Greg Pate was promoted to Deputy State Forester. Sean Brogan was promoted to Forest Management & Development Division Director.

BMP Manual: About 600 copies were re-printed to replenish statewide inventory. If copies are needed, please contact the County or nearest District office. Appendix 1 (Rules and Regulations) was revised to reflect new buffer rules that went into effect after the initial 2006 release of the BMP Manual. Chapters and each Appendix can be downloaded from the NCFS website as needed.

Forest Roads NPDES: During the open public comment period, the NCFS prepared and submitted comments to USEPA in early October about the proposed revisions to NPDES regulation of logging/forest roads.

BMP Surveys: NCFS will begin its third cycle of BMP Site Implementation/Monitoring Surveys by end of 2012. This will be an intensive site-by-site assessment of what BMPs are being used on a site. It will be a randomized sampling of sites to evaluate. This will be the first detailed assessment of the 2006 BMP Manual. Will focus on active harvest sites, but will also evaluate closed-out harvest sites and forest management sites (site prep, controlled burning). Expect to continue through 2013. If the SIC/SLTC wants a demonstration at the January joint meeting, let us know.

Regional BMP Report: Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) published latest southeastern regional BMP Implementation Monitoring report, available at their website: www.southernforests.org.

BMP Newsletters: Intent is to expand BMP outreach on a more regular basis. Would be 3 quarterly newsletters; one for each Region of NC, every 4 months. Highlight BMP topic & emerging issues, concerns, activities. Welcome ideas on how to distribute (email VS print) and would something like this be received well? Target audience is loggers, landowners, timber buyers, consultants -- anyone in forestry community.

Biomass: FYI: SC Forestry Commission is finalizing development of biomass BMPs. Draft recommendations and background information available on their website: www.trees.sc.gov >> Forest Management >> BMPs and Environmental Management....scroll down to "Links: Forest Biomass Harvesting....."

Currently NCFS does not feel compelled to initiate similar work in NC. The FPG standards and BMP options are considered to be satisfactory at this time. NC's current BMPs need to be assessed before revisions / updates are considered.

8. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Jack Swanner provided an update on some key forestry issues. The following are some highlights from his report.

At the national level, Swanner did not anything to come out of the “lame duck” session in December in terms of movement on any bills impacting the issue of permits for forest roads. The Supreme Court is set to address the issue in December. Depending on the action of the Supreme Court, there are several bills that are positioned to be introduced and moved in the next legislative session.

In terms of our state general assembly, North Carolina will be led by a Republican Governor and Republican majorities in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The pace of the 2013-14 legislative session is expected to be fast and full of reforms meant to reduce red tape, produce jobs and spur the economy. One of the items that may impact forestry is the broad notion of tax reform. The present-use tax program is critical to forest landowners and our state’s environment. The NCFA is committed to supporting this program.

Swanner also noted that nearly 60 percent of the general assembly will be comprised of members who are in their first or second term. The NCFA’s Forestry Day in the Legislature, which is April 16, will be an important event for our association.

In the area of regulations, Swanner updated the committee on some progress being made on the driveway access issue. There is a law on the books that requires that anyone who is connecting a driveway access for a temporary road to a North Carolina state maintained road to get a driveway access permit. Again, this law has only been enforced in a few counties across the state. The permit is nominal, but it must be filed before it can be operational.

In order to address this problem, the NCFA is currently in deliberations with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NC DOT) to simplify this process in these particular counties. One of the ideas being forwarded at this point is having the temporary road deemed a NC DOT work zone.

There would be a training element for all loggers on implementing this work zone area that would be covered annually as part of the NCFA's ProLogger Training. With the annual training element addressed, there would be a few other procedures necessary to comply with being a work zone; however, it would pretty much be business as usual for our loggers. This new designation would make the permit process not necessary, saving loggers the hassle of pre-registering any access roads.

The NCFA will continue to work on this issue with NC DOT and other partner agencies and groups and hopes to develop some final language to share with the NCFA Board of Directors.

Swanner provided an education update for the NCFA as it pertains to the programs that are supported through the NC SFI SIC. The NCFA’s Forestry and Environmental Camp was held in Wilmington in October. The experience gave Swanner an up close look at the camps and the opportunity to discuss them with the volunteers and teachers at the camp. He was impressed with the camps and hopes that Bob Schaefer, who coordinated the Wilmington Camp, will be able to supervise a total of five camps next year, including Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, Wilkesboro and Wilmington.

Swanner reported that the NCFA has signed a contract with North Carolina State University Extension Forestry to supervise the Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Academy in Asheville and New Bern next year. There is also a discussion underway to run an advanced academy in 2014 in the Piedmont. The advanced workshop would include trips to active logging sites, forest management sites, etc.

The NCFA also had recently participated in the Science Teachers Convention in Winston-Salem. The NCFA gave out 700 Goods from the Woods boxes and 1,500 posters on Carbon Cycle. The teachers really liked the new Carbon Cycle poster because it is now part of their curriculum.

9. LANDOWNER OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE – CHAIR BRYAN HULKA

Chair Bryan Hulka was unable to make the meeting due to a scheduling conflict so Ed Listerman led the landowner outreach report. The North Carolina Tree Farm Program's Leslie McCormick and Steve Cox provided updates on the NC Tree Farm's activities since the last meeting. The following report was submitted to the committee.

Prior to the reports by McCormick and Cox, Listerman, who is the current chair of the North Carolina Tree Farm Program, did inform the NC SFI SIC of an ongoing discussion within the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) concerning membership dues.

Listerman reported that the ATFS is considering a dues structure that would consist of four categories:

- 1) \$29/year for the AFF Woodland Protector category—not tree farm certified but receive some services;
- 2) \$59/year for the Steward category—in the system for a long time but don't want to be certified;
- 3) \$99/year for the ATFS Certified category;
- 4) \$499/year for the AFF Leader category—includes certification and other benefits.

The dues structure has been tested over the past year in four different states. Early results show that there is not a lot of interest among Tree Farmers in paying dues to the ATFS.

As Tree Farm Chair, Listerman does not support the ATFS approach and he has voiced this opinion to ATFS. He believes that any dues should be established and raised at the state level based on the individual state and the costs it experiences to run the program. A subsequent payment could be made to ATFS as part of this dues collection.

The concerns on a possible dues structure from the ATFS were shared among committee members as well as other Tree Farmers on the committee.

Many members of the committee believed that instituting a membership fee, especially since the ATFS Certified category is set at \$99 a year, would only drive down the number of certified acres in North Carolina and in the United States as a whole. Since one of the primary goals of the SFI program is to enroll more forests into a "certified" program, a dues structure would not be a positive thing for one of the primary goals for SFI. It was noted that the NC SFI SIC has committed funds to help the NC Tree Farm program to increase the certified acres in North Carolina.

It was pointed out that most Tree Farmers would elect to be in the (\$29) Woodland Protector category until the year that they might harvest timber. In that year, they would elect to join at the (\$99) ATFS Certified category so they would be selling certified wood.

The other concern on dues pertains to the agreement between the NC Tree Farm Program and the North Carolina Stewardship program. The two groups are trying to combine efforts with an opt-in program for all Stewardship members into the NC Tree Farm Program. The benefit for Stewardship members would be the

ability to certify their wood through the ATFS PEFC certification. However, the Stewardship program is a free program to its members. A new fee structure from the ATFS might compromise the original MOU.

There has been no final word from ATFS if and when they will pursue a national dues structure, but it was suggested that it might be voted on at the ATFS Board of Directors meeting in January.

Accordingly, a motion was forwarded and passed to allow the NC SFI SIC Executive Board to draft and send letter to ATFS board opposing the dues structure as proposed. In the meantime, NC SFI SIC Chair Jim Durham was going to contact SFI Inc. for input and direction before the committee took any further action.

Tree Farm Database Project by Leslie McCormick

Tree Farmers in Database at Beginning of Project (8/1/ 2011): 952

Updates to Database:

Name/Address Corrected	146	22.0%*
Phone Number Corrected	148	22.3%*
New Email Address	285	43.0%*
Total Emails (new & confirmed)	449	67.8%*

* % of completed contacts excluding de-certifications

De-certifications:	243	25.5%
Missing Owner	221	
Sold Farm	13	
No interest	5	
Deceased	1	
Substandard	3	

Age of Management Plan

0-2 Years	40%
3-5 Years	25%
6-10 Years	11%
10+ Years	3%
Don't Know	11%
No Answer	9%
No Plan	<1%

Preferred Method of Communication

Direct Mail	50%
Email/Websites/Webinars	44%
Workshops	5%

Certified Tree Farms (as of 11/13/2012): 837

New Tree Farms in 2012:	81
New Acreage in 2012:	15,835

Total Certified Acreage (as of 11/13/2012): 296,819*

*This includes one large landowner (61,000 acres) that will likely be decertified in December

NC Tree Farm Program Outreach and Education Report – By Steve Cox

A Tree Farm Inspector training class was held on September 10th at the Stan Adams Center at Jordan Lake and 17 new inspectors were certified. We began receiving new inspection reports from some of these foresters almost immediately. The participants were a mix of Forest Service foresters, consultants, and industry foresters. Mark Bost, NC Forest Service hosted the class.

The NC Tree Farm Program Annual meeting, awards breakfast, and forestry tour was held on October 6 at the Biltmore Estate. We had 95 attendees, mostly landowners.

A Landowner Workshop at Washington, NC was held on October 20. The program included management plan topics and a tour of the Weyerhaeuser nursery. 24 were in attendance.

The NCTFP provided a representative with the Tree Farm display at Non-Native Invasive Species Workshops in Stanley County (75 + attendees) and Johnston County (100 + attendees)

Future Events

Tree Farm will participate in forest landowner workshops at Kenansville on November 29 and Goldsboro on December 6. These are sponsored by Mount Olive College. A spring 2013 landowner workshop is tentatively set for Wilkes County. The NC Tree Farm Program would like to thank the NC SIC for their continued support of these activities.

10. TRAINING AND EDUCATION – CHAIR SCOTT BREWER

Scott Brewer was recently named the chair of the NC SFI SIC subcommittee on Training and Education. Brewer replaces Mike Adams, who resigned recently from his chair position, but remains a part of the subcommittee. Brewer is outgoing chair of NCFA's Safety, Logging and Transportation committee.

Brewer reported that Module 13 is completed and several classes have been held. The module has received a lot of positive feedback from the loggers.

He stated that planning for Module 14 has already begun and the early topics being focused on are: Rutting; Business & Technology (NCFA website, Logging and Business Workshop, In Wood Scales, Smart Phones, Security); Weight Laws – Review of discussion of NC, VA, SC; Tree Felling Safety; Safety Transportation Plan; Pests Review. Several other topics are also being discussed and the NCFA hopes to start production in January.

There also was a discussion on Virginia and North Carolina working together more on coordinating outdoor training sessions that might attract loggers from both states along the borders.

Brewer also forwarded the SLTC's recommendation to allow loggers to pay at the door of a module class. It was decided that if a host was willing to collect checks, it was OK for loggers to pay at the door and completing their requirements for the year in one stop.

11. INFORMATION RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE – CHAIR TONY DOSTER

Tony Doster updated the committee on the Forestry & Environmental Camp held in Wilmington. He thanked Jack Swanner and Bob Schaefer for leading the camp. It was well received by the community.

Doster encouraged members to use the committee's website, www.ncsfi.org, and forward any input to him on how to enrich the site.

He also asked members to remember to publicize the grant process among various groups within the state. The more applications the committee receives, the more popular and diverse the grant process will become.

12. MARKET OUTREACH/RECRUITMENT SUBCOMMITTEE – CHAIR RAND MATTHEWS

Rand Mathews provided an update on the Market Outreach for the committee. He reported that production on the two side banners will begin now that the main banner is completed and in use.

He has secured a spot at the North Carolina Home Show and will be looking into more opportunities to display. NCFS's Tom Gerow mentioned the Soil and Water Conservation's state meeting and Matthews pledged to look into participating in that event.

Matthews is still pursuing an agreement with Carolina Country to run a series of shorter articles promoting SFI.

NC SFI SIC member Joe Cox suggested that the committee should seek to partner with the Society of American Foresters more. Both are interested in promoting certified forests and that private ownership of forestlands is a good thing.

13. INCONSISTENT PRACTICES SUBCOMMITTEE – CHAIR MATT THUMAN

Since Matt Thuman was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict in his schedule, Steve Cox, who is the program's monitor, reported that he received 12 calls, but several were political calls. Cox noted that he checks the line three times a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday. He did receive four valid calls, but three of them turned out to involve three companies that were not SFI companies.

One of the calls did involve an SFI Company. After a few phone calls with the parties involved and then meeting with the NCFS water quality forester on the site, the issue was addressed and resolved quickly. There was no need for further action or follow-up.

Cox reported that there are no "open" inconsistent practices right now.

Cox also noted that he did speak with one auditor about his role and responsibilities as part of a SFI company's review. He said that he is willing to speak to auditors to explain the process if the question should arise during an audit.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

15. FUTURE MEETINGS

Jan. 24, 2013 – NC Farm Bureau – Joint Meeting with SLTC

May 15, 2013 – NCFA Office

August 21, 2013 – NCFA Office

November 13 - TBD

Adjournment

There being no further business and on motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Chris Brown

NCFA Director of Communications