

**NORTH CAROLINA SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE
STATE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
North Carolina Forestry Association - Raleigh, NC – November 13, 2013**

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	Bryan Hulka	Amy Phillips
Scott Brewer	Chad Leatherwood	Ron Phillips
Gail Bledsoe	Victoria Lockhardt	Bernard Rose
David Castle	Danny Maness	Glen Sheehan
Joe Cox	James Malphrus	Lynn Stephensen
Chuck Daniels	Rand Matthews	Jaime Teel
Tony Doster	Chip Miller	Marshall Thompson
Jim Durham	Russ Newton	Matt Thuman
Ed Listerman	Bob Ordnung	

Others present for all or part of the meeting were:

Chris Brown	Leslie McCormick
Ted Garner	Melissa Moeller

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.

RECOGNITION OF PARTICIPATION OF QUORUM

Jim Durham declared that a quorum was present at the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Jim Durham asked members to review the minutes from the last meeting. Rand Matthews ask that the minutes be changed to reflect the logger who had designed his own logo was Anthony Andrews from Trenton, North Carolina. With this change, the minutes were approved. The new minutes are now online under www.ncsfi.org.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2014-15

The NC SFI SIC will be led by the following officers in 2014-15 after a unanimous vote by the committee.

Jaime Teel – Chair
Bernard Rose – Vice Chair
Ron Phillips – Treasurer

All these positions are two-years in term.

TREASURER'S REPORT – BERNARD ROSE

Bernard Rose stated that the collection of dues for the committee is coming to a close and it appears as if the target dues will be received. In reviewing the budget, Rose reminded the committee that it had approved paying the \$6,000 for the research around the Sustainable Teachers' Academies immediately so the work would start. After some discussion about bookkeeping, the committee decided to go ahead and approve the \$6,000 in the 2013 budget. The motion was made by Mike Adams and second by Chip Miller. It was approved. It was agreed this would make the 2014 slate cleaner.

The complete report is listed on the next page.

NC SIC Proposed 2014 Budget

	2013 Budget	2013 Actual 11/4/2013	2013 Estimate	%	2014 Budget	% of Budget
SIC Dues	\$140,000.00	\$135,107.40	\$138,991.65		\$139,100.00	
Interest	\$550.00	\$483.47	\$540.00		\$500.00	
Total	\$140,550.00	\$135,590.87	\$139,531.65		\$139,600.00	
Administrative						
NCFA	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00		\$21,000.00	
Misc Exp	\$250.00	\$97.66	\$150.00		\$250.00	
Travel	\$1,500.00	\$1,587.03	\$1,587.03		\$2,000.00	
Total	\$22,750.00	\$22,684.69	\$22,737.03	16.58%	\$23,250.00	16.32%
Landowner Outreach						
Landowner Guide	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Tree Farm	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Misc. Landowner Outreach	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$2,000.00	
Total	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$2,000.00	1.40%
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	0.00%	\$0.00	0.00%
Information Resources						
Promote SFI at NC Legislation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Certification Workshops	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Purchase 1 Display/Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Scholarship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
SFI Certification at Universities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
NC SIC Website	\$1,000.00	\$39.90	\$39.90		\$1,000.00	
Teachers Tour	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Forestry Camp	\$0.00	\$990.00	\$990.00		\$0.00	
Total	\$1,000.00	\$1,029.90	\$1,029.90	0.75%	\$1,000.00	0.70%
Market Outreach						
NC SIC Booths	\$2,150.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00	
Purchase Displays/Materials	\$2,250.00	\$1,840.81	\$1,840.81		\$1,500.00	
Customer Communication	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$1,250.00	
Recruitment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Total	\$5,650.00	\$1,840.81	\$3,340.81	2.44%	\$4,250.00	2.98%

Grants Approved

Wake Soil & Water Conservation	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00		\$1,000.00	
FECV - Sustainable Teachers Academy	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00		\$35,000.00	
FECV - Forestry & Environmental Camp	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	
FECV - NC Science Teachers	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00		\$0.00	
FECV - Pro-Logger Video	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00		\$10,000.00	
FECV - Goods from the Woods Boxes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$10,000.00	
NC Tree Farm - Landowner Outreach	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00		\$7,000.00	
NC Tree Farm - Stewardship	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00		\$0.00	
NC Tree Farm - Display & Brochure Reprint	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$2,750.00	
NC Tree Farm - Website & Electronic Newsletter	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$8,600.00	
NCSU - FEOP Teachers Academy Survey	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00		\$6,000.00	
NCSU - FEOP Project Learning Tree Facilitator Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$5,000.00	
NC Coastal Land Trust	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$8,500.00	
Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Ass.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$2,100.00	
Total	\$101,700.00	\$107,700.00	\$107,700.00	78.54%	\$105,950.00	74.38%

Inconsistent Practices

Monitor / Phone Lines / Reporting	\$3,000.00	\$1,741.20	\$2,325.00		\$3,000.00	
Reporting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Consultants	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$3,000.00	
Total	\$6,000.00	\$1,741.20	\$2,325.00	1.70%	\$6,000.00	4.21%

Total Expenses

\$139,100.00	\$134,996.60	\$137,132.74	100%	\$142,450.00	100%
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Current Checking Account Balance

\$67,865.77

AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION GREEN BUILDING CAMPAIGN

Melissa Moeller with the American Forest Foundation visited with the NC SFI SIC to introduce AFF's Green Building Campaign that it will be rolling out next year at the state and federal level. The goal is to reach out to state political leaders through North Carolina forest landowners that are part of the Tree Farm System. Members of the NC SFI SIC suggested that AFF work closely with the state organizations such as the NCFA, the NC Tree Farm Program, and others to identify the key political leaders and the landowners who might be willing to be part of this effort.

One suggestion was to identify the political leaders first, and then work backwards to find the landowners in their district.

Moeller also stated that there was collateral material available upon request. There also is a video posted on the AFF's website. The committee reviewed the video after the first break and was impressed with the quality and message.

SFI UPDATE – JIM DURHAM

Committee Chair Jim Durham gave a general update on the SFI program.

Durham reviewed the SFI Forest Partners Program which Barry Graden of SFI Inc. had discussed in his recent visit with the committee. North Carolina will be a targeted state in 2014. Durham prepared a statement of support and submitted it to SFI Inc. The goal of the program is to increase certified lands in states.

Durham also attended the SFI Inc.'s Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Durham noted that the meeting starts each year with a regional meeting of SIC chairs. Durham introduced the problem of the cost of producing quality logger training materials and that all of the separate states are going it alone. Durham did not believe there was a consensus for pooling resources, especially from SFI Inc. Consequently, Durham does not see the southeast getting together anytime soon for a video training production cost-share initiative.

Durham also asked Bryan Hulka to provide a general update on how the process of reviewing the standards is coming along. Hulka stated that looking at the standards at a quick glance, he does not see any changes to the procurement side. Hulka believes there will be more emphasis on biodiversity, and he thought most of these changes were being driven by European markets.

Hulka also stated that there will be conversion of forest type to another forest type discussion at some point during the process. Hulka stated that this is just the first round of revisions. The comments still need to be sifted through and compiled. Then, a task force addresses each issue.

Hulka expects a second draft of the new standards in January and this will be a closer look at what the final standard may be. The final version will be published in September of 2014 and companies will have all of 2015 to implement.

GRANT UPDATE – JIM DURHAM

Jim Durham reviewed the grants awarded in August and noted that the grant update will stay as part of the agenda. Updates will be provided to the committee when the grant project has taken place or been completed.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – CHRIS BROWN

The NCFA's Chris Brown provided a general legislative update, namely on the Forest Roads issue that continues to work its way through the political channels in Washington and the court system out west.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee recently approved the Silviculture Regulatory Consistency Act (H.R. 2026) that seeks to preserve the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 37-year-old policy that successfully regulates forest roads as non-point sources under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

As some may recall, the Supreme Court ruled on March 20, 2013 in favor of forestry interests by reversing a May 2011 ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (NEDC v. Brown) that forest roads should be regulated by mandatory permits under the CWA. The Court ruled that the EPA was within its authority to regulate forest roads as it saw fit. However, the Court did not resolve the more fundamental question of whether forest roads are point sources or non-point under the law. Point source discharges, which are typically applied to manufacturing facilities, require mandatory CWA industrial stormwater discharge permits.

The Silviculture Regulatory Consistency Act (H.R. 2026), which was introduced by Representatives Jamie Herrera Buetler (R-WA) and Kurt Schrader (D-OR) on May 16, 2013 and supported by 67 cosponsors, has also been unanimously added to the House version of the Farm Bill that is now in conference with the Senate. This legislation confirms that forest roads are non-point sources and should be treated as such.

NORTH CAROLINA FOREST SERVICE – GAIL BLEDSOE

Gail Bledsoe with the North Carolina Forest Service provided an update on the Forest Service. Bledsoe informed the group that the Hillsborough district now has two steel bridge mats at the office. The mats were acquired through a grant obtained by the Clean Water Fund and can be used by loggers in the Hillsborough district and surrounding area.

Bledsoe also reminded everyone that the Division of Water Quality is now Division of Water Resources and the stormwater permit that impacts forest products facilities is now under the direction of the department of Energy and Minerals.

Bledsoe noted that the Forest Development Funds were depleted for the year. She remarked that it was another year where the money ran out too fast for forest landowners.

The Forest Service has also begun interviewing candidates for Forest Management Branch Head, a position Sean Brogan held before being promoted.

Committee member Mike Adams asked about the compliance reports and specifically if those reports could be adapted to show closure when a logger resolves the compliance issue. Bledsoe is working on a solution to this problem.

Jim Durham remarked that the SFI Annual Report is now available on www.ncsfi.org website if anyone needs it for an upcoming audit. As part of the discussion, committee member Matt Thuman noted that the Inconsistent Practices Monitor does also take a look at those FPG reports.

MARKETING OUTREACH – RAND MATTHEWS

Rand Matthews announced that Wood Solutions will be having an event on January 29, 2014 in Charlotte that the NC SFI SIC will participate in by setting up a booth. The meeting will attract 250 to 500 engineers and architects. The cost is \$1,300 for booth. Matthews requested the committee approve the booth fee since it was over \$500 and it was unanimously approved. Matthews updated the committee on the four sets of mud flaps that the committee gave away as part of the Mid-Atlantic Logging and Biomass Expo.

INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES – TONY DOSTER

No update.

INCONSISTENT PRACTICES SUBCOMMITTEE – MATT THUMAN

Matt Thuman updated the committee on the Inconsistent Practices program. The phone number received a total of 20 phone calls. Only one phone call was valid and it was in regards to advice on pine plantations. Thuman reported that there are no open inconsistent practices. Forester Steve Cox continues to run the process and has agreed to coordinate it again next year.

NC TREE FARM PROGRAM – LESLIE MCCORMICK

Leslie McCormick of the North Carolina Tree Farm Program updated the committee on the progress of the program. There are a total of 888 registered and certified Tree Farms, totaling 258,999 acres. The program added 91 new tree farms this year alone. The program had 43 inspections this year, and has just 11 left to meet the goal.

In terms of the MOU between NC Tree Farm and the Forest Stewardship Program, the Tree Farm program trained 257 inspectors this year to the newest standards and plans to hold another workshop in 2014. McCormick has mailed 630 letters to Forest Stewardship Program participants. She received 32 responses, 13 certifications, and three were referred to inspectors for certification.

The program also held an Inspector Appreciation Dinner, which is a first for the program, and 37 foresters were in attendance.

NC Tree Farm held a recent strategic planning session, resulting in the following two focus areas:
Focus Area 1 – To improve internal communications with Tree Farm, Inspectors, and potential partners.
Focus Area 2 – To improve financial stability and funding streams.

The NC Tree Farm Program's Corporate Fund Raising Drive has now raised \$21,000 from North Carolina companies.

At the program's annual meeting, a new slate of officers were announced and approved. The elected officers include: David Henderson (President), Maurice Hull (President Elect), Bryan Hulka (VP of Inspection and Certification), James Jeuk (VP of Administration), Jeremy Isom (VP of Outreach and Education), Leslie McCormick (Executive Secretary/Treasurer).

PROLOGGER UPDATE – SCOTT BREWER

Scott Brewer provided the ProLogger update. Module 14 is now available and can be obtained by contacting the NCFAs office. There was a general discussion among the committee on the current ProLogger policies. These policies are now under review by a special subcommittee. The subcommittee will make its recommendations at the first meeting of 2014 to be considered by both the NC SFI SIC and the NCFAs SLTC. Some of the ideas include: one renewal date for dues and classwork; the Hold List is limited to 12 months; Accept other logging training from other states when a logger moves into NC; the ability to get back into the program without taking the base class again for failure to take a module(s).

14. NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS

None

15. FUTURE MEETINGS

January 16, 2014 - 9:30 a.m. at the North Carolina Rural Economic Center

16. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Chris Brown

Director of Communications

NCFA