

NORTH CAROLINA SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

North Carolina Forestry Association - Raleigh, NC – November 7, 2018

CONVENE NC SFI SIC MEETING AND INTRODUCTIONS

Committee Chair Amy Phillips, called the NC SFI SIC meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Members present for all or part of the meeting were:

Jadie Andrews
Joey Briggs
Sam Cook
Brian Council
Jim Durham
Ted Garner
Tom Gerow
Brett Goulding

Gail Johnson
Kevin McCormack
Roger Melvin
Russ Newton
Bob Phippen
Amy Phillips
Will Reese
Glenn Sheehan

Marshall Thompson
Cierra Ward
Wesley West
Pete Hancock

Others present for all or part of the meeting were:

Ann Harper
Rajan Parajuli, NCSU, FER
Extension

ANTITRUST COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Amy Phillips reminded members that the meeting would be in full compliance with the NCSU's policy on antitrust compliance contained in the meeting materials.

RECOGNITION OF PARTICIPATION OF QUORUM

Amy Phillips declared that a quorum was present at the meeting and that the meeting would proceed as planned.

REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Amy Phillips asked members to review the minutes from the last meeting. On a motion by Jim Durham to approve and seconded by Bob Phippen, the minutes were approved as submitted.

NC SFI SIC TREASURER'S REPORT

Jadie Andrews provided an update on the NC SFI SIC's finances. Andrews noted that everything is on schedule. There are two outstanding 2018 grants, (1) \$10,000 Sustaining Forestry & African American Land Retention Program (2) \$15,000 Community Forestry Education. The 2019 budget shows an increase in revenue based on new companies joining. Motion carried to approve 2019 budget, seconded by Glenn Sheehan. All were in favor. Andrews reviewed the below financial statement and asked for additional questions regarding the report, there was none. Treasury report handout included.

SFI UPDATE

Committee Chair Amy Phillips informed the committee about topics discussed at the SFI Annual Meeting. Bio Diversity will be more in the forefront for the future.

New Member Update: Amy Phillips provided a member update.

FOREST ISSUES UPDATE

Tom Gerow with the North Carolina Forest Service provided an update to the committee. The following report was submitted. Handout included in meeting materials.

USFWS is proposing to list the Atlantic Pigtoe (mussel) as federally threatened, and proposing to codify BMPs and the SFI program (along with others) in the federal listing rule. Public comment period ends Dec.10, 2018.

FPG reports for state FY18-Q1 (July-Aug-Sept) should be coming soon. There were delays in getting field data input due to extended response to multiple storms.

BMP newsletter came out first week of October -- available from our website. The theme is NCFS site inspection process.

At the end of November, we are hosting an interagency cooperative review of our overall water quality/BMP program services, as part of continuous improvement, through the US Forest Service, and Southern Group of State Foresters.

Since previous meeting, been made aware of 2 tracts with Riparian Buffer Rule violations (total clearcutting of the riparian buffer), 1 in Wake Co. + 1 in Person Co. In both cases, the violation was first identified by Div. of Water Resources, therefore their personnel handled it directly with the parties. The NCFS provided contacts/advice/consultation upon request, but did not handle it as an official "Referral" through our process.

Western piedmont area had a rough summer with tons of rainfall causing sedimentation problems, from roads and skid trails and lack of sufficient BMPs. One tract in particular -- a new road was built up the side of a mountain, caused pretty extensive sedimentation/turbidity, with neighboring landowner complaints. A SFI company was involved, and once notified, promptly began remediation measures on site and off site. Will require recurring monitoring to maintain BMPs until permanently stabilized. Lessons Learned: [1] don't build a new road unless you need to; [2] incorporate proper road design and BMPs -- side-tilt / diversions / turnouts / dips / cross drains / sediment pits; [3] the BMPs they installed were working okay, but they needed lots more of them; [4] watch the weather forecast, don't build a fresh road during rainy season, and then try using it without time for it to settle.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Issues

Hurricane Florence Disaster Relief

The North Carolina Forest Service conducted a forest damage appraisal on September 20 and 21, 2018. Their assessment estimated that 1,251,312 acres of timber valued at \$69.6 million sustained some level of damage during the storm. At the state level, Commissioner Steve Troxler has requested \$2.5 million in emergency FDP funding for site prep and planting costs in the affected counties. The NC Forest Service and Department of Agriculture are working on a relief proposal at the federal level. The details of this proposal have not been released.

Methyl Bromide

The Air Quality Committee will vote on the Department of Air Quality's (DAQ) proposal for temporary and permanent rulemaking for the use of Methyl Bromide in log fumigation operations on November 7, 2018. This matter is expected to be taken up by the full Environmental Management Commission (EMC) in January. NCFA and other interested parties have been working closely with DAQ and EMC to reach a sensible outcome. NCFA will have more information on this issue the first part of January 2019.

Federal Issues

Guestworker Visa Program

The Forest Resources Association (FRA) and other members of the AG Legal Workforce Coalition worked diligently during September to reach out to Members of Congress to cosponsor the AG and Legal Workforce Act (AG L WA) (H.R. 617). Unfortunately, the House leadership did not call a vote on this bill before the House recessed. While disappointing, FRA and others are currently working with the Department of Labor (DOL) on changes to the guest worker visa program. They are submitting their comments to DOL on November 6. NCFA will publish the comments once they are released.

Farm Bill

The Farm Bill Conference Committee failed to reach a deal in time for the expiration of the 2014 law. Their hope is finalize a version of the bill that Congress can consider following the mid-term elections. NCFA will release a summary of the final bill once it is available.

INCONSISTENT PRACTICES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Jim Durham gave 3rd quarter update for Steve Cox. Handout included in meeting materials.

INFORMATION RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Sierra Ward represented no updates to report. Tony Doster would like to rotate off as the subcommittee chair. For those interested or need more information, please see Amy Phillips.

MARKET OUTREACH/RECRUITMENT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

No updates from Market Outreach. Rand Mathews would like to rotate off as the subcommittee chair.

LANDOWNER OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

No updates from Landowner Outreach.

PROLOGGER TRAINING AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Jadie Andrews provided a training update for the committee. Module 19 is complete. Trucking issues will be primary focus in Module 20. The NC SFI SIC committee may include a segment on invasive species. Base class schedule will be determined 1st quarter 2019.

OTHER BUSINESS

Forestry and Environmental Camp: NCFA hosted three camps this fall season.

- October 18 in Raleigh, NC. Over 175 students, chaperones and teachers were reached.
- October 29-November 2, 2018 in Wilmington. Over 600 students, chaperones and teachers were reached
- November 7-November 9 in Troutman, NC. Over 350 students, chaperones and teachers were reached.

Forest Products Essay Contest: NCFA ran its second annual National Forest Products Week Essay Contest. Prior to the October 26 deadline over 1200 students had been estimated to be reached and engaged in forestry topics. This is already an increase of 200 students engaged in a sustainable forestry message in NC. A final reach count will be provided mid-November.

NC SFI SIC MEETING DATES:

January 30, 2019 - Farm Bureau, Raleigh NC
May 15, 2019 - NCFA Office, Raleigh NC
July 17, 2019 – NCFA Office, Raleigh NC (Grant Review Committee)
August 15, 2019 - NCFA Office, Raleigh NC
November 13, 2019 - NCFA Office, Raleigh NC

2019 NCFA Board of Directors Meeting – January 29, 2019, Farm Bureau, Raleigh NC

NCFA Forestry Day at the Legislature - April 24, 2019, Halifax Mall, Raleigh NC

Mid-Atlantic Logging Expo – May 3-4, 2019, Laurinburg NC

NCFA Annual Meeting – October 2-4, 2019, Wilmington NC

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Ann Harper, NCFA Business Manager