

NORTH CAROLINA SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

North Carolina Forestry Association - Raleigh, NC – January 30 2019

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:

Mike Adams
Ben Burger
Sam Cook
Brian Council
Tony Doster
Ted Garner
Tom Gerow
Brett Goulding
Kiley Hinson

Gail Johnson
Rand Matthew
Kevin McCormack
Russ Newton
Bob Phippen
Amy Phillips
Will Reese
Ray Riggsdale
John Robertson

Glenn Sheehan
Scott Smearman
Jaime Teel
Marshall Thompson
Jeff Watts
Cierra Ward
Greg Ward
Wesley West
Pete Hancock

Others present for all or part of the meeting were:

Amy Juliana
John Hatcher

ANTITRUST COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Amy Phillips reminded members that the meeting would be in full compliance with the NCFAs 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 Jaime Teel to approve and seconded by Marshall Thompson, the minutes were approved as submitted.

NC SFI SIC TREASURER'S REPORT

Jadie was unable to attend meeting but Amy Phillips reviewed 2018 and 2019 budget. There were no comments on budget as presented. An audit of the books will be postponed to Q2 meeting.

On a motion by Scott Smearman to approve the 2019 budget and seconded by Bob Phippen Thompson, the budget was approved as submitted.

SFI UPDATE

Amy Phillips reported that all 31-member companies paid their dues in 2018. The 2019 survey has been mailed from the NCFA office. Survey should be completed and sent to Ann Harper, the NCFA's Business Manager, by April. The MOU between the NC Forestry Association and the NC SFI SIC is signed, and in effect. A copy will be included in the next meeting materials.

National SFI hosted a webinar. Guides are now available on the SFI website for new chairs as well as for logo usage. There is also a list serve for information sharing. The Regional meeting is May 8-9, 2019 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Amy Phillips is unable to attend, but committee members are encourage to go.

The current SFI standards will remain in effect through January 2021. In November of 2019, SFI will begin to look at revisions and the review process will last for one year.

Annual SFI Meeting recap: In some state audits (not NC), committees were receiving non-conformities. SIC's were deficient because they were not serving as a resource of knowledge. Amy Phillips posed the following questions; is our SIC providing the needed resources and information for auditors? Are we providing training and information resources?

Issues occurring in other states:

- Lack of information or needed items for audit
- Lack of logger information?
- Lack of proof of trained loggers
- Lack of information on BMPS
- Lack of landowner information
- Out of date contact information for Inconsistent practices.

NC is addressing these issues through new member guide. Industry looks to NC Forest Service for latest research. Suggestion from Tom Gerow was to include water quality and latest research studies in shared materials.

Amy Phillips provided a SFI 2018 year in review handout.

INFORMATION RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

No new updates to report. Cierra Ward is the new chair.

MARKET OUTREACH/RECRUITMENT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

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

Look into inventory of marketing materials for possible updates.

Amy Phillips needs information on how SIC members have active throughout the state.

Committee calls for a Landowner Guide inventory update. Committee will hold discussion should a reprint be needed. NCFA staffer Amy Juliana will provide numbers for Q2 meeting.

LANDOWNER OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Scott Smearman provided an update on behalf of Tree Farm. Handout provided by Tree Farm.

At the end of 2018 there were 985 farms certified. Since implementing the certification fee, there was a 33% retention rate and 30 additional farms were certified.

Tree Farm held a meeting with NC Wildlife Resource Commission to enroll games lands into a group certificate. Currently there is a verbal agreement from multiple partners, and stakeholders are discussing the logistics and costs of the group certificate. Looking to SFI for financial assistance. The group certification has the possibility to certify 1 million acres of land.

INCONSISTENT PRACTICES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Ben Burger provided the inconsistent practices report. No comments or updates. Handout included in the meeting materials.

EXHIBIT C					
INCONSISTENT PRACTICES MONITORING PROGRAM - LOG					
Date 1-8-19	Year: 2018				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Total Number of Phone Calls	1	3	11	4	19
Total Number of Invalid Phone Calls	0	2	8	1	10
Total Number of Valid Phone Calls	1	1	3	3	5
Open Inconsistent Practices	0	0	0	0	0
Closed Inconsistent Practices	0	0	0	0	0
Open FPG Inconsistent Practices	0	0	0	0	0
Closed FPG Inconsistent Practices	0	0	0	0	0
Total Open Inconsistent Practices	0	0	0	0	0
Total Closed Inconsistent Practices	0	0	0	0	0
Notes:	One caller was concerned about erosion from a logging job due to heavy rainfall from hurricanes. Advised her to contact NC Forest Service and get back to me. I followed up with a call and she said NCFs was working the issue. Advised her to call me back if issue not resolved and to find out logger and buyer. Did not call me back. Second caller concerned about logging near a river. Advised him to contact NC Forest Service and call me back if there were any violations. Did not call me back. Third caller concerned about general stream flooding and high ground water levels in his area. Believed cause could be due to farming and forestry practices of a local landowner. Advise him to contact NC Forest Service and local Ag Extension office and call me if there were forestry violations. Did not call back. Based on the latest FPG report of 11-14-18 and follow up call to one member company, there were no out of compliance issues. There is one logging job in temporary compliance. Temporary compliance is not considered an inconsistent practice.				
Submitted by Steve Cox IPM 1-8-19					

SIC shared information regarding inconsistent practices with Mississippi. MS was lacking confidentiality in their current process and the goal is for MS to modify their program to match NC.

FOREST ISSUES UPDATE

NCFS published online a set of 5 new "Forestry Leaflets" focused on Bottomland Swamp Forests, including shovel logging & regen recommendations. Found in the Water Quality section of NCFS Publications web page:

<https://www.ncforestservation.gov/publications.htm>

In early December, Tom Gerow distributed an email memo to the SFI-SIC, the SLTC, and others in forest industry outlining water quality compliance concerns of numerous major FPG and Buffer Rule violations that were observed over the past year across the state. We recognize that 2018 was a record-setting year for precipitation; and the FPGs recognize extreme & unusual weather events. Our policy gives our employees latitude when it comes to deadlines for compliance; but the significant violations we observed were not directly related to heavy rainfall. **To handle rainfall events that exceed the 'normal', there needs to be 'more than normal' installation and application of BMPs (more often, more robust, more maintenance).**

CY 2018 we had 10 Referrals: 5 for FPGs and 5 for Buffer Rules (+ 1 tract that DWR handled itself for a Buffer Rule violation).

T&E Species: the Atlantic Pigtoe mussel will be listed as a federally Threatened species, and "Critical Habitat" will be designated for several large streams/creeks across the north-central Piedmont of NC and southside Virginia. **This reinforces the vital need to establish effective SMZs, avoid crossing streams at all costs, and promptly stabilizing soil that could enter streams.**

We have started our 4th cycle of BMP implementation monitoring. We plan to use satellite imagery to identify possible harvest locations. Along with the normal BMP assessment, we will collect site data to help us estimate the soil erosion potential at stream crossings. Goal is 216 sites statewide, with data collection this year.

Flooding, waterway obstructions, and maintaining drainage of the land are hot subjects across much of eastern half of NC. The NCFS issued an Interpretive Guidance Letter in Jan.2018 about waterway obstructions. **We encourage everyone to do their part to make sure streams and ditches are not impeded or obstructed by debris from forestry operations.** And, utilize or pile logging slash/laps in a way that reduces the chance of it getting floated-away during a flood and then deposited into a waterway.

WOTUS: a pre-publication draft of the proposed re-writing of the Waters of the US definition rule was released in December. We are waiting for the official public notice draft to be printed in the Federal Register, but with government shutdown, do not know when that will occur. Many groups are examining the prepublication draft for possible effects on forestry. It would seem that many ditches would qualify as a 'water of the US' -- if they contribute intermittent or perennial flow to any tributary of a traditionally navigable waterway. Ephemeral streams would be exempted, as would upland ponds not in a wetland. Isolated wetlands would not be a WOTUS (Carolina Bay, cypress pond), but State of NC has wetland protection rules that may still limit their disturbance. There is much still to be reviewed and discussed. **I encourage the NCFA and/or SFI to closely examine the proposed re-write and evaluate how forestry operations in NC may be affected; and consider commenting when the public notice period opens.**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

INFRASTRUCTURE LEGISLATION: Several NCFA members and NCFA Executive Vice President, John Hatcher, met with US DOT and members of the NC Congressional Delegation to discuss the “Grandfathering” of roads that have recently transitioned, or are in the process of transitioning to the Federal Interstate system. This transition adversely affects current commerce due to the loss of the 10,000 lb. variance that is allowed on state roads. The NCFA and other commodity groups are hopeful to obtain “Grandfather” status for these roads before reauthorization of the FAST Act Surface Transportation Bill in 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY BACK IN TOWN: The official starting date for this year's legislative session is scheduled for January 30th, but the General Assembly convened the week of January 7th for inaugurations and committee appointments.

RULEMAKING FOR THE USE OF METHYL BROMIDE FOR LOG FUMIGATION OPERATIONS: The Environmental Management Commission (EMC) directed the Department of Air Quality (DAQ) to withdraw their temporary rulemaking proposal on November 7th. DAQ is working on a permanent rulemaking proposal that is expected to be considered by the EMC during the March meeting.

FARM BILL LEGISLATION – President Trump signed the 2018 Farm Bill on December 20th, 2018. In addition to funding agricultural programs the SNAP program and several forest conservation programs [e.g. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) & Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)], the bill contains several forestry provisions, which include:

Timber Innovation Act- Incentivizes investment to conduct the research and development of cross-laminated timber (CLT) and other engineered timber products for use in the construction industry.

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program- promotes forest health, the mitigation of wildfires, and the support of rural economies.

Community Wood Energy Program (CWEP) - Supports markets for wood residuals.

GUESTWORKER REFORM – The H-2B Temporary Guestworker Program is in desperate need of an overhaul. This year the Department of Labor received over 97,000 applications for the 33,000 available visas for the second half of the fiscal year. The statutory cap is 66,000. The Forest Resources Association is part of a formidable coalition that is working to enact legislation that would provide a solution to the H-2B visa situation.

PROLOGGER TRAINING AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

There are 1,608 ProLoggers in good standing heading into 2019. There are 28 loggers pre-registered for the base class this year. The NCFA added 111 ProLoggers to its ranks last year. We appreciate everyone's assistance with the program, especially our training partners. We continuously receive positive feedback about the course from its participants.

We continuously update our base course content during the year with new updates from our partners. The class continues to pack a lot of information into two days. The field day is of course still the highlight. Special thanks to Bryan Wagner and Greg Helton for their efforts on these field days.

ProLogger Module 19 classes have started in 2018-19. Module 19 topics include Dash Cameras, Soil-A Key to Forest Health, Color, Space, & Communications, Survey BMP's Work, and Team Safe Trucking.

If you are going to host a Module 19 class, please send the information and a flyer (if available) to jfaircloth@ncforestry.org so we can update our schedule in a timely fashion. Thanks again to all of our member companies that host these continuing education sessions.

February 12th, 2019- ProLogger Module 19 to be held at Domtar-Plymouth Mill

February 13th, 2019- ProLogger Module 19 to be hosted by International Paper and held at Weyerhaeuser Training Center (behind Timberlands Building)

March 22nd, 2019- ProLogger Module 19 to be held at Chatham County Agricultural & Conference Center,

April 9th, 2019- ProLogger Module 19 to be held at Domtar-Plymouth Mill,.

April 11th, 2019- ProLogger Module 19 to be hosted by Weyerhaeuser and held at Weyerhaeuser Training Center (behind Timberlands Building),

The NCFA will be hosting three offerings of the ProLogger Base Course in 2019.

March 26th-27th, 2019	Wayne CC	Goldsboro, NC
May 15th-16th, 2019	Montgomery CC	Troy, NC
September 10th-11th, 2019	McDowell Tech CC	Marion, NC

We continue to maintain our training arrangement with participating southeastern states – right now this includes South Carolina and Florida. Module 19 includes a segment on the SFI program hosted by Barry Graden. We have shared our segment on Oil Spills with South Carolina. We did not receive a segment from Florida and they did not request one either.

Module 20 Topics: We have an approved grant from the NC SFI Implementation Committee for \$8,500.

The NCFA, CLA, and Forestry Mutual participated in a Logger Training Alliance Meeting with the North Carolina Department of Labor on January 28th. The Alliance seeks to cooperatively train our logging workforce

CAROLINA LOGGERS ASSOCIATION

Ewell Smith provided an update. CLA will have its Annual Meeting February 22-24. The theme is “Your Voice Matters.” Team Safe Trucking will meet during the annual meeting. CLA is currently planning a Pro-Trucking training program and database. CLA has also created a new magazine that highlights the organization and logging industry. Other programs of note: Logs for the Cause, Michelin Partnership, CLA in DC with American Loggers Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

The North Carolina Forestry Association and its partners will once again be delivering **the Sustainable Forestry Teachers Experience (SFTE)** to three different locations in 2019. The SFTE is a multi-day residential program designed to educate participants about the field of forestry and the wood products industry across the state through a series of presentations, facility and forestry tours, and hands-on lesson plans.

The dates and locations are:

June 17-20, 2019 - Piedmont Experience, Southern Pines, NC
June 24-27, 2019 - Coastal Plains Experience, New Bern, NC
July 22-25, 2019 - Mountain Experience, Asheville, NC

Space is limited to 40 participants per workshop and preference will be given to science educators and individuals who have not participated in an experience in previous years. In addition, NCFA members have the opportunity to sponsor an educator in their community by paying their modest registration fee of \$50. For more details on our voucher program, please contact the NCFA's Education Programs Manager Amy Juliana at (800) 231-7723 ext. 2 or ajuliana@ncforestry.org.

Forestry Day in the Legislature – April 24, 2019: The NCFA's Forestry Day in the Legislature will take place on April 24, 2019 at 9:30 – 1:30 p.m. on the Halifax Mall in Raleigh. Forestry Day is a great opportunity for NCFA members to reach out to their elected officials about the important role forests and the forest products industry.

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

In years past, SFI had a tent/booth at the expo. Should this be of interest again see NCFA staffer Jack Swanner.

2019 National NCF EnviroThon: July 28 - Aug.2 to be hosted at NCSU, for high school students from across the US + Canada. Consider sponsoring and/or volunteer your time. Contact Pam Hawkins if interested to volunteer: ncfenvirothonpam@gmail.com. Also attached to this email is a flyer soliciting volunteers for the national NCF EnviroThon...and this link to sponsorship form: <https://ncaswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/2019-NA-Sponsorship-Letter-OFFICIAL-12-17.pdf>

The committee discussed moving \$1000.00 from the Marketing budget to sponsor the NCF EnviroThon. On a motion by Rand Matthews and seconded by Marshall Thompson, the motion to sponsor the event was approved. NCFA Amy Juliana will provide additional details on sponsorship, follow up with paperwork, and reach out to Soil and Water to have a guest speaker talk to the group during the Q2 meeting.

Reverse Raffle – October 2, 2019: The Friends of Forestry Political Action Committee will once again be conducting a reverse raffle this year. Tickets will be distributed to FFPAC members and NCFA Board Members at the NCFA's Board Meeting later this month. The raffle, which is the FFPAC's top fundraising event, will take place on the evening of Forestry Day at the Hilton Garden Inn in Raleigh, NC.

NCFA Annual Meeting – October 2-4, 2019

The NCFA's Annual Meeting will take place in Wilmington, NC October 2-4, 2019.

NC SFI SIC MEETING DATES:

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

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Submitted by: Amy Juliana, Education Manager