



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

MINUTES OF THE

Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc. Southern Region SIC

September 28, 2016

Submitted to Counsel 11/7/2016; Approved by Counsel 11/7/2016
Submitted to Southern Region SIC 11/17/2016;

This document will serve as the record of the proceedings of the September 28, 2016 meeting of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc. (SFI Inc.) Southern Region SIC.

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ACTION #	Action Item Description	Responsible	Deliver by:
#01-09-16- SoRegSIC	Collect feedback on best practices for assigning continuing logger education credits for the purpose of facilitating coordination among states in the future; conduct a final meeting of the SE US logger training task group to review that feedback.	Chase Cook / Chris Brown	Q4, 2016
#02-09-16- SoRegSIC	SFI Inc. will produce a short SFI-overview video to be used in logger education and/or outreach programs for state and provincial use.	Barry Graden	Q1 2017

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PARTICIPANTS

	Committee members	Company		Committee members	Company
1.	Keith Plott (Chair)	LP – GA	17.	David James	Drax Biomass Inc. – LA, MS, AR
2.	Chase Cook	GA SIC/UGA – GA	18.	Tim Lowrimore	Interfor – GA
3.	Joe Parsons	Graphic Packaging – GA	20.	John Auel	Mississippi State University – MS
4.	Stephanie Grubb	IP – VA	21.	Ashley Smith	AL Forestry Association – AL
5.	Thomas Kain	Domtar – TN	22.	Bryan Hulka	Weyerhaeuser - NC
6.	Wayne Anthony	Timberland Investment Resources – TN	23.	Bernard Rose	Kapstone – NC
7.	Sarah Crow	American Forest Foundation - DC	24.	Ron Heatherly	Evergreen Packaging – NC
8.	Robert Milstead	Hancock Forest Management - AL	25.	Kellie Boles	Georgia-Pacific
9.	Brian Zielinski	National Wild Turkey Federation	26.	Matt Goodin	Georgia Pacific
10.	Shawn Cook	Enviva – FL	27.	Marty Toms	Weyerhaeuser – LA
11.	Scott Meek	Green Bay Packaging – AR	28.	Anna Kendall	MS Forestry Association - MS
12.	Bob Izlar	University of Georgia – GA	29.	Shannon McCabe	VA Forestry Association - VA
13.	Frank Stewart	WV Forestry Association – WV			
14.	Brian Gowin	Campbell Global - TX		SFI Inc. Staff	Title
15.	Wes Smith	Canfor Southern Pine – GA	30.	Barry Graden	Director, SFI Forest Partners
16.	Don Pope	Packaging Corporation of America - GA	31.	Paul Trianosky	Chief Conservation Officer

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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEM
Welcome, Antitrust	Chairman Keith Plott welcomed attendees and called upon Barry Graden, SFI Staff to give the antitrust statement (written statement provided in the meeting materials). An attendee sign-in sheet was circulated (attached).	
Reflection on Community Engagement Sessions	<p>Chairman Plott began the discussion, noting that there is a deficit of new loggers coming on line. Doug Duncan (Forest Equipment Operator Training School) started a local equipment operator training for youth in NC / VA. Different operators from the state would conduct on-site logging training using a mobile classroom and utilizing real logging experience.</p> <p>In LA they are doing a Timber Harvesting Training Program targeted at training young people, veterans and others for operating timber harvesting equipment. The LA SIC is in partnership with this effort.</p> <p>Regarding local community involvement, an effort is underway in NC for African Americans, mostly in northern part of the state. They applied for a grant from the NC SIC for next year for providing services for researching deeds, writing forest management plans, etc. This is very similar to the efforts of the Center for Heirs Preservation.</p> <p>Vince Keeler (Center for Heirs Preservation) was recognized, saying said that historically, land has been in families for over 100 years. Typically in the African-American community the only thing they could do with timber was cut it and leave it. Vince mentioned that there are plenty of partners who can engage and provide resources, but lack of trust is an issue. The US Endowment for Forests and Communities chose two states in 2013 for pilot studies on: 1. Land tenure; and 2. Forestry. Forty landowners were chosen and the end of 2015 the Endowment chose to extend the project three more years with two more states. The initiative grew to two additional states (AR and GA). Vince challenged the group, asking how we get SICs to get more involved. He also mentioned there is ongoing work with American Tree Farm System. The Center has created a Community Advocate Program. Today landowners are coming to the Center.</p> <p>Paul Trianosky (SFI Staff) said that proposals for SFI Community Grants are due by Oct 10. SFI is looking for potential for multi-year grants, perhaps \$5-10,000 range. Paul encouraged attendees to see the SFI web site (www.sfiprogram.org).</p> <p>Several mentioned that their SICs continue to be involved in Educational outreach events, talking in schools, 4H club involvement, etc.</p>	
Logger Training Discussion Chase Cook, GA SIC Coordinator	Chairman Plott recognized Chase Cook who reported on the activities of the SE US logger training task group to date. Chase agreed to work on 2 things (and a request for SFI Inc.): 1. Cross walk of state program features, including education requirements, reciprocity, continuing education criteria, and so forth. This task concluded in an Excel spreadsheet summary, available upon request from Chase Cook. 2. Compilation of best practices for assigning continuing logger education credits for the purpose of facilitating coordination among states in the future, Chris Brown (NC Forestry Association) welcomes feedback. 3. SFI overview video requested to be used in logger education and/or outreach programs requested from SFI, Barry Graden indicated willingness and ability of SFI to provide for state and provincial use. Looking for additional feedback – a list of questions is in the packet. The last and final meeting will be a review of that feedback.	<p>#01-09-16-SoRegSIC</p> <p>#02-09-16-SoRegSIC</p>

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	<p>The task group opted to NOT address what will logger training look like in the next 20 years. Video training was discussed, and several states (SC, NC, and FL) are collaborating on video modules, though not part of working task group, others are invited to participate if interested. (Georgia is exploring participation in this group apart from SE logger education task group).</p> <p>WV Department of Forestry (DoF) monitoring of logging jobs will no longer occur due to state budget constraints, and they need an alternative; the WV SIC asked if any other state is being faced with this. In response, the AL SIC said the AL Forestry Commission has an MOU with Alabama Forestry Association to do this. A suggestion was made about SICs developing an MOU with WV DoF.</p>	
<p>LEED Outreach Opportunities Discussion Staff</p>	<p>Ashley Smith (AL SIC) mentioned the 2016 50-year anniversary of a partnership between Alabama Forestry Association and Auburn University. Celebrating 50 years in 2016, the Alabama Forestry Association hosts an annual wood competition for students at the Auburn University College of Architecture, Design, and Construction. The Alabama SIC builds on this long-standing relationship by hosting a forest products and sustainability tour prior to the wood competition. Students spend time in the forest, at a logging operation, and visiting wood products facilities.</p> <p>Also, The AL SIC supports Auburn University's "Rural Studio", an off-campus design-build program of the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture at Auburn University. It gives architecture students a more hands-on educational experience. A few years ago, through the SFI Community Partnerships grant program, Rural Studio completed a student design-build project. Rural Studio also has an affordable-housing program where they're experimenting and prototyping a new locally-built rural home, known as "the 20K Home." Students move on as a senior project (4 architectural students on a team) for a community project – they have built a fire station, town hall and BSA hut. The Program also provides continuing ed opportunities for engineers and architects and now include LEED on that.</p> <p>In VA in 2012, the VA SIC, in conjunction with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Chapter conducted a sustainable forestry tour to show architects, builders and engineers how certification improves forest management, and to understand they are supporting local communities and workers by choosing SFI-certified forest products. Initially there was a light emphasis on certification. Now there are a number of events with very engaged participants promoting SFI and ATFS certified wood. The SIC will be handing out SFI materials, online, etc.</p> <p>Concern was expressed that if the LEED ACP is not used, it gives USGBC cause to say it wasn't used enough and therefore to discontinue it. Paul Trianosky (SFI Staff) said there is already evidence of use through applications submitted to USGBC. Jason Metnick will be presenting on this tomorrow.</p>	

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American Forest Foundation (AFF) update and Discussion	<p>Sarah Crow (American Forest Foundation - AFF) passed out a map of the American Tree Farm (ATFS) state programs showing which states offer an ATFS recognition program, an ATFS certification program, or a non-ATFS program. AFF has focused on several key topics by region: West- "Fire"; Northeast – "Wildlife"; South – "Wildlife habitat and delivery of sustainable fiber".</p> <p>AFF conducted a widespread survey of 20,000 landowners which revealed that landowners care about wildlife. There is an amazing story to tell, and Tom Martin will talk more tomorrow. The report ties into many requirements of the SFI Standard and how to better do landowner engagement.</p> <p>Another project (pilot) in partnership with Florida Forest Service and the University of Florida is the Florida Landscape Management Plan. Sara reported that a management plan is the biggest barrier to ATFS certification, and that written plans do not necessarily get implemented when they are written. Data indicates that landowners are not that interested in the plan. They are interested in what the forester says. What works is a walk with a forester. So the emphasis is about changing landowner behavior. It requires more follow-up per landowner, but may result in more commitment and involvement from the landowners. So, the Florida pilot is to do the landscape management Plan and get landowners engaged in certification overall. Vince Keeler said the SC low country is very interested in this project. Alabama is also interested. This path will make it easier to get ATFS certified through demonstration of compliance on the ground.</p>	
Adjournment	Chairman Plott wrapped up the discussion and called for adjournment.	