

Forest Health Cooperative FY2024 Advisory Meeting Minutes

Location: 602 Duncan Drive, Ste 3301, Auburn University, AL 36849-5418

Date: August 3 - 4, 2023

Attendance:

Dr. Lori Eckhardt, Auburn University
Rusty Booker, Scotch Land Management
Hunter Moncrief, Alabama Forestry Commission
Paul Jeffreys, Arbor Gen
Al Lyons, Manulife
Ryan Nadel, Weyerhaeuser
Jenny LaBlanc, Weyerhaeuser
James Owens, The Westervelt Company
Hunter Stanke, Campbell Global
Susan Turner, Longleaf Timber Company
Alan Wilson, Rayonier

Commencement

Meeting was called to order August 3, 2023, by Dr. Eckhardt at 12:07 p.m.

Presentations:

- Current brown spot needle blight on loblolly in Arkansas- **Dr. Michael Blazier**
- Current brown spot needle blight on loblolly in Alabama- **Mr. Hunter Moncrief**
- Current brown spot needle blight on loblolly in Mississippi- **Dr. John Riggins**
- Current brown spot needle blight on loblolly in Louisiana- **Mr. Tyler Cloud**
- Southeast update of brown spot needle blight on loblolly pine across the southeast- **Dr. Rabi Olatinwo**
- Mitigating needle blight: A growing economic threat to pine forests – project overview- **Dr. Lori Eckhardt**
- Component 1 Update: Inoculation protocol Development for *Lecanosticta acicola* to develop a screening method to determine strain aggressiveness and seedling tolerance- **Dr. Lori Eckhardt**
- Isolation and identification of *Lecanosticta acicola* and other foliar pathogens- **Emmanuel Nyarko**
- Component 2 Update: The environmental factors that drive the emergence and severity of infection from *Lecanosticta acicola* across Alabama- **Dr. Lori Eckhardt & Dr. Joseph Fan**

- Pinus taeda growth effects and response to the spread of Lecanosticta acicola- **Jaden King**
- Does brown spot needle blight affect loblolly pine Growth?- **Maddox Golden**
- Assessing near-infrared spectroscopy coupled with a chemometric model for Lecanosticta acicola detection in loblolly pine- **Christian River**
- Component 3 Update: Detection and movement of Lecanosticta acicola with remote sensing- **Dr. Lana Narine**
- Detection of brown spot needle blight using UAV Remote sensing- **Swati Singh**
- Component 4 Update: Genetic diversity of Lecanosticta acicola, pathogen origins, and invasion history- **Dr. Janna Willoughby**
- Using genetic variants and pathogenicity of the fungal pathogen Lecanosticta acicola to combat needle blight disease- **Temitope Folorunso**
- Genomic diversity and evolutionary history of Lecanosticta acicola on pine host species- **Gabriel Silva**
- USFS Component: Environmental triggers and seasonal changes in the mycobiome on symptomatic and asymptomatic loblolly pine needles- **Dr. Rabiul Olatinwo**
- Component 5 Update: Extension and outreach activities- **Ryan Mitchell**

Business Meeting:

Anti- trust compliance reminder.

Chair for FY- 2024 was Al Lyons, Manulife

Accomplishments

- SOD grant re-funded
- Objective one for BSNB grant funded
- Wood & chemical resistance funding
- Recruited graduate students for BSNB work and join work with wood products
- Money for BSNB forest service plots granted

Work Plan

- Unite against brown spot project
- Budget development for BSNB additional project, to be submitted to the co-op
- Initiate and continue current research projects

Motion to approve work plan for FY-2024 passed unanimously.

Budget Review

- Dues were not raised.
- Determined an upcoming project is fundable, depending on cost.
 - Project budget encouraged to be created.

Motion to approve budget FY-2024 passed unanimously.

Business Meeting Notes Miscellaneous

- Update last year's minute notes by changing the typing error, 2023 to 2024.
- There is interest in running phosphorus plots.
 - At what point is fertilizer no longer useful?
- Newsletter in December.
- Change Wilcox Foundation to Longleaf Timber Company in the books.
- Discussion about acquiring families of seedlings suited to both sites.
 - Al Lyons and Paul Jeffreys can help make this happen.

Meeting on August 3, 2023, was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.