

Forest Health Cooperative FY2016 Advisory Meeting Minutes

Location: Forestry and Wildlife Building Room 1101, Auburn University

Date: December 3, 2015

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Attendance

Dr. Lori Eckhardt, Director

Dr. Emily Carter, U.S. Forest Service

Patrick Cumbie, ArborGen

Bruce DeHaan, Westervelt

Al Derby, Delaney Development

Wilson Edwards, Weyerhaeuser

Angela Hall, Plum Creek

Dr. Ryan Nadel

Paul Padgett, Scotch Lumber

Sarah Peadar

Dalton Smith

Dana Stone, Alabama Forestry Commission

Dr. Brian Via

Alan Wilson, Rayonier

Commencement

Meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Dr. Eckhardt

Welcome

Participants were welcomed to the meeting by Dr. Scott Enebak (Associate Dean of Academic Affairs), who provided information as to the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences as well as information as to the future funding models that are potentially being implemented by the school as well as the progression of the program. In the upcoming years wishing to add a geospatial program (Fall 2016) and increase the number of undergraduate students in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.

Project Updates/Presentations

- Adam Trautwig – Response of Ectomycorrhizal Fungi Associated with Loblolly Pine to Cogongrass Exudate Constituents Update
- Andrea Cole – Effect of Growth Rate on *Amylostereum* spp. Fungus by Terpenes
- Dr. Brian Via – Update: A Focus on Products
- Pratima Devkota – Variation in Tolerance of Mature Loblolly Pine Families to Root Infecting Fungi
- Dr. Ryan Nadel – Quantifying the Impact of Pine Decline in the Southeastern United States

Following the presentations the Science component of the meeting commenced with a presentation by Ryan Nadel regarding the coop funded project surrounding pine decline.

Discussions following the presentation and regarding this project included:

1. Objectives of experiment and project – impact of fungal root infection, threshold of fungi that causes reduced growth and mortality, fungal/tree water, nutrient, and carbon relation, and impact of infection on behavior of bark beetles and other pests
2. Experimental plan – site location, trials and treatment loads
3. Timeline of experiment
4. Current work to date and long-term goals of project
5. Two new graduate students (January 2016) to work on project

Following the discussion of the Quantifying Pine Decline project, Dr. Lori Eckhardt discussed the FY 2015 Work Plan: Accomplishments, Research, Technology Transfer and Development. During her talk the following topics were discussed:

1. Dr. Eckhardt explains new rules in the future for CAFS and NFS – Minimum of five members that contribute \$25,000.00 each to the Co-Op
2. Likely Lock out of NSF funding because of new rules implementation for new phase by 2017
3. Dr. Via explains sonic research, asks about possibility of measuring pine families discussed for pine decline project **(Action, Co-Op members)**
4. Explanation of *Ophiostoma minus* – like species that comes up in current studies and projects, studying being implemented currently to complete genetics and naming to be completed by December 2016
5. Inquiry about Co-Op members receiving emails from Dr. Eckhardt **(Action, Co-Op members)**
6. Regarding Co-Op consultancy - Site calls, visits, and diagnostic sheets included with membership
7. Regarding Forest Health Short Courses - available for Co-Op members if interest **(Action, Co-Op members)**
8. Update Delaney contact: Al Derby **(Action, Dr. Eckhardt)**

Following the FY 2015 work plan discussion and questions was the FY 2016 proposed work plan discussion presented by Dr. Eckhardt. The following topics were discussed during this presentation:

1. Dr. Eckhardt pointed out that under the first article under the FY 2016 work plan, Objective 1: Identify research projects, number 3 about the *Hylastes* population was an error and not supposed to be there, disregard this objective
2. During discussion about study with identifying fungal species via spores on insects Alan Wilson proposed question as to whether or not this same technique could be done on wood
3. Dr. Eckhardt asked Co-Op members as to whom would grow the seedlings for FY 2017 studies, Alan Wilson volunteered for Rayonier to do so **(Action, Alan Wilson)**
4. Comments regarding future seedling study:
 - a. Alan Wilson asked about families being tested, wishes from input **(Action, Dr. Eckhardt)**
 - b. Possibility of adding extra families and the cost **(Action, Dr. Eckhardt)**
 - c. Paul Padgett addresses Alan Wilson about advertising 'Pine Decline Resistant' seedlings
 - d. Possibility of new families being full-sib and question as to what the cost would be **(Action, Dr. Eckhardt)**
 - e. Co-Op members to mail Dr. Eckhardt seeds and Dr. Eckhardt to mail them to Mark to grow (Rayonier). **(Action, Co-Op members/Dr. Eckhardt)**
5. Regarding the root study in 2016 inquiry about sampling RW19 roots in spring **(Action. Dr. Eckhardt/Alan Wilson)**
6. Mature root inoculation will begin in spring 2016
7. Wood chemistry study being concluded
8. Newsletter coming out in April
9. Consultation services for Co-Op members:
 - a. Dalton Smith and Sarah Peaden will be taking over diagnostic sheet paperwork
 - b. Co-Op members to continue to address root samples to Dr. Eckhardt when sending through the post
 - c. Discussion on how non-members are invoiced for diagnostics, consultations, visits, etc.
 - d. Dr. Nadel addresses question about how many root samples are done each year, on average about 100 per year
 - e. Again, short course possibility if interest **(Action, Co-Op members)**
10. FY 2017 Advisory Committee Meeting discussed:
 - a. Date listed June 29-30, 2016
 - b. **(Action, Co-Op members)** Check date for any conflicts and return to Dr. Eckhardt

Following the Work plan for FY 2016 the income structure and budget were discussed, comments regarding the budget:

1. Actual versus projected for FY 2015
2. Addressing loss of Plum Creek as member in 2017
3. Projection for FY 2016, FY 2017, and FY 2018
4. Dr. Eckhardt about Dean of SFWS possibility of paying for salary of new research assistants and Alan Wilson asks if a letter from all the Co-Op members would be beneficial, if so then a template could be sent out to all and then sent back to Dr. Eckhardt for her meeting **(Action, Dr. Eckhardt)**

Following the discussions in the agenda Dr. Eckhardt addressed Southern Pine Decline and her meeting with Georgia, the following comments were discussed:

1. Dr. Eckhardt discussed two papers and her ideas about what Georgia is claiming
2. Georgia to continue research into 'Southern Pine Health'
3. Dr. Eckhardt addresses there is no scare to planting trees in the South, cycle of Southern Pine Decline and her thoughts on the matter

Concluding the meeting Dr. Eckhardt inquires as to committee's approval for FY 2016 Work Plan and Budget:

1. **FY 2016 Work Plan unanimously approved**
2. **FY 2016 Budget unanimously approved**

Meeting Adjourned by Dr. Eckhardt