

Forest Health Cooperative FY2021 Advisory Meeting Minutes

Zoom – <https://auburn.zoom.us/j/9697907257>

Date: November 10, 2020, 8:00am – 3:00pm

Attendees:

Lori Eckhardt, Director

Emily Carter, USDA Forest Service

Mary Ann Sayer, USDA Forest Service

Alan Wilson, Rayonier

Kirk McEachern, Rayonier

Wilson Edwards, Weyerhaeuser

Neila Cole, Weyerhaeuser

Jenny LeBlanc, Weyerhaeuser

David Wilkinson, Hancock

Kris Bradley, Regions

Rusty Booker, Scotch

Dana Stone, Alabama Forestry Commission

John Mensah, Forestry Research Institute of Ghana

Bruce DeHaan, Westervelt

Presentations:

Tina Ciaramitaro - Forest Health Cooperative Diagnostics Laboratory Update and Sudden Oak Death Survey Laboratory Update

Debit Datta - Isolation and identifying of fungi associated with loblolly pine needle damage in the southeastern USA

Sylvester Menanyih - Emission of volatile organic compounds by ophiostomatoid fungi

John Mensah - Quantifying the impact of pine decline in the southeastern United States (Overview)

John Mensah - *Pinus taeda* sapling response to differential inoculum density

Jessica Ahl - Ophiostomatoid fungal infection and insect diversity in a mature loblolly pine stand

John Mensah - Effects of *Leptographium terebrantis* and drought on foliage, new root dynamics and stemwood growth in plantations *Pinus taeda*

John Mensah - Effects of *Leptographium terebrantis* on the production of defense chemical compounds in *Pinus taeda*

Nancy Lowenstein – Invasive Species Update

Business Meeting:

Due to travel challenges this year there was no travel to FABI, so that money was not used.

There were no new grad student hires, as there are currently no openings.

Is there enough interest for a short course in July 2021? Dr. Eckhardt will send an email to gauge interest in January.

Dr. Eckhardt reviewed accomplishments from FY20 work plan and went over the proposed work plan for FY21.

We should hear by the end of the year about USFS-STDP (2-year grant, \$120,000). APHIS grant for siricid work has been slow. SOD grant will be resubmitted and should be funded unless the program is terminated. Will AU IGP be extended?

Sylvester's project needs to be continued in the field once he is done with the lab work. Could this be a project for a new student?

David Wilkinson – what are next steps? Should the Coop have a planning meeting before the June 2021 meeting? Dr. Eckhardt will schedule a virtual meeting in February 2021, since travel may still be restricted for several companies.

Alan Wilson – Can we get the word out somehow that AU is conducting research on pine decline and needle mortality issues. YouTube? Contact communication specialist at SFWS, Jamie Anderson. Try to bring in more members and students.

Dr. Eckhardt reviewed the budget documents.

Dean Alavalapati is looking into building a greenhouse for SFWS on property we own, but meanwhile can we borrow space from USFS, Nursery Coop, college of AG? Rent for greenhouse came out of school's pocket, since we can't pay rent with grant money.

No solid prospects for new members right now, lots of budget issues/holds

Coop budget looks ok for FY21 and FY22, what about FY23? Down to minimum staff.

Alan Wilson – Genetic component for loblolly and brown spot. Is it feasible? Is inoculum available? Dr. E check with testing facility in Asheville. Can't grow on medium.