

# Forest Health Cooperative FY2020 Advisory Meeting Minutes

Location: Forestry and Wildlife Building Room 1101, Auburn University

Date: June 26-27, 2019

## Attendees

Lori Eckhardt, Director

Emily Carter, U.S. Forest Service

Paul Padgett, Scotch

Elliot Hart, Scotch

Wilson Edwards, Weyerhaeuser

Eric Whatley, Burgin

Kris Bradley, Regions Bank

Dana Stone, Alabama Forestry Commission

David Wilkinson, Hancock Natural Resource Group

Alan Wilson, Rayonier

- Meeting was called to order at 01:01 p.m. by Dr. Eckhardt

## Presentations:

Dr. Lori Eckhardt – Ten Years: Where we've been and where we're going

Luis Mendez – Forest Health Cooperative Diagnostics Laboratory Update and Sudden Oak Death Survey Update

Debit Datta – Identifying fungal pathogens associated with loblolly pine needle decline in the southeastern United States

Sylvester Menanyih – Emission of volatile organic compounds by *Amylostereum* and ophiostomatoid fungi

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

John Mensah – Quantifying the impact of *Leptographium terebrantis* on *Pinus taeda* growth and productivity

Meeting adjourned 5:15 p.m.

- Meeting 7/27 was called to order at 07:55 a.m. by Dr. Eckhardt

## **Business Meeting**

Accomplishments, Research Plan and Budget Review

Correction: Income Structure FY2019, the Dues should reflect \$81,156

Q&A and Action Items:

1. Work plan item – discussion which led to decision to postpone harvest of high plots until more above ground symptoms were evident. Extend study 2 years to ensure we are not cutting trees too early and they are held until above ground symptoms are evident. No fee is requested to continue study as it will be completed in the FHC working budget. It took a long time to get this study installed and do not want to cut it too early.
2. How much does SOD funding contribute?
  - a. \$36,000
3. Send newsletters to a wider audience, such as AFA members, regional AFC foresters, AL & GA forester mailing list, etc. (Action, Co-op members)
4. Send out a quick message to members when the web page gets an update (new items added such as research reports, data updates, publications, etc)
5. Add PDFs of publications to website (May need to be moved to Members Only section if on the public domain)
6. Continue to work on an online forest health workshop
7. Approach Alabama Power about membership in the FHC
8. Open a social media account for the Forest Health Dynamics Lab to reach a wider audience about the research being done (ie Facebook, Twitter, etc.) (Suggestion, Co-op members)
9. Add Regions Bank to Full Members on webpage (Action, Co-op members)
10. Open a discussion with Auburn Faculty and Dean about offering a Forest Health Certificate (Suggestion, Co-op members)
  - a. Certificates are 15 credit hours, which breaks down to five 3 credit classes. Could possibly break the Forest Health Protection course into separate components – Forest Entomology and Forest Pathology, would be beneficial to open these courses to graduate students in other departments to satisfy Auburn's filled seat requirement. Add course on Invasive pest and fire.
11. Add instructions for updated storage of pine needles on the submission form (Action Item, Dr. Eckhardt)
  - a. Some pathogens are temperature sensitive and can die if stored too cold/hot

12. Add instructions for collecting alternate hosts and add descriptions of the alternate hosts  
(Action Item, Dr. Eckhardt)
13. Which part of tree should needles be taken and can you compile multiple samples from a stand?
14. Collect needles from the symptomatic branches. You can compile samples from the same tree but not from entire stand. Is the greenhouse still available for experiments?
  - a. At this time, the U.S. Forest Service is having to reduce their square footage, so the greenhouse is scheduled to be demolished. The Dean has plans to build a research greenhouse specifically for forest health research. The school is in the process of raising monies for this building. It will be approximately 2 - 3 years before it is actually built and fully functional.

Alan Wilson (Rayonier) motioned to approve the Work Plan, Seconded by Wilson Edwards (Weyerhauser), unanimous approval

Alan Wilson (Rayonier) motioned to approve the Budget, Seconded by Wilson Edwards (Weyerhauser), unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned 10:30 a.m.