

Short Rotation Woody Crops- Operations Working Group
Steering Committee Notes
Vancouver, Washington
Monday Aug 24, 1998

Administrative discussions:

Dues: Suggestion made to charge membership fee for the proceedings. In other words, the proceedings from the meetings are available free to members. Since we need to make membership a worthwhile venture, we should not put the proceedings on the Web Site, until shortly before the next meetings. The proceedings would be used as an advertising tool.

Tax ID number: Some institutions could not write a membership check without having one. Jim Shepard said that he would look into getting a not-for-profit recognition for the group.

Web Site: The Steering committee agreed that a simpler more direct Web Site location would be desirable. Lynn and Bob agreed to work on getting a more directly accessible Web site address. The address will be advertised in the next newsletter and on other related Web Sites. It was suggested that we have a counter on the web site. (Note we have determined that it could be done but we have not done it yet. We hope to do this soon)

Forest Service support: Bryce Stokes indicated that he was trying to drum up more Forest Service support of the SRWC-ORG. He was encouraging several different Forest Service Research Stations to contribute funds to the group.

Activity suggestions from Steering Committee:

Maintain the web site: Web site should provide quick reference to who is doing what, such as irrigation studies, references to other relevant information and special reports. Web site should have a counter to monitor it's usage rate.

Keep a mailing list. Some debate about whether it should be on our web site for anyone to access or whether access should somehow be restricted. It was suggested that members be queried as to whether they felt comfortable about having their names openly available on the website.

Produce a Newsletter. Frequency of at least 2 x/year. Keep newsletter on the web site and send out paper copies. A suggestion was made that we get some information from Brazil and Europe into the newsletter. Gail Simonds mentioned that Bill Hannon of Westvaco had just come back from Brazil and could be a good source of information.

Produce short executive summaries of research studies of interest to SRWC operations and

publish in newsletter.

Persuade companies and researchers to share antidotal results of new methods in newsletter.

Organize technical committees around specific topics. Possible committee topics are: pesticide & herbicide regulations, nutrition, irrigation, harvesting, cultural practices. It was agreed that the Steering committee would look for a champion for each area to form topical working groups, to accumulate information and to put notes in the newsletter. Volunteers for leadership of specific areas included Bruce Hartsough for harvesting, Harry Quick for Vegetation/pest control, Roy Merritt and Burt Aronoff for irrigation, and Jon Johnson and Mark Coleman for Fertilization/Nutrition.

Organize regional working groups to stimulate more frequent contact on areas of shared interest within a region.

Create chat rooms or bulletin boards for people to share information on operations topics.

Continue holding meetings every other year. The idea of holding the next workshop in New York with a focus on willow was well accepted. People enjoyed having the visitor from South Africa. It was suggested that we bring over 1 to 2 people from Europe to share their experiences with willow. Lynn Wright agreed to make that happen for the year 2000 meeting.

Persuade Morbark or other equipment manufacturers to provide demonstrations. Either use e-mail to inform SRWC-OWG members or provide list to manufacturers to use in advertising demos.

As a result of the Steering committee discussions, a long list of possible activities was provided to the members in attendance and they were asked to establish priorities. The results were as follows:

Top priority (21 of 36 responses) – Publish timely summaries in newsletter

Second Priority (20 of 36 responses) - Establish technical committees.

Third Priority (5 of 36 responses) – Focus on environmental issues.

Other areas of interest included – genetics, utilization issues, publicity and promotion activities

From the responses and comments, it could be discerned that the members wanted to see the Web Site provide the following types of information:

References to new publications

International Links

Information on upcoming meetings or demonstrations of interest.