

SRWC Operations Working Group
Minutes, Steering Committee Meeting
18 August 1999
Holiday Inn, Alexandria MN

Members and representatives present Tim Volk (for Larry Abrahamson), Mark Coleman (for John Blake), Bruce Hartsough, Tom Houghtaling, Joe Battista (for Evan Hughes), Roy Merritt, Harry Quicke, Jim Shepard, Ron Stoffel, Bryce Stokes, Lynn Wright

Guests Don Reimenschneider (USFS North Central Research Station, Rhinelander WI), Raffaele Spinelli (Wood Research Institute, Florence, Italy)

1. Minutes of the 24 August 1998 meeting in Vancouver WA were approved.
2. Preliminary planning for the Third Conference, in 2000.

The meeting will be held in Syracuse, NY. Tim Volk and Larry Abrahamson will be co-conference chairs, and will rely on Continuing Education at the university to handle the arrangement details. After a discussion of possible conflicting or dovetailing meetings (Council on Forest Engineering, 11-14 Sept in Kelowna BC; International Poplar Commission, 24-30 Sept -3 Oct in Vancouver WA; Bioenergy 2000, 15-19 Oct in Buffalo NY), the Tuesday-Friday of 10-13 October was tentatively selected. Two days of this will be devoted to a field trip, the rest to presentations and other activities.

3. Administrative Sponsor activities.

The committee reaffirmed the commitment of each organization to provide an annual contribution of \$5000, cash or in-kind services. The USFS, NCASI and ORNL have been providing at least that much each year. Due to budget limitations and priorities, EPRI has not been able to provide support during the last couple of years. Bruce Hartsough will check with Evan Hughes to see if the future prognosis is better, and if there would be interest in taking on the newsletter or other aspects of the Working Group. (Followup Evan indicated that EPRI would probably be able to contribute both cash and in-kind support for the coming year.)

4. Current membership and financial status.

Jim Shepard supplied membership figures 72 paid members and 7 Sustaining Sponsors so far this year, versus 162 paid members and 6 Sustaining Sponsors in 1998. The big difference is due to a conference being held every other year (last year and not this year); conference registrants are "forced" to become members. Our Sustaining Sponsors are:

- American Cyanamid Co.
- B.B. Hobbs Co.
- Boise Cascade Corp.
- DuPont Ag Products
- Morbark, Inc.
- Netafim Irrigation, Inc.

Toro Ag / Drip In

Jim's financial report showed that we are back in the black! Current bank balance is \$4250.04, although this includes a loan of \$2640.11 from NCASI to make up our temporary deficit. The committee thanked Jim for the much-needed temporary support and recommended that we return the loan amount to NCASI. After all the transactions from the 1998 conference were finalized, the summary figures were:

Total Income (less bus refund)	\$12,477.15
Total Expenses (less bus refund)	\$17,344.29
Bottom Line	<u>(\$4,867.14)</u>

The expenses do not include the costs of publishing and distributing the conference proceedings. American Cyanamid has offered to cover these expenses, and their associate, Dudnyk Public Relations, is currently finalizing the proceedings format. The proceedings will be distributed to all members/conference attendees, and also to all libraries of universities with recognized forestry programs in the US.

5. Future budgeting issues.

Bryce Stokes has arranged for a \$5,000 contribution to the Working Group from the USDA Forest Service Washington Office, to be routed via Don Reimenschneider through the North Central Research Station. It will be earmarked for planning and executing the 2000 conference. Don is working on an additional \$5,000 each from the North Central and Southern Stations for the following year.

6. New activities.

The committee felt that we should expand our dissemination of new information, especially via timely updates in the Newsletter. In recent issues, Burt Aronoff wrote valuable articles on irrigation systems, and Bruce Hartsough provided some harvest test results. Roy Merritt offered another useful irrigation article. Lynn Wright mentioned that multiple products are being considered for SRWC, and it would be good to have a person who would lead the information gathering in that area. (Followup Pat Moore has consented to act as key contact for SRWC products.) Another area of importance is "supply logistics," i.e. the whole string of activities from land purchase through delivery of material to the end-user.

7. Other business.

New steering committee members are needed to replace Bruce Upchurch (who left Union Camp/International Paper to join University of Georgia), Jim Tillman (who left Supertrak) and Gail Simonds (who left Westvaco to join the ministry).

Due to an unforeseen increase in work commitments, Lynn Wright indicated that she would be unable to step in as chair of the working group for 2000 and 2001. Bryce asked that she send a note

to the committee. Bruce said that would not be necessary. Bryce said it was. Bruce disagreed. Bryce head-butted Bruce. Bruce asked Lynn to send a note, but will not feel any worse if he doesn't receive one. Possible nominees for incoming chair were discussed, and Bruce will contact these individuals as soon as he recovers from his concussion. (Followup Victor Ford, Research Scientist at Westvaco's Appalachian Forest Research Center was nominated and approved by the Steering Committee to replace Gail Simonds as industry member from the eastern US, and to become chair for 2000 and 2001.)