

Independent Standards Review Panel
Fourth Meeting
April 23, 2009
Conference Call

Attendees:

David Ford, forest owner / Oregon Small Woodlands Association (Chair)
Cliff Schneider, MWV (retired)
Doug Williams, Association of Consulting Foresters
Tim Lundberg, Quad/Graphics
Paul Pingrey, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Fred Cabbage, North Carolina State University
Karl Della Rosa, USDA Forest Service
Steve Jarvis, Forest Resources Association

Staff:

Bob Simpson, Executive Vice President, Center for Family Forests
Victoria Lockhart, Certification Manager, Center for Family Forests

Agenda

I. Welcome

The fourth meeting of the 2008 – 2009 Independent Standards Review Panel opened at 11:30am (eastern) with a welcome from the ISRP chair, David Ford, followed by a review of the meeting agenda and goals. The goal of the call was to review the revised Standards and Panel member comments, and reach consensus on a draft to release for public comment.

II. Review revised Standards with Panel comments

Standards Prologue – Following the third Panel meeting, several Panel members felt that the Standards should address landowner promotion of the Tree Farm program. There is an important opportunity through the AFF Standards to encourage ATFS members to participate in related education and community outreach activities. Education is important to understanding the needs of sustainable forestry, and outreach is an important delivery mechanism within the ATFS programs to deliver education to forest owners and other stakeholders. Members reached consensus that encouraging landowners to participate in ATFS outreach activities was not appropriate for the Standards themselves but is important to include in the prologue. Standards prologue language was modified to provide clarity on the structure of the Standards and how they should be read.

Standard 2: Commitment to Practicing Sustainable Forestry – Panel members reviewed revised language for Standard 2 and discussed the crossover between

USFS Stewardship plan requirements, NRCS Forest Management plan requirements, and the revised AFF management plan requirements. Panel members discussed the inclusion of ownership type descriptions in the required elements of eligible management plans and agreed to maintain the requirement in the standards as it is required by PEFC and provide additional guidance to inspectors during training and through ATFS approved management plan templates. Panel members reached consensus on a proposal to switch the order of proposed Standards 1 and 2. Proposed Standard 1 will now be “Commitment to Practicing Sustainable Forestry”, and Standard 2 will be “Compliance with Laws”, highlighting the American Forest Foundation’s mission to ensure the sustainability of America’s family forests for present and future generations.

Standard 3: Reforestation – Panel members discussed the ability of forest landowners to adapt their management under climate change specifically in reference to Standard 3. Landowners have the ability to adapt their management as their forest systems shift under Standard 2 which requires the management plan be “active and adaptive”.

III. Review revised glossary with Panel comments

Panel members discussed changes to the Standards glossary. A definition for “forest vitality” will be added. Following a suggestion, the Panel decided that a further definition of “fair labor rules” was not necessary as this concept is defined by U.S. laws and regulations. ISRP did not fully discuss one of the performance measures as presented by a panel member. It was decided that several portions of the proposed performance measure were in-auditable and that the performance measure fell more within the scope of policy agreements between AFF and IAMAW.

IV. Standards language consistency

Panel members discussed the need for consistency within the revised Standards in the notation of required elements. Panel members elected to form a working group on the issue, including David Ford, Cliff Schneider and AFF Staff, to review the proposed Standards for the use of the terms “must”, “should”, and “may”. The working group was asked to provide its findings to the larger Panel following a meeting on Friday, April 24, after which the Panel would reach consensus on the recommendations.

V. ATFS Certification Committee

David Ford participated in a conference call held by the AFF Certification Committee on April 16 to inform the Certification Committee about the progress of the Standards revisions. The Certification Committee has been charged by the AFF Board of Trustees to act as the National Standards Interpretations Committee following final approval of the revised Standards. The Certification Committee provided background on Standards interpretations issues received on the current AF

Standards (2004-2008) that should be helpful to the Panel in drafting the revised Standards.

VI. Meeting close

Call adjourned at 12:35 PM (EST).

Respectfully submitted by Bob Simpson, April 27, 2009.