

ASFP Members Meetings January 2012

Regional membership meetings were held near the start of 2012, as follows:

- Jan. 17th at 8:30 am, in Meadow Lake at the NorWester Motel (12 people attended)
- Jan. 20th at 12 noon, in Hudson Bay at Weyerhaeuser Forestlands office (11 people attended)
- Jan. 25th at 12 noon, in Prince Albert at the Public Library (28 people attended)

The purpose of the meetings was to provide an update on ASFP activities and major projects, and hear any member's concerns. The meetings lasted an hour to an hour and a half, and were chaired by Dave Stevenson (President) and Roger Nesdoly (Vice-President) (for the Meadow Lake meeting). The following topics were discussed:

Right to Practice

As has been discussed over the past year or two, the ASFP is interested in changing the Forestry Professions Act to enable a professional Right to Practice (currently we operate under Right to Title). This supports labour mobility, increases professional accountability (in line with moving to results-based SK Environmental Code where there is a greater reliance on professionalism), and serves the public interest by further ensuring forests are managed by competent, responsible individuals. A proposal to change the Act is being drafted and will be submitted by February 13, 2012.

A change to Right to Practice would have to be done in a way that doesn't restrict any non-ASFP members from doing their current job, or affect people like very small operators. There may be some grandfathering, or thresholds set.

The intent is practice based on competence, rather than develop very specific lists of activities that can be carried out. There would be a heavy reliance on people's own judgement about whether they are qualified to do a specific job or not. (for example, installing a culvert).

The move to Right to Practice would also involve things like clean up our bylaws and membership categories, and finishing professional conduct discipline protocols.

Caribou National Recovery Strategy

The public consultation on the National Recovery Strategy closes February 22, 2012. Many are questioning the science behind the strategy, and the mining association in particular has been very active on this issue. *Roman Orynik is preparing comments on behalf of the ASFP, and members are asked to send any comments you have to in to him to him (by February 15th would be reasonable).*

SK Environmental Code

A public consultation period on the new SK Environmental Code is underway, and closes on March 16, 2012. Public meetings focusing on specific sectors are planned as follows:

- Municipal Sector - Conexus Arts Centre, Regina, 8:00 am– 2:00 pm, January 30, 2012
- Forestry Sector - Travelodge, Prince Albert, 8:00 am–12:00 pm, February 2, 2012
- Industrial and Mining Sectors – Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, 8:00 am–12:00 pm, February 3, 2012

The draft code is available for review at <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/codereview>

Continuing Competency

Annual reporting of total credit hours is now required from all members, in addition to the 5-10% sample audit of member's continuing competency activities that is carried out. Responses to the first annual call for reporting of hours are coming in quickly. Thank you.

Other Updates

Annual General Meeting – Planning for the 2012 AGM is underway. The date will be April 17th, 18th, or 19th, 2012.

Registrar – Roman Orynik, who has been our Registrar since the Association was formed, is retiring. The work is being transitioned to a combination of two people. Diane Roddy is now carrying out the legal and issue management aspects of the Registrar function, and Karen Davidson is managing the office / administrative work.

Discussion

Topics raised by members were:

- Getting back to "hosting" the CIF e-lectures in a meeting room for a group (anyone who wants to join), to enable discussion.