

**Short Rotation Woody Crops
Operations Working Group
Steering Committee Meeting
Alexandria, Minnesota
September 16, 2002**

Secretary/Treasurer Jim Shepard summarized the SRWCOWG's financial status as having a bank balance of \$18,772. Jim said that he had not contacted the Sustaining Sponsors since billing them for a \$500 contribution in the autumn of 2000. He suggested that the SRWCOWG have firmer plans for using the funds before we bill Sustaining Sponsors again. The Sustaining Sponsors from 2000 are:

BASF Corporation
B.B. Hobbs Company
Boise Cascade Corporation
DuPont Ag Products
Morbark Industries Corp.
Netafim Irrigation
Rain Bird Agri-Products
Toro Ag/DripIn Irrigation Co.
Westvaco

Vic Ford said he would look into MeadWestvaco continuing support. Harry Quick said BASF has long supported the SRWCOWG, but would not continue Sustaining Sponsor support, although he plans to continue his membership and active participation in the SRWCOWG.

Lynn Wright said that it is time to pay the annual fee to maintain the web site domain www.woodycrops.org and also she asked if the SRWCOWG could pay for this.

Regarding publicity of short rotation woody crops, Don Riemenschneider suggested the SRWCOWG put together a glossy publication communicating the benefits of SRWCs, similar to the promotional information the speaker from the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce distributed.

Don R. said that the Forest Service has agreed to publish the proceedings of this year's meeting as a Forest Service General Technical Report.

Bob Perlack said he plans to redesign the website over the next few months, perhaps in collaboration with the WesMin RC&D -- Dean Schmidt and Sheila Faber.

Vic Ford initiated a discussion on the future of the SRWCOWG. Lynn Wright commented that the organization was initiated with a focus on harvesting equipment (hence the name "Operations" Working Group) and we had many equipment manufacturers involved in the group. But few equipment company reps are at this meeting. Maybe we need to renew an effort to involve them in the group.

Don R. said that Oak Ridge National Lab has been the glue that bound together the North American SRWC community, but with their funding cuts that's over now. We need to refocus on our mission, perhaps at next year's steering committee meeting.

In anticipation of the 2004 meeting, the steering committee resolved to re-examine the OWG's vision statement and rewrite it if necessary. We want to make sure that the vision of the SRWC-OWG is consistent with the objectives of the next meeting. Also, want to take necessary steps to re-vitalize the mission of the SRWC-OWG.

Vic Ford presented Bryce Stokes proxy nomination of Jake Eaton as the new Chair of the SRWCOWG. A motion was made to accept Jake as Chair. The motion was seconded and approved without opposition. Jake manages Potlatch's fiber farm in Boardman, Oregon. Vic Ford thanked Don Reimenschneider and colleagues from Minnesota who did all of the hard work to make the meeting happen. The Steering Committee applauded.

Bryce sent recommendations for a steering committee sometime in 2003. Evan Hughes suggested February 3 or 7 in Gainesville, Florida. This will be convenient for those attending the International Conference on Co-Utilization of Domestic Fuels. See <http://www.doce-conferences.ufl.edu/ICCDF/agenda.asp> for details.

The next biennial meeting is 2004 and will be hosted by Mark Coleman and will be sited near the Savannah River Site in Aiken, SC.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

James P. Shepard

Attendees

Larry Abrahamson
Mark Coleman
Claude Corcos
Vic Ford
Tom Houghtaling
Evan Hughes
Harry Quicke
Bob Perlack
Don Riemenschneider
Ernie Schmidt
Jim Shepard
Chuck Wierman
Lynn Wright