

SRWC-OWG Conference Call Notes – 7/24/2007, made by Lynn Wright

Mention was made that the Canadian Poplar Council was interested in coordinating with SRWC-OWG – they will be meeting in September and will be discussing options at that time.

A question asked about the U.S. Poplar Council. Their interest was not known but Jake Eaton will contact them. Randy Rousseau communicated to the group that the Chair (Randy) and Secretary/Treasurer (Rick Hall) would like for the U.S. Poplar Council to meet in conjunction with the SRWCOWG program in 2008.

Marilyn Buford mentioned that the IEA Task 30 will be meeting in Ontario in August, so the idea of a joint meeting will be presented to them.

Tim Volk, chair of the IUFRO Task on Applied Short-Rotation Forestry, suggested that the IUFRO group would also be interested in meeting jointly with the SRWCOWG in 2008.

On a scheduling note, Tim Volk noted that the Society of American Foresters is having their 2008 meeting on November 5-9 in Reno. The SRWCOWG should try and not be too close to that date to avoid a conflict with some people there who have a growing interest in bioenergy. The SAF is running a 21 talk series this year on bioenergy and forestry at their national convention.

Discussion on the meeting location focused on the Minneapolis/St Paul area, but concern was raised about whether or not there was a person associated with the SRWCOWG who might be willing to host the meeting there. Lynn Wright suggested contacting IREE group at UMN and agreed to talk with Dick Hemmingsen, Director of IREE about the possibility of hosting the meeting at the U of M agricultural campus. Marilyn will talk with Bill Berguson, of UM/NRRI, and Tom Houghtaling, of Minnesota Power, about being possible co-hosts.

Consensus was that meeting timing would be assumed to be in the late summer or early fall time frame but that we could be flexible in order to increase the possibility of having a joint meeting with IEA Task 30 and the U.S. and Canadian Poplar Council groups.

Larry Abrahamson made the offer for SUNY to host the 2010 meeting in New York. He indicated that it would be possible by then to see commercially produced willow in the state. A point of interest is that the SUNY willow program now has a harvester capable of cutting willow at a rate of ~ 2 miles/hour. They are talking with possible U.S. manufacturers about making the cutting head here in the U.S. He noted there are commitments by people in NY for about 1,000 to 2,000 acres next year, but the potential for a lot more. A commercial nurseryman is on board that has the capability of producing as much as 1000 acres of willows for future.

Steve Pottle will offer up his experience in hosting a meeting to whoever takes on the responsibility. Jake Eaton will also offer advice as well.

Marilyn indicated that once phone calls had been made and more information collected about possible meeting hosts, etc., that another conference call would be initiated.