



**SFI Implementation Committee Meeting – US Northeast/Lake States Region
November 13, 2024
Grey Towers National Historic Site**

Overview

SFI hosted the Northeast / Lake States SIC Regional meeting on November 13, 2024, at the Grey Towers National Historic Site, in Milford, Pennsylvania. The purpose of this meeting was to provide SICs with an update on current projects and an opportunity for SIC members to collaborate across SICs and share items of regional importance. This meeting was attended by 18 people from across 8 US Northeast / Lake States SICs. See Appendix A for the meeting attendees.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting started with a welcome and overview of the Grey Towers from Joe Koloski, Director of Grey Towers National Historic Site. Gordy Mouw, SFI Director of Network Relations, welcomed the group, gave an antitrust statement and led introductions, this was followed by an overview of Pennsylvania Forestry and the SIC by Chuck Coup, Pennsylvania SIC Coordinator.

Coordination of SIC Best Practices: Climate Smart Forestry

Greg Cooper, SFI Director of Conservation Implementation, highlighted climate-related data from the recent annual survey of SFI-certified organizations and presented a report SFI has developed in collaboration with Michigan State University, which builds on the regional climate workshops held with SICs in 2022 and 2023. The report features a decision support tool, which identifies climate risks across regions and forest cover types and presents adaptation and mitigation practices backed by scientific literature. The report will be available soon to SFI certified organizations. Participants felt the report would be valuable to support regional analysis and practices. It was suggested that future training and outreach on climate smart forestry, including regionally focused, would be helpful.

Actions and Next Steps:

- SFI staff will share the CSF report when final and explore further training and outreach.

Coordination of SIC Best Practices: Biodiversity

Chuck Coup reviewed the Pennsylvania SIC's process for coordinating the SFI standard requirements related to biodiversity, which was supported in part by an SFI Community Grant and included coordination with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The process included receiving and filtering forest dweller G1 and G2 species from the DCNR and creating fact sheets specific to PA. Others, including Maine SIC, shared their experience with this objective and showed the mapping resources of G1 and G2 species they are using to support Certified Organizations. Further help was requested from SFI to support Certified Organizations in identifying location areas of G1/G2 species.

Logger Training

Gordy Mouw showed portions of a new video SFI is developing, in coordination with Michigan State University, for use with logger training. Specifically, the video is designed to address the first

indicator (awareness of SFI's work) in the list of topics that the SFI standards require to be covered in logger training. It can be used by SICs when presenting in logger training workshops. Participants suggested several edits to the video:

1. Shorter clips that include standalone chapters.
2. Include why SFI is good for loggers as the audience.
3. Include customer connections.

Additionally, attendees shared well-received logger training topics such as Wilderness First Aid, Drone Integration in logging, Cross Training for foresters and loggers, and basic wildfire for loggers such as how logging equipment can be used for wildfire prevention and suppression.

Actions and Next Steps:

- SFI staff will refine the video and distribute it to SICs.

Tribal Engagement

Tim Beyer, US Tribal Lands Consultant to SFI, highlighted several opportunities for engagement with tribes and offered himself as a resource to SICs. He pointed to field guides produced by the Central Canada SIC that served as a training resource for forest practitioners, and participants felt field bulletins tailored to the US South would be a good resource. Participants spoke about current training on cultural resources. SFI will also explore producing a "playbook" for SIC coordination (similar to what was produced on the standard requirements for climate smart forestry, fire resilience and awareness, and biodiversity in fiber sourcing), with regional considerations.

SIC Partnership Potential

Doty McDowell, Director of Outreach and Development for the Pennsylvania SIC, discussed partnerships the SIC is working on with Meherrin, a seed, fertility and chemical products company and WorkLink a workforce staffing agency. These partnerships would become SIC Supporter category. Rick Horton, MN SIC Coordinator, discussed a long-standing project/partnership with Forest 2 Tap, a microbrewery conglomerate in Minnesota. Their tag line, "clean water creates good beer", has a connection with the SIC/SFI in protecting clean water. Other project opportunities were also discussed and determined to be an excellent potential for SICs looking to expand their reach.

Action and Next Steps:

- SFI staff will assist in SIC regional coordination with those SICs that want to partner with SIC supporting organizations.

Open Regional Discussion

1. The Inconsistent Practice process was shared across several SICs. SICs discussed challenges and recent complaints of Inconsistent practice reporting. Chuck Coup asked to share their process with the meeting summary.
2. SFI highlighted plans for the PLT Conference in March 2025 at Clemson University (which SIC members are encouraged to attend).
3. SFI invited input on the SIC regional session at the SFI Annual conference to be held May 20-23rd 2025, in Minneapolis; suggested topics include a logger as a guest speaker, SFI help on acquiring G1 and G2 location data, and a standards update by SFI staff.

Appendix A – Participant List

| Name | Company |
|----------------|---|
| Todd Proctor | Billerud - Fiber Supply |
| Travis Kangas | Louisiana Pacific Corporation |
| Patrick Sirois | Maine SIC |
| Jeff Barrett | Manulife Investment Management Forest Management Inc. |
| Rick Horton | Minnesota Forest Industries |
| Kirk Kunnen | Molpus Woodlands Group |
| Shelby Chorba | Northern Tier Hardwood Association |
| Chuck Coup | Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee |
| Doty McDowell | Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee |
| Todd Berman | Pixelle Specialty Solutions |
| Mark McCall | Pixelle Specialty Solutions |
| Jaden Hoeft | Potlatch Deltic |
| Gordy Mouw | SFI |
| Greg Cooper | SFI |
| Kyle Troutman | Weaber, Inc. |
| Roger Stoll | Weyerhaeuser |