

Continental Dialogue Steering Committee Call Minutes 1/17/2018

Attendance:

Leigh Greenwood (moderator), Manny Atsedu, Tricia Bethke, Faith Campbell, Kayla Collado, Brad Gething, Bernie Hubbard, Phil Marshall, Rick Otis, Scott Pfister, Abbey Powell, Bob Simpson, Don Eggen.

- Suggested Pre-reading: Review the November Steering Committee minutes
<https://continentalforestdialogue.files.wordpress.com/2018/01/cfd-2017-steering-committee-minutes.pdf>
- Optional Pre-reading: Review the 2017 Meeting Summary
<https://continentalforestdialogue.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/2017-annual-meeting-summary.pdf>

1. Attendance
2. Agenda review - quick review by Leigh
3. November's Steering Committee Meeting Minutes review
 - a. Minutes from CFD 2017 Steering Committee Meeting can be found on CFD website
 - b. Email Leigh or Kayla if there are any issues accessing the minutes or errors in the document
 - i. Faith noted minor error in 2017 Meeting Summary, correct Bob's title
 - c. How do we see CFD now that we don't have direct funding?
 - i. Reinvigorating the idea of working groups would be great, but some people would need to justify their time to their bosses (Faith)
 - ii. Just because some working groups have time, doesn't mean others do; each effort is independent and should continue if there is desire and time. (Leigh)
4. 2018 CFD Meeting
 - a. During November's Steering Committee Meeting, joining Arbor Day in Irvine had the most consensus (Leigh)
 - b. Thoughts on overlapping with another group
 - i. In past experiences, there isn't usually much group overlap; is the monetary benefit significant? (Scott)
 - ii. Monetary savings if meeting is held with any other group, not Arbor Day specifically (Leigh)
 - iii. Also takes planning time burden off of Leigh (Faith)
 - iv. The connection with Arbor Day is a good idea; it's been a great overlap in the past (Don)
 - c. Location
 - i. 2018

1. The best part of joining Arbor Day this year is that it will be in Irvine CA; many good professional connections in that area and California has many pests of concern right now (Faith)
2. Faith will reach out to Craig R to see how to work SANC into CFD 2018
- ii. 2019
 1. Reminder that there was consensus to have the 2019 meeting in a politically important location; New York came up as a strong possibility (Leigh)
 2. Some place like Ithaca/Cornell would be a good place for 2019; they have a strong invasive species programs and the area has good accommodations (Don)
 3. Keep in mind that one of the two co-chairs for House Caucus is from the Adirondacks (Rick)
 4. We can push the meeting to earlier (October) for weather if in the Adirondack area, meeting is not wedded to November timing (Leigh)
- iii. Information on 2018 Arbor Day partnership (ex. initial pricing) is on the agenda (Leigh)
- iv. If you want to volunteer yourself for 2018 planning committee, email Leigh/Kayla

5. CFD Funding

- a. Leigh has been having preliminary discussions about direct funding in 2018 with USFS Forest Health Program via Rick Cooksey.
- b. Any other lines of funding?
 - i. Besides USFS, what other funding have we gone for in the past? (Don)
 - ii. Small but important funding from APHIS for firewood (separate from DMF) and is still up and running (Leigh)
 - iii. No success from private philanthropists in the last 5 years, this topic is a hard sell (Leigh)
 - iv. Potential to use a TNC fellow again, funded by TNC, but that wouldn't be for year-long activities – would be limited to meeting-centric (Leigh)

6. CFD 2017 Outlined Objectives for 2018

- a. Outreach (Tricia and Abbey)
 - i. Rough draft of editorial calendar identifying national days, opportunities within each month for promotion
 - ii. Working on identifying audiences
 1. Could mean people, pathways, pests, etc.
 - iii. Used to work for a group that had a lot of money to persuade the US public; they would think deeply about the goal of their outreach (Rick)
 1. Important to focus on a defined end goal, with an achievable theory of change (Rick/Leigh)
 2. Important for funding to know what results we want to achieve (Bob)

- iv. Look at 2005 goals; what we thought we could do when we had funding (Faith)
 - 1. Note: Many of these documents can be found at <https://continentalforestdialogue.org/library/primary-and-background-documents/>
- v. Split into two: 1. Work on a fairly narrowly defined issue 2. Work with people who have large monetary interests and aren't as aware of problems/opportunities for their business, e.g. Fortune 200 (Rick)
- vi. Maybe use this year for broader initiatives, and then define narrower focus for 2019 (Tricia)
- vii. Important to convene with various state invasive species councils to have solid connections to the needs and issues of states, which then feed up to national orgs. (Don and Abbey)
- b. Firewood (Leigh)
 - i. Putting in place a firewood resource group to take DMF and FOCI into the future with input from all parts of US/Canada/different sectors (aka FRG: Firewood Resource Group)
 - 1. Received positive feedback at CFD and lots of good ideas
 - 2. More defined group would serve better → does anyone have ideas on structure for FRG? Leaning away from a firewood steering committee or board construct, more towards a cooperative resource group.
 - ii. Are you engaging with Canada for FRG? (Abbey)
 - 1. Yes, but need to find one new contact, as the lead at CFIA on firewood issues took a new job. Other Canadian contacts are still good (Leigh)
 - iii. Jon Sweeney recently mentioned a new species that clings to beech tree trunks and firewood is a likely pathway, Leigh should reach out to him (Faith)
- c. Solid Wood Packaging (Brad and Kayla)
 - i. Any updates on how CBP policy change (first offense gets fined, vs 5 chances prior to fine) is going? (Brad)
 - 1. Still working with APHIS to finalize, will communicate once it comes out (Manny)
 - 2. If any initial feedback is needed on the outreach documents, NWPCA will be happy to help (Brad)
 - ii. Solid Wood Packaging First Detectors Network is gearing up for spring (Kayla)
 - 1. Two summarizing documents are up on CFD website
 - 2. Stakeholder interview questions are underway to connect with those who work with solid wood packaging to collect resources
 - 3. "First Detectors" name means different things to different people; we have workshops and webinars coming out in relation to this topic and can share resources; let's connect offline (Tricia)

- iii. Any idea on how new CBP rule/idea(?) is working in Savannah? No information is available at this time (Rick/Brad)
- d. Farm Bill (Faith)
 - i. Drafting of the Farm Bill continues, but the House is taking the lead → hung up because some of the things they want to fund are tied up in other negotiations
 - ii. Senator Leahy is still most interested in pest issues, on Senate Ag Committee
 - iii. RRISC has decided to independently speak with House caucus co-chairs rather than attempt to influence the group. Difficult to find the best way to make an impact at this stage (Rick)

Note: Leigh requested that call attendees email her or Kayla to indicate interest in joining the meeting planning group. Faith and Tricia volunteered via email.