

January 2014

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Madison, Wisconsin, USA, 11 - 13 June 2014

REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF ALTERNATES

INTRODUCTION

1. The Bureau of Alternates (BOA)—the operating arm of the North American Forest Commission (NAFC)—has met several times, via conference call and in-person, since the last meeting of the entire NAFC body in Quebec City, Canada (May 2012). In the past year, the BOA has completed several tasks, as set forth by the Commissioners. These include recommending the disbanding of the Watershed Management Working Group; providing guidance to the *ad hoc* Resiliency Working Group, the Atmospheric Change and Forests Working Group and the Silviculture Working Group; funding several Working Group requests to initiate or complete activities; creating a complete database of past and present NAFC membership, and exploring Urban Forest Management as an issue of interest to the three countries and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

ACTIVITIES

2. Over the past year, the BOA has met via conference call twice (July 11, 2012 and June 7, 2013) as well as in-person in March 2013 in San Diego, California, in the United States.

BOA Membership:

3. Since May 2012, the BOA has welcomed two new members. Miguel Angel Abaid Sanabria is the new Alternate from Mexico. At the conclusion of the NAFC meeting in Madison, he will preside over the BOA as the Chair. In addition, the BOA formal requested that Peter Csoka join the group as FAO liaison, and this request was approved by FAO.

Working Groups

4. *Watershed Management Working Group:* The Commissioners charged the BOA with discussing the future of the Watershed Management Working Group. The BOA recommended that the group be disbanded due to language challenges and the difficulty in developing a common mission.

5. *Funding of Requests:* The BOA funded two activities by the Forest Genetics Working Group: a) the collection of seeds in the Monarch Butterfly region to test for genetic climatic markers that could be used for assisted migration, and b) the scanning and storage of the working group's historical

records.

6. *Guidance:* The BOA has also been providing guidance to the Atmospheric Change and Forests Working Group and to the Silviculture Working Group, both of which have new, energetic leadership. The Commissioners have tasked the BOA to work with these groups and to recommend any next steps for moving forward with them.

Institutional Resiliency Working Group:

7. At the NAFC Commission meeting in 2012, David Cleaves, US Forest Service, gave a presentation on institutional resiliency. The Commissioners charged the BOA with creating an *ad hoc* working group on this subject and for each country to nominate a representative: Dave Cleaves (US), Tim Williamson (Canada) and Jose Carlos Fernandez (Mexico).

8. At the San Diego meeting of the BOA, Dave Cleaves gave a presentation on his group's proposal: *Building Resilient and Adaptable Forestry Institutions for Global Futures*. The BOA discussed the proposal and made recommendations for how to move forward (see Resiliency paper). Due to organizational changes, Mexico is now in the process of finding a new representative to the group.

Urban Forest Management:

9. At the San Diego meeting of the BOA, the group discussed urban forest management as a potential topic for the Commissioners to discuss at the upcoming 27th Session of the NAFC—with the possibility for future trilateral collaboration. Andy Lipkis, Founder and President of TreePeople (<http://www.treepeople.org>), gave a presentation on engaging communities to plant and care for trees and the need to manage urban watersheds. Each country expressed interest in the topic of urban forest management. At the NAFC meeting in October, urban forest management will be an agenda item and each of the countries will share written material about urban forestry in their own country.

Communication:

10. *Liaison:* The BOA has continued to support Rick Scott as liaison to the working groups. Mr. Scott continues to communicate with each group and attend their meetings as well as to provide feedback and requests back to the BOA.

11. *Database:* The BOA completed the NAFC database, which includes past and present members of the Commission. The objective of this effort is to be able to efficiently distribute any relevant information about the Commission and its trilateral activities and to create a network.

CONCLUSION:

12. Since the 26th Session, the BOA has worked to develop and implement activities that address the recommendations raised at the meeting while continuing to provide guidance and feedback to the Working Groups and to the Commissioners. The BOA looks forward to discussing and exchanging ideas about emerging issues and challenges at the 27th Session.