



Forest Biometrics Research Institute

4033 SW Canyon Road
Portland, Oregon 97221

A Non-Profit Research Corporation since 2002
For the advancement of research, education, and service in forest biometrics

October 22, 2013

To FBRI Supporting Organizations:

The FBRI's Board of Directors met on September 9 in Portland, Oregon. I have attached a copy of the agenda to this letter (see Attachment A). As you can see by glancing at the agenda we covered many topics during the day. In this letter I'm going to focus on what I believe to be the highlights. If you have any questions about an agenda item that I don't cover, please feel free to contact me, any other Director, or Dr. Jim Arney (see Attachment B for contact information). While I'm at it, I might as well draw your attention to one more attachment. It's a spreadsheet that we use to keep track of the various ongoing projects (see Attachment C). I'd like to thank my fellow Director, Mr. Rob Taylor, for his work in preparing and updating this spreadsheet. It's a great tool for quickly reviewing the status of all ongoing projects and tasks.

First I want to start by encouraging you to attend the annual meeting on Tuesday, November 12, at the DoubleTree Hotel near Lloyd Center in Portland, Oregon. Go to the FBRI's Web site to register. Here's the link:

<http://www.forestbiometrics.com/board-of-directors/november-12-2013/>

The annual meeting is a great venue for you to network with resource professionals that rely on FPS for forest inventory, growth and yield, and forest planning. It also provides you with an opportunity to discuss issues that are important to your organization with one or more of the Institute's Directors. But, most importantly, this is the place to learn first-hand from Jim what the Institute has accomplished during the year, and what the work plan looks like going forward. You should also consider the fact that Jim will retire—eventually—and you can probably count on one hand the number of events at which you will have access to him. If at all possible, you should take advantage of this opportunity to interact with Dr. Arney.

If you use the link above to register for the annual meeting, you'll be directed to the FBRI's Web site and you'll see the following message:

The FBRI Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 12 in the Executive Meeting Center at the Doubletree Lloyd Center in Portland, OR. The meeting will start at 10:00am and conclude by 3:00pm with lunch included. All meeting attendees will receive a CD of FPS 7.0.10 and the ***complete FPS user's manual*** with Windows 7 screen shots and step-by-step instructions for all inventory, GIS, growth, silviculture and planning procedures. The manual will also be distributed to all supporting organizations regardless of attendance

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(emphasis added). The meeting agenda will also include a review of 2013 activities, a report by Board Chairman Dan Opalach, the 2014 budget and the 2014 – 2016 plan of action.

The big news here, of course, is the announcement regarding the ***complete FPS user's manual***. Many of us have been clamoring for Dr. Arney to complete this documentation for years. I've seen draft versions and I'm hopeful that this will meet most of the needs of our users. I am really looking forward to getting my hands on a finished copy, and I am anxious to learn what FPS users think of the documentation. In addition to the user's manual, Jim has indicated to the Board that he intends to finish the tutorial for 3rd party library calibration by the end of year (see Attachment C). This is an important document because it describes the key steps and analyses that a forest biometrician must execute to calibrate (or recalibrate) a FPS library. The completion of calibration documentation is welcome news to all of us, but, to be quite honest, it is absolutely critical to me. Next year I am making plans to hire a consulting biometrician to recalibrate Green Diamond's proprietary library for coastal redwood stands. My project will serve as a thorough test of Jim's calibration tutorial.

Over the past several years attendance at FBRI workshops has trended downward to the level where we need to rethink our education strategy. We also need to think about how we can best utilize Jim's time. It takes a lot of time and effort on Jim's part to prepare for and conduct workshops. Based on these considerations, the Board has decided to consolidate FBRI workshops. Rather than offer three separate sessions throughout the year on forest inventory, growth and yield, and planning, we are going to move to a model where all three are covered during a single comprehensive workshop that will be offered once per year. The user's manual, mentioned above, will be an integral part of the workshop because we are not planning to set up and utilize computers. Right now we are looking to have the first completely redesigned workshop in March 2014. I plan to attend, and I encourage you to take advantage of this new training opportunity as well.

Several years ago we asked Mr. Bruce Ripley to serve as the Chair of an Advisory Committee to the Board. Bruce took on this challenge and conducted five conference call meetings over the past two years. He also appeared before the Board on two occasions and provided Directors with summaries of the Committee's activities. Let me say that the work of this Committee has been absolutely invaluable. Most noteworthy is that many of the folks on the Committee provided Jim with feedback on beta versions of FPS 7 which, no doubt, allowed him to identify and fix many "bugs" before the program was widely distributed to Supporting Organizations. Bruce deserves a lot of credit for what he accomplished with this Committee. Thank you, Bruce! Rather than appoint a new Chair at this time, the Board will adopt a "wait and see" approach and reconvene the Advisory Committee when a matter surfaces that demands the focused attention of a group of experienced FPS users.

I am pleased to inform you that Dr. Arney will be a presenter at the SAF National Convention/IUFRO World Congress that will be held in Salt Lake City in October 2014 (see Attachment D). The theme of the congress is "Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People: The Role of Research." In his presentation, Dr. Arney will provide attendees with an overview of FPS's inventory, growth and yield, and planning capabilities. The FBRI will also have an exhibit booth at the convention, which Director Ken

Borchert and I have volunteered to staff along with Dr. Arney. I am looking forward to the congress and helping Jim promote the Institute and our software. My hope is that such exposure will lead to new members, university involvement, more interest, and ultimately, a stronger institute that will stand the test of time and continue to provide the forestry community with the tools it needs to make difficult resource decisions long into the future.

Although I'm still not entirely satisfied with the Board's progress on succession planning we are heading in the right direction. Our first step is to make sure that documentation remains a high priority with Jim. As mentioned above, the user's manual and calibration tutorial will both be completed this year. That's huge. Next year Jim will continue to focus on documentation including source code documentation and the completion of a FPS developer's guide (see items labeled TECH DOCS in Attachment C). Good documentation is absolutely essential to our long-term success. I think we also made the right decision with respect to restructuring the workshops. Jim's time is extremely valuable and now that he only has to prepare for one workshop per year, he will be able to spend more time preparing documentation, analyzing data, and assisting FBRI Supporting Organizations as needed.

Thank you for your support of the FBRI in 2013. The Institute exists to accomplish its fundamental mission which is to provide the forest products industry with high quality, reliable, state-of-the-art forest inventory, growth and yield, and planning tools. FBRI wants to be the recognized leader in these disciplines given the fact that federal and state governments and academic institutions continue to cut funding for the basic research that is needed to advance the science of forest biometrics. As always, I invite you to give me or anyone else at the Institute a call if you have a strong interest in any of the items mentioned in this letter. Finally, I hope to see you at our annual meeting on Tuesday, November 12. Please put this on your calendar and make arrangements to attend this important meeting.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Opalach". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Opalach, PhD, RPF
Chairman, Forest Biometrics Research Institute
(707) 668-4418
dopalach@greendiamond.com

Attachment A

Forest Biometrics Research Institute (FBRI) – Board of Directors

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda – September 09, 2013

DoubleTree Hotel near Lloyd Center

Portland, Oregon

Agenda – September 09, 2013 Scheduled 9:00am – 5:00pm

Call to Order 9:00am Dan Opalach

Minutes from previous meeting – Review and Approval

Financial Status – Profit & Loss Statements through August 30, 2013 – Richard Zabel

Status of 2013 response on annual contributions

New organizations joining the FBRI community

Technical Support Update and Review – Chuck Vopicka

Kinds of Technical Services requested and provided (On site & email / phone)

Preliminary Results from Regional SiteGrid development project

Status of Mensurational Outreach & Education

SAF – CIF – IUFRO World Congress – Salt Lake City, October 5 – 11, 2014

Jim Arney presentation on FPS Inventory, Growth & Planning System

FBRI Exhibit Hall booth – FPS software, Regional Libraries, Textbook, SiteGrid

Status of Software, Documentation and Regional Libraries – Jim Arney

FPS Version 7.09 released September 8, 2013 via web downloads

Tutorial Documentation – Inventory, Silviculture and Planning

Regional Libraries – Site, Taper and Growth components

Field Research – Plot designs, Re-measurements, Response Surface Mosaic

Field Research – Ranking of existing Installations

Five-year FBRI Plan – Succession Planning, Goals and Budget

Release of FPS Tutorial Workbook – November 2013 Members Meeting

Release of FPS Version 7.10 – November 2013 Members Meeting

On Site Technical Support versus FPS Workshops in 2014 – 2015 (Jim Arney)

FPS 2014 Workshops (?) – Inventory, Silviculture & Planning – Teachers?

Software Maintenance and Updates – replacing Jim Arney as programmer?

Building, Updating and Verifying Non-Parametric Regional Libraries – Analyst?

Designing, Measuring and Analyzing “Response Surface Mosaic” Research Trials?

Continued Research Methods – Inventory, Growth, Silviculture and Planning?

Close of Meeting 5:00pm (target)

Attachment B

FBRI Contact Information

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Dr. Jim Arney	President/Biometrician	(406) 649-0040	jdarney@forestbiometrics.com
Mr. Ken Borchert	Director	(503) 231-6296	kenneth.borchert@bia.gov
Mr. Jim McWhorter	Director	(360) 263-0677	jmcwhorter@terraverdeinc.com
Dr. Dan Opalach	Director/Chairman	(707) 668-4418	dopalach@greendiamond.com
Mr. Rob Taylor	Director	(936) 829-6375	rmtaylor@campbellgroup.com
Mr. Marc Vomocil	Director	(541) 929-2477	marc@starkerforests.com
Mr. Chuck Vopicka	Technical Support	(406) 541-0054	support@forestbiometrics.com
Mr. Richard Zabel	Secretary/Treasurer	(503) 226-4562	richard@westernforestry.org

Attachment C FBRI Projects

Plan Year	Category	Project Desc	Priority	Responsible	Status	% complete	Planned Start	Planned End
2012	ADMIN	formal data sharing agreements to FBRI by region	Normal	Jim	Waiting on Someone Else	20%	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
2013	ADMIN	FBRI Advisory Committee - Refocus	Normal	BOD	Not Started	0%	9/1/2013	12/31/2013
2013	ADMIN	FBRI 2014 budget	Normal	Jim/Richard/BOD	Not Started	0%	9/9/2013	11/11/2013
2013	ADMIN	FBRI Chart of Accounts/Category clean-up	Normal	Jim/Richard/BOD	Not Started	0%	9/9/2013	11/11/2013
2013	ADMIN	Plum Creek, Molpus, Hancock contributing org discussion	Normal	Jim	Not Started	0%	9/9/2013	11/11/2013
2012	LIBRARY	SE Alaska library update, calibration	Normal	Jim	Waiting on Someone Else	55%	1/1/2012	12/31/2013
2012	PROJECTS	SE Alaska deer model	Normal	Jim	Waiting on Someone Else	75%	1/1/2012	6/30/2014
2014	PROJECTS	SAF-CIF-IUFRO World Congress	Normal	Jim/Dan/Ken	Not Started	0%	10/5/2014	10/11/2014
2013	SOFTWARE	FPS v 7.10	Normal	Jim	In-Progress	70%	1/1/2013	11/12/2013
2013	TUTORIAL	FPS COMBINED: inventory, silviculture, growth & yield, planning (FINAL document)	Normal	Jim	In-Progress	80%	1/1/2013	11/12/2013
2013	PROJECTS	FPS workshops	Normal	Jim	In-Progress	75%	1/1/2013	12/31/2013
2014	PROJECTS	FPS workshop - 3 day	Normal	Jim	Not Started	0%	3/1/2014	3/31/2014
2014	PROJECTS	Landowner Assistance	Normal	Jim	Not Started	0%	1/1/2014	12/31/2014
2013	TECH DOCS	Document: FPS source code documentation	High	Jim	Not Started	0%	1/1/2013	12/31/2014
2013	SUCCESSION	candidate search - Biometrician/Programmer for source code modification	High	BOD	In-Progress	5%	1/1/2013	12/31/2014
2014	SUCCESSION	contract programmer to modify FPS	Normal	Contractor	Not Started	0%	1/1/2014	12/31/2014
2013	PROJECTS	Regional site grid development	Normal	Chuck/Jim/Contractor	In-Progress	40%	5/15/2013	12/31/2013
2014	FIELD RESEARCH	Ranking of existing installations	Normal	Jim	In-Progress	0%	1/1/2014	12/31/2014
2013	TECH DOCS	update research plot design using Nelder methods (document); response surface mosaic	Normal	Jim	In-Progress	50%	1/1/2013	12/31/2013
2013	FIELD RESEARCH	Plot designs, remeasurements, response surface mosaic	Normal	Jim	Not Started	0%	10/1/2013	12/31/2013
2012	TUTORIAL	tutorial for 3rd party calibration steps, methods, and data requirements incl. response surface mosaic plot methods and analysis (document); now dependent on continuous library process development	High	Jim	In-Progress	80%	1/1/2012	12/31/2013
2013	SUCCESSION	contract library calibration using tutorial	Normal	Contractor	Not Started	0%	7/1/2013	3/31/2014
2013	LIBRARY	Continuous library development and implementation (taper, site index, growth)	Normal	Jim	Waiting on Someone Else	40%	1/1/2013	3/31/2014
2012	PROJECTS	10-m site project (12 projects N Cal, W/E OR, SE AK, N/S ID); applying consistent methodology; multiple projects per region	Normal	Jim	In-Progress	90%	1/1/2012	11/12/2013
2014	TECH DOCS	FPS Application Developers' Guide: 3rd party FPS applications	Low	Jim/Chuck	In-Progress	5%	1/1/2014	12/31/2014

Attachment D

Email Communications Regarding the 2014 SAF-CIF-IUFRO Convention

From: James D. Arney [mailto:JDArney@forestbiometrics.com]
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2013 4:11 PM
To: Opalach, Dan; Ken Borchert; Jim McWhorter; Rob Taylor; Marc Vomocil
Cc: Richard Zabel; Chuck Vopicka
Subject: FW: 2014 Exhibitor Registration - Invoice

Hi Everyone:

We have reserved an exhibit booth in the Salt Palace Convention Center for the SAF-CIF-IUFRO Convention on October 5 – 11, 2014 in Salt Lake City.

Our booth is # 1007 in the main traffic pattern between meetings and meals, lounges and coffee services. The Exhibit Hall opens on October 8 (Wednesday 5:30 – 7:00pm) for the Grand Opening Reception. We will have most activity in the Exhibit Hall on October 9 (Thursday 10:00am – 5:30pm) and 10 (Friday 8:00am – 5:30pm). The Exhibit Hall is open on October 11 (Saturday 8:00am – 1:00pm), but this is usually a slow period which I could easily handle with help from JoAnn (Yes, she has done this before).

We need your participation in the booth on Thursday and Friday. There are expected to be approximately 4,000 attendees from 100 countries. This is the first annual meeting where all three major forestry organizations have met jointly (Society of American Foresters, Canadian Institute of Forestry and International Union of Forest Research Organizations). We plan to have our booth advertised in the Convention Agenda with our booth location identified for all attendees to stop by. Our web site will have a direct link from the SAF Convention web site. We plan to have polo shirts ordered with the FBRI logo for all members of FBRI in the booth. There are two full convention registrations included with the booth reservation and two more at a discounted rate. The hotels also offer a discounted rate for exhibit hall presenters. The Hilton, Marriott and Shilo Inn Hotels are within one city block. The final rates are not negotiated yet, so please wait before making reservations. We are now looking into pre-packaged exhibit booth display packages which roll away for airline transport. We will also be producing a tri-fold brochure as a handout about why FBRI is essential to managing your forest. The FBRI mouse pad is also a likely candidate as a new handout. We will obtain a complete contact list of all Convention attendees for later follow up.

More detail will appear on the SAF web site after the current 2013 SAF Convention in Charleston, SC is closed and emphasis shifts to 2014 in Salt Lake City.

James D. Arney, PhD
Forest Biometrics Research Institute
(406) 649-0040

From: Exhib2014 [mailto:support@xcdsystem.com]
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2013 1:33 PM
To: JDArney@forestbiometrics.com; Richard@westernforestry.org
Subject: 2014 Exhibitor Registration - Invoice

Thank you, your registration has been recorded for 2014 Exhibitor Registration.

Please find a copy of your registration invoice attached.

If you have any questions please contact Christopher Whited at whitedc@safnet.org.