The following information has been compiled from listening to the audience respond to the morning’s state level presentations.

What did we hear from our state Extension presentations:

Bobby: Presentations seemed to focus on drying…or there is a need for this. In KY, long term concern here. Great to create a long term scheme. There will be a lack of people…for general knowledge and a resource for answering questions related to drying. Need a group of people to resolve the issues related to drying lumber. New ideas and topics, always looking for presentations.

Rusty: Drying expertise: Brian Bond. Oregon State person gone. Phil at NCSU has the dry kiln class.

Frederick: New guy, but am still learning…there is a big demand.

Terry: Doing a lot of work with humidification companies. These guys have a different technological need from owners and operators perspective…

Terry: Some of the companies do a lot of the New England dry kiln association work.

Phil: - industry changing due to the continuous drying technologies….but coordinating an effort for southern pine drying. How to share resources…used to be a roving dry kiln workshop 30 or so years ago rotating between university and university in the Southeast. Weeklong workshop. Rusty…there was a team that did that back in the day..

Scott Bowie – continue a dry kiln workshop in WI…probably started at the lab in the 1950s or 1960s’. Scott – 24 million a year average annual production in this industry…interesting to look at the size of the industry and the FTE’s associated with Extension…it is really small in wood products and forestry compared to poultry for example.

Clay: Lots of universities have lost their Extension programs, chicken and egg…need a program to have Extension FTEs attached.

Bob Smith – students don’t come into a university system looking at Extension as a career.

Terry Conner – students with a master’s degree in this area so that they can get to know more about Extension as a career.

Dr. G and Eva (Purdue) – graduate students required to have a class in Extension and be exposed to Extension as part of their planned program in graduate school. Purdue has a 2-credit course in Extension. Extension coordinator teaches it. Develop a Logic Model and work it to

Charlie Becker – how/why to have Extension exposure if there are no Extension jobs. It could be a chicken and egg, but we need to have the jobs before we can promote it as a career option for students.

Frederick – are there problems filling Extension positions? In some areas there are problems.

Eric – hired several professionals, no problem finding qualified people.

Heather – with the Nebraska FS…we are having trouble getting qualified applicants, so we are asking UNL HR to rework the job descriptions to broaden the net to hire the people we want to hire that have the expertise we want them to have.

Terry – losing positions because industry doesn’t speak on our behalf….how do we get others speak to up for us…as in the general public or other stakeholders…how to get industry to recognize the importance of what we do and speak up for us to maintain or grow our programs.

Our foresters are not extroverted enough to promote us.

Scott – PA Forestry Association is advocate for forest industry in the state…

Bobby – KY FIA actually started by Extension way back…problem isn’t in getting industry to support us, but it takes a lot of effort to walk them through what they need to do…they will do it. Also, just because you help

Terry – Mississippi had log trucks circling the state capital when they closed the Forest Products Lab down for a bit.

Eric – Mass Timber came up a lot in the presentations. OSU about the only one who has somebody doing work in this area…this person specializes in communicating about MassTimber and can be a resource for everyone.

Andy – Directory of Specialty Areas in Wood Products? It would be great to get more specialities within the wood products area.

Bill and Rusty – we have some general directories at efwpdirectory.sref.info and out of the FPL.

Charlie – there was a template/spreadsheet with specialties listed (international trade, business feasibility, sawmill experts, logging systems, forest engineers, etc.).

Brian – Ten takeaways from this morning…don’t know where to jump in! Forest Service Extension areas – Two major areas in the past 5 years: Wood energy and Green building (commercial and multi-family housing, MassTimber)….some of our regional coordinators have technical expertise, but some don’t. One takeaway - more and more partnerships because we all wear many hats. Woodworks is an example of a technical assistance provider for the building codes community. Lou McReary has a contractor to assist with technical assistance. Brian has a small cadre of people to help provide resources. Partnerships are critical…design, etc…We have a difficult time getting everyone on the same page because we have so many different spokes on our wheel. what can we do to achieve outcomes at a scale that makes a difference? Jim Hubbard – increasing the pace and scale of restoration work.

Rusty – question to Extension and state forestry agency – what are the things that you do that make you relevant? We can take that and develop strategies to move forward? Is it addressing rural development, the forest products industry?

Brian - What is it that makes the State Forester to pick up the phone and call Extension…What is it that makes Extension releveant enough for our partners to say WE NEED EXTENSION!

Bob – we help rural communities and we help private landowners with landowner education. We stay relevant this way…by keeping jobs in rural America. 80% of decisions are made in urban areas….

Rusty – poverty is moving away from the inner city and out into rural areas.

Bob Smith – Opiod crisis…one solution is to create jobs in rural areas.

Charlie – VT forestry extension folks were training the ag extension folks on the different forest products available to farmers who own forest land in addition to their lands. The goal was not to make them educators, but to make them aware of the value and importance of forests on farms.

Scott B – Scott at a meeting. recently. Out of 100 people in this community development meeting, Scott was the only one who talked about industry…most were talking about environment, etc.

Adam Taylor – concerned about Extension forest products fading away…perhaps this is inevitable.

Clay – how many states have some form of a Wood Magic effort. This is a great way for forest industry to support Extension and the university

Bob Smith – Working with SFI and others to incorporate materials into the Project Learning Tree. We apply the STEM disciplines into the science of managing the earth.

Terry – wood magic is a lot more than talking about forestry…the 2nd through 6th graders are a great audience. Some really cool, simple things are not being transmitted to the next generation.

Frederick – workshops for hobbyists, homeowners to introduce them to the use and value of wood in the home and for fun and recreation.

Purdue – Wood magic science in Indiana..programs for all different types of students including classes for undergrads who didn’t have a major. We have a Wood is Good program for teachers who need summertime credit. Recorded messages for 5,000 students every year…but absolutely zero interest from undergrads…. Did put another program for teachers together called Wood is Better.

Terry Conners – He and Dan Seale at Miss. State developed something to show as an example of a product through it’s complete chain of custody. But they realized that they needed to have a more proactive program….this is how Wood Magic began.

Bryan – lack of travel and operating funds across extension. Residue issues from industry are a nationwide issue. almost no extension capacity around the new bioenergy topics. medium sized companies are significantly future. larger companies are becoming the norm.

Rusty – work force development, not just amongst ourselves but a new crop not having wood products training. Funding is an issue….approprations are just not there anymore…but there are resources in nonprofit areas.

Scott – more research in underutilized species – balsam fir, red maple, eastern white pine, hemlock, sweetgum, birch

Scott – to add to Rusty ….just need a workforce in addition! Also, more of a shift from management to ecology…research at UW for example is completely changed from what it used to be.

Rusty – transportation issues…

Phil – federal government competing successfully for truck drivers

Bob Smith – heard from the Endowment…is there a way to work collaboratively with his group. The other one..need a national voice in Washington, DC. have had the conversation for a number of years…about having somebody be or voice…

Tim – Lack of succession plans for retirements…need this!

Terry – working across state lines and regions.

Rusty – coordination with NASF, FS, NIFA and others have to happen at the Washington office.

**Opportunities for Collaborating Across State and Regional Lines**

What happens out west with OSU being the only program with wood products? Where there is industry focus, we get questions. WSU has somebody in Pullman.

Bobby A. – Kentucky – We have a lot of people with great knowledge in drying for example. always willing and eager to help when they can, but we are not all spring chickens. Should we or could we give some thought to states sharing positions. Could we collectively support one or two positions that would effectively support several states. Bob Smith – actually tried sharing a Christmas Tree specialist with NC… didn’t go to far though…Bobby: This person wouldn’t have to be based on a campus, but they could be strategically located to serve several states (Cincinnati could serve several states). Bill – if we had a creative idea, we could apply for competitive or other funding to support a pilot project.

Brian – FS hosted a retreat in MT. One item came out of the meeting was more training and building capacity for state agency personnel. University Extension could provide the training..the link between NASF and University Extension. How do we make it happen so everyone wins.

Rusty – one thing he picked up from his mentors is the old teach a man to fish parable….mentoring was very informal, take advantage of the experts, and employed deep listening skills. Perhaps we can offer mentoring and other expertise from the old gray beards.

Terry – I agree! It’s very critical as we get older that we need to think of what our expertise is that is not locally available. How can we transmit our knowledge.

Rusty – put it this way. What do you need from me in the next three months before I retire. But, also, what might you need from me after I retire. I am not going to leave the profession, I plan to write some books, but would like to be more valuable to the community even after I retire.

Terry – no one uses a microscope for wood id anymore…I worry that this skill is not available anymore. The task of identifying domestic wood is critical.

Charlie Becker – Are there any programs that offer internships for Extension faculty across the country? KY has had summer interns for example. some kind of national or regional program for internships in Extension. Focused program nationally would be excellent.

Terry – train the trainer course between the experienced folks like Rusty Dramm and Terry Conners.

Don – Wood Innovations Teams often supplies the expertise and this could be grown.

Scott - From Scott Leavengood, OSU:

Themes I heard -

The ‘old traditional’ stuff still in demand:

* Drying (plenty of discussion around this)
* Wood ID – shrinking resources for this but a key & unique area of expertise for our profession
* Productivity, yield studies
* Employee training
* Business management and marketing
* Forest Industry Directories – linking buyers & sellers, fostering economic development
* Wood Magic – we reach more than kids (parents and teachers too)

New(er) topics

* Lesser-known/underutilized species (little green stuff)
* Biomass/bioenergy – what are the specific needs here and are we preparing students to work in this field?
* CLT – not terribly clear what we can do here; work with mills to determine suitability of what they saw for the product and/or help them learn how to enter the market?

Question:

Seems that funding agencies are increasingly requiring more concerted efforts towards Extension in research proposals. Funders want to see genuine efforts toward impact such as economic development. They want to see more in a proposal than “I will publish results and present at a professional conference.” How does this mesh with declining support for Extension? Or viewed another way, how can we seize on this opportunity?

To Rusty’s question – relevance through responsiveness: we establish a reputation as being responsive to industry needs, help solve problems, help develop new products – and via having students work on the applied research, help provide a workforce that understands the industry. This makes doing proactive work challenging since it draws away our resources from being able to respond to pressing needs.

Scott: More info on Dave Barmon’s urban wood utilization efforts in Portland - <https://www.opb.org/news/article/advocates-push-for-growing-urban-trees-for-lumber/>

Day 2: Four small break-out groups met following state agency and partner updates to answer the following questions:

Question 1.  What are the greatest opportunities for us tro work together to move U&M forward.

Question 2.  What are the 3 most important issues that we raised that need to be addressed.

Question 3.  What do we want the outcome of the meeting to be?  White Paper - what/who?  Further meeting(s) - who?

Group 1

Question 1: Talked about opportunities for training, no topics, but it could be at different scales, couple of states, regional, or it could be a train-the-trainer. Some of it could be online, or regionally coordinated by a state or agency who might receive a grant. This training would not be limited to just those of us in Extension or state/federal agencies…but perhaps the ag community, the teaching community, etc.

Question 2: Workforce development resonated pretty high in our group. A project that would be useful: heavy equipment training for the High School age group. Markets for residues is a high priority. Phytosanitation issues with shipments of wood products. Finances and resources for both state and Extension and how do we develop a common message that goes up to NASF, NAUFRP, NIFA, LGU administration like APLU.

Question 3: Develop a directory of people and expertise in wood products. Rather than a white paper, may be develop a proposal on one of the training ideas we can come up.

Group 2:

Question 1: our group liked the idea of the online forestproducts locator. Also need to figure out a way to share expertise across state lines, so an online directory would be really useful. Educating foresters with the Wood 101 idea, also extension educators, general ag community so folks know when to refer

Question 2: Succession planning and replacing the expertise in positions, and the loss of funding for this.

Big data is a big issue…issues of the future, innovation, hard to become involved in this when we are having a hard time filling basic needs and staying relevant.

Lack of business planning and marketing expertise and perhaps the need for training in this area by Extension

Question 3: We would like to continue to meet nationally. Great to hear what other regions of the country are doing. Focus on wood and wood products so we can have impactful discussion. Perhaps we can share success stories.

Data analysis and story telling to show up important forestry is in state and national GDP. And how forestry is disproportional to agriculture given our huge impact

Group 3:

Question 1 – jan opportunity for us is to take a look at the regional U&M committees and open it up to Extension and Forest Service to participate in their meetings. Chance to sit down and network face to face or via webcasting.

Engage industry and industry associations…I.e. Great Lakes Timber Association, SFPA, American Loggers Council, InterTribal Timber Council, AFF, AFPA, to help us with support and funding.

Train the trainer….an example is the sawmill training we did with several states. We did a mill study and several states participated and learned how to do it. Perhaps a boot camp of some type perhaps.

Do something for the national forest products week, FS does some things for this effort, states should think about this.

Question 2: Examples might be an initiative to better explain carbon neutrality would be useful. State forestry U&M identified 3 issues – funding, what to do with wood residues, work force retention and recruitment.

Productivity improvement, optimization, economies of scale. Optimizing the value of each log.

Question 3: Outcomes/networking/connecting the dots. Listserv so folks can be contacted…improve our community, online resources that we can all use. Real issue is out of state travel is a problem. Feeding off each of our expertises.

Group 4:

Question 1 – Statewide directories that outline subject matter experts. Training we talked about the boot camps and train the trainers, sharing projects and different grant projects via listserv or FB sharing, some states have websites with training and other events via a calendar….basically information sharing. Another opportunity to move this forward is to coordinate and tell our story about how effective our programs are and how important our forests are…quantitatively.

Question 2 – a) technical assistance and sharing information, more sharing resources, train the trainer, improve everyone’s skill level to the point where referrals forimportant problems.

Loss of positions and what the future of U&M programs will look like. Need to tell our story better to our founders.

Question 3 – Need to be an Extension professional rotated into each of the 3 U&M marketing committees with NASF. This person might have a unique skill or opportunity to contribute. This could rotate to get new expertise into the mix.

Need a white paper, but more importantly a communications plan as to where this paper would be targeted to…I.e., state foresters, industry associations, deans, other ag and rural development agencies.

Meetings in the future? This was an effective meeting, we should meet an annual meeting, or every few years depending on whether the Extension people can be included in the 3 regional NASF U&M meetings and groups.

What do we want to do next:

1. Listserv?
2. Bill will send out the notes for review
3. PPT’s will be loaded onto SREF website
4. White paper would be helpful
5. One or two page fact sheet would be best
6. Get a write-up in the forestry Source

We need to get this word out to our partners.

Terry: How do we work in areas where Extension is not represented…geographically…like in Maine or other areas. There are many states that don’t have the expertise, how can we help these states?

Rusty: Do we need to elevate this to say a national nonprofit to manage this process and undertaking. Manage the listserv, website, resources to share.

Brian: Can we use SREF shop to help build and maintain the directory? There should be some funds available from the Lab to assist with this. Perhaps take the current Directory that the FPL produces, update the personnel, but also add more detail with regards to the disciplines and specialties that each expert can assist with either from a consulting perspective or other relationship. Bill demonstrated the utility of the efwpdirectory.sref.info. Everyone agreed that a directory like this would be extremely valuable.

Bill: Yes, but SREF’s future is questionable because I am leaving in January. If you like what SREF does, please let your forestry dean, department heads, Extension directors, state foresters, know.