



NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

THIRTIETH SESSION

Missoula, Montana, USA 9 - 12 September 2019

REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF ALTERNATES

BUREAU OF ALTERNATES COMPOSITION

Chairperson	Country	Organization
Val Mezainis	USA	US Forest Service
Member Names	Country	Organization
Taryn Sanchez Montesinos	Mexico	CONAFOR
Jeffrey Biggs	Canada	NRCan
Peter Csoka	Italy	FAO

(A) LIST OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE PAST 2 YEARS

Activity	Location	Date	Status (done/ongoing)
BOA Meeting –Conference call		April 2018	Done
BOA Meeting- Conference call		October 2018	Done
BOA Meeting – In-person	Juneau, Alaska	June 2018	Done

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BOA Meeting- Conference call		April 2019	Done
BOA Meeting- Conference call		June 2019	Done

I. Introduction

1. This report of the Bureau of Alternates (BOA) covers the period from October 2017 to September 2019, which was a period of a number of transitions for NAFC and the BOA. The BOA was chaired by Val Mezainis, representing also the USA. With the very sad passing of Francisco Quiroz, Mexico was represented for a time by Berenice Hernández Toro, followed by Taryn Sanchez Montesinos. After Robert Jones' retirement, Canada was represented by Jeffrey Biggs.

2. The BOA met several times, via conference call and in-person, since the last NAFC meeting in Edmonton, Alberta (Canada) in September 2017, and worked together to advance the priorities of NAFC as set forth by the 29th Session. Specific areas of emphasis include:

- From 12 to 14 June 2018, the BOA met for three days in Juneau, Alaska and discussed forest sector priorities of all three countries. Juneau was chosen as a meeting place in order to discuss three main topics: livelihoods of rural communities that rely on forest resources, balancing the effects of climate change on tourism, specifically related to glaciers, and cooperation between the USFS, Alaska State forestry and Alaska native corporations.
- Participation of the Urban Forest Programs Working Group in the FAO-supported Mantova, Italy World Forum on Urban Forests in November 2018.
- Continuing to build and strengthen regional cooperation on the critical issue of fire management. The Working Group is interested in strengthening research in fire management, as well as build on the initiatives of Women in Fire cooperation between the US and Mexico.
- Introduction of the Forest Communicator's Network and in-person Communicator's Network meeting in Guadalajara and Indonesia.
- Discussion of potential new topics to be addressed by NAFC, including Gender and Diversity, and Combatting Illegal Logging. And,
- Preparation of an exercise to map connections between the activities of the NAFC Working Groups and the Global Forest Goals outlined in the UN Strategic Plan for Forests to build awareness and inform NAFC participants regarding broader international processes and goals.

II. Working Group Guidance

3. The BOA continued to play a key role in supporting the NAFC Working Groups, providing guidance and direction and recruiting new working group members. Specific support and guidance was provided as follows:

- Support to the Urban Forest Programs Working Group and participation in the Forest Communicators Network;
- Work on membership recruitment following the change in administration in Mexico, and recruitment of new members for the Insect, Diseases and Invasive Plants Working Group, among others;
- Support to the Atmospheric Change Working Group through several conference calls, an in-person meeting in late August 2019, and collaboration on development of a US National Science Foundation proposal for funding of on-going modeling work of the group; and,
- Review of the work of the ad hoc Resiliency Working Group, including the need for guidance from the Commissioners regarding continuation of the group at this time.

III. Liaison

4. The BOA has continued to support Rick Scott as liaison to the working groups. Mr. Scott continues to communicate with each group and attend working group meetings to provide information and feedback. He updates and informs the BOA regarding working group questions or issues.

IV. Funding Requests

5. The BOA has continued to review funding requests of the working groups, and provide funding for selected requests. During this time period, the BOA considered the following requests:

- The Fire Management Working Group requested funding to support the participation of two representatives of the Latin American and Caribbean Forest Commission to their 2018 meeting. Although the support was granted, the BOA received the information about specific invitees from Costa Rica and Brazil too late to be in a position to complete the request in time for the meeting.
- The Forest Genetics Resources Working Group requested support for translation of the seed selection tool (USD10 000), and additional support to continue provenance trials for *Abies religiosa* (USD4 000), and this support was approved by the BOA.
- The Insects, Diseases and Invasive Plants Working Group requested support for the attendance of Mexican colleagues in a Gypsy Moth technical exchange (USD12 000.) The request was approved. CONAFOR is seeking travel approval for its representatives to attend this technical meeting. And,
- FAO is supporting the Gypsy Moth technical meeting by providing USD15 000 contribution to the cost of organization.

V. Conclusion

6. Since the 29th Session, the BOA has worked to 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 30th Session.