

## **Minutes of the Forestry SIG Annual Meeting**

Marriott, Ottawa, ON, Canada

May 26, 2014

### **1) Welcome and Meeting Objectives**

Jean-François Audy, president of the Forestry Special Interest Group (FSIG), opens the meeting by welcoming everyone. Jean-François gives an overview of the meeting agenda and asks if there are any additions. The agenda is motioned and seconded.

### **2) Review of FSIG Activities and Initiatives**

Jean-François reviews the FSIG activities and initiatives since the last annual meeting at the 2013 CORS Conference:

#### - Communication platforms: Google Group and LinkedIn

Jean-François asks members to make sure they are on the FSIG Google Group message board and, as discussed at the previous annual meeting, members are invited to join the over 170 members of the LinkedIn group of the NSERC Research Network on Value Chain Optimization (VCO Network), a professional group from academic, private and public sectors, active/interested in VCO, mainly in the Canadian forest industry.

Jean-François encourages members to share information through these two communication platforms, e.g., to send out a call for conference contributors to FSIG members, special issue, etc.

As the FSIG Google Group is used to sending emails to FSIG members, Jean-François invites attendees who have not been receiving emails (e.g., not on the list, wrong email address) and would like to join the FSIG, to confirm their interest by contacting himself or former FSIG president, Gregory Paradis.

#### - Forestry & natural resources-themed special issue of INFOR

The editor of the special issue, Gregory Paradis, gives an update on the progress. Seven manuscripts were submitted. Two manuscripts have undergone the first round of peer-review, and the five remaining manuscripts are still awaiting one referee evaluation. Gregory is confident we will complete the process by this year. Last-minute submission is still possible and those interested should inquire as soon as possible by contacting Gregory.

#### - David Martell Student Paper Prize in Forestry

Jean-François briefly introduces this FSIG-lead prize established this year by himself in collaboration with the two other 2014 jury members, Professors David Martell and Mikael Rönnqvist. This award recognizes outstanding scientific contributions on the theory, methodology and/or practice of OR in forestry submitted by an undergraduate, a graduate student or a postdoctoral fellow. The award was named in honor of Professor Martell for his outstanding contributions to the development and application of OR in forestry in Canada and beyond, as well as for his many contributions to the COR Society.

Following seven applications of published or accepted peer-reviewed papers, three selected finalists presented their work earlier today in front of the jury and conference attendees. The 2014 winner will be announced at the banquet and thanks to the support of the NSERC Value chain optimization Network, the winner will also receive a scholarship.

Jean-François expresses his wish for the prize to continue over the coming years and invites graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to complete their papers to apply for the 2015 edition.

#### - OR in forestry cluster program at CORS 2014

Jean-François briefly introduces this year's program that includes 35 regular talks split into 9 sessions and, thanks to the financial support from the VCO Network, a workshop consisting of three special sessions:

- an international tutorial by Mikael Frisk on the challenges and experiences in implementing OR for solving industrial problems in forest value chain. The tutorial will be followed by a discussion session with three additional speakers (Dirk Kloss, Catalin Ristea and Mikael Rönnqvist) who will briefly share additional thoughts;
- a presentation by the three 2014 finalists (Rezvan Rafiei, Sanjay D. Jena and Gregory Paradis) of the David Martell Student Paper Prize in Forestry;
- an industrial problem presentation and discussion session where three Ph.D. students (Taiwo O. Adetiloye, Amine Amrouss and Gregory Paradis) will introduce their ongoing work on a problem and receive valuable feedback through an open discussion with the attendees;

Jean-François expresses a special thank you to all speakers, all session chairs and the cluster program co-chair, Mikael Rönnqvist, for their contributions.

### **3) FSIG bylaws**

Jean-François mentions that the CORS Council has adopted bylaws for the SIG and each SIG has been invited to review them. These SIG bylaws were emailed twice to FSIG members. Following a discussion with former president and founder of the FSIG, Gregory Paradis, Jean-François informs the members that they are in line with the informal rules of the FSIG and, therefore, they both recommend their adoption.

Jean-François asks members if they have any comments, concerns, modifications, etc., on the proposed bylaws.

The adoption of the proposed bylaws is postponed by one month to allow more members to read them. Thus, if no major modification requests are submitted by email to the FSIG president by June 26, 2014, the members agree to adopt the proposed bylaws.

Jean-François proposes adding one responsibility to the FSIG president position in the bylaws: to be in charge of the annual organization of the David Martell Student Paper Prize in Forestry. This proposition is motioned and seconded. Jean-François will send the amended bylaws to all FSIG members.

### **4) Miscellaneous Items**

Jean-François encourages everyone to get ready for the 2015 CORS/INFORMS International Conference in Montreal, and especially encourages graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to complete published or accepted peer-reviewed papers to apply for the 2015 David Martell Student Paper Prize in Forestry.

Finally, following a proposition by Gregory Paradis, the FSIG acknowledges Mikael Rönnqvist and Jean-François Audy for agreeing to act as co-chairs of the OR in Forestry Cluster and for delivering a great program. The members also cordially acknowledge its president for his contributions to the FSIG.

The meeting is adjourned by Jean-François.

Jean-François Audy (Clerk and FSIG President)