

Minutes of the Forestry SIG Annual Meeting
Sheraton, Montreal, QC, Canada
June 14, 2015

1) Welcome and Meeting Objectives

Jean-François Audy, president of the Forestry Special Interest Group (FSIG), opens the meeting by welcoming all attendants. Jean-François provides an overview of the meeting agenda (sent to all FSIG members prior the meeting through the Google Group) 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 since the last annual meeting held during the 2014 CORS Conference:

- Customization and adoption of the FSIG bylaws
Jean-François reminds attendees that the FSIG bylaws were adopted following the 2014 annual meeting and included essentially two additions: the David Martell Student Paper Prize in Forestry competition and the publication of a forestry & natural resources-themed special issue of INFOR on a regular cycle.
- Use of the communication platforms: Google Group, VCO Network's LinkedIn & CORS Bulletin FSIG News
Jean-François encourages members to join the FSIG Google Group message board to keep informed about relevant information concerning the FSIG and to share relevant information to other FSIG members. Jean-François reiterates the invitation to be part 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 Value Chain Optimization, mainly applied in the Canadian forest industry. Also, Jean-François reminds members about the FSIG News published regularly in the CORS Bulletin.
- 2015 OR in forestry cluster quick information
Jean-François introduces the 2015 'OR in Forestry' cluster program that includes 47 regular talks split into 12 regular sessions. Jean-François highlights the four new sessions and the four new session chairs, and invites members to get involved next year if they have ideas of new sessions and/or to chair a session.

Jean-François also presents the four special sessions and invites Paul Stuart and David Martell to say a few words on their respective specials sessions:

- "Big Data in Forest Decision Support System" by Catalin Ristea (FPInnovations) and Lennart Rådström (Skogforsk).
- "Value Chain Optimization Research Network: Moving Forward" by Paul Stuart (EPM) and Yan Feng (VCO Network).
- "Strategic Planning in the Forest Sector" by Dan Rouillard (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry), Eldon Gunn (DalhousieU), and Glen Armstrong (UAlberta).
- Presentations by the three finalists of the 2015 David Martell Student Paper Prize in Forestry: Claudia Cambero (UBC), Nazanin Shabani (UBC), and Shuva Hari Gautam (ULaval).

Jean-François acknowledges the co-chair of the cluster, Mikael Ronnqvist (ULaval), the 12 session chairs as well as the speakers of the specials sessions. Jean-François also acknowledges the NSERC Strategic Research Network on Value Chain Optimization for the financial support to the special sessions.

- Updates on the INFORMS special issue
The editor of the special issue, Gregory Paradis, gives an update on the program. Gregory explains that the special issue currently has 7 manuscripts in review, two of which are currently in the second round of review. The remaining 5 manuscripts should be in the second round of review within the next 8 weeks.
- Review of the FSIG members list provided by CORS
Jean-François presents to the attendees the list of emails of FSIG members provided by CORS. He invites all attendees to make sure their emails are in the list and, if not, to contact the new FSIG president in order to start receiving communications relevant to FSIG members. Also, Jean-François explains that during the annual registration of CORS, members should now select to be part of the FSIG by clicking the corresponding box.

3) Election of a New FSIG President

Before the election of a new FSIG president, Jean-François presents a quick overview of the realizations of his 2013-2015 mandate with the key figures below:

- David Martell Student Paper Prize in Forestry:
 - o Foundation of the prize
 - o Two competitions held (6 finalists) with the participation of jury members: David Martell, Mikael Rönnqvist and Jean-François Audy.
- “OR in forestry” cluster:
 - o With co-Chair Mikael Rönnqvist, delivery of a full program of 35 regular talks and 3 special sessions in 2014; and 47 regular talks and 4 special sessions in 2015.
 - o With the support of the NSERC VCO Network, two workshop proposals with two international/national keynotes speakers were held, and six finalists to the David Martell Student Paper Prize in Forestry were supported.
- Customization and adoption of FSIG bylaws
- Promotion and use of communication platforms:
 - o Google Group, VCO Network’s LinkedIn, and CORS Bulletin (Total of 8 FSIG News since Vol 47, No.3).

Next, Jean-François presents the responsibilities of the FSIG president as described by the FSIG bylaws 2b:

“The President shall be responsible for the affairs of the SIG. The President shall preside at meetings and represent the SIG in external affairs, including, but not limited to, (i) maintaining communication with Council, (ii) organizing a stream of talks, related to the area of the SIG, at each annual conference of the Society, (iii) organizing an annual meeting of the SIG for its Members, which usually should occur at the annual meeting of the Society, and (iv) providing a report on the SIG’s activities during the preceding year, preferably through a newsletter submitted to the CORS Bulletin. This report should be provided before the annual meeting of the society. The President is also responsible of (v) managing the annual actions required to hold the David Martell Student Paper Prize in

Forestry competition (see Bylaw 8) and (vi) producing, on a regular cycle, a forestry & natural resources-themed special issue of INFOR. The President may perform these duties directly or by a delegate”.

Jean-François introduces the Election Committee composed in November 2014 by Mustapha Ouhimmou and Reino Pulkki that solicited the nominations and would handle the democratic election process leading to the President announcement. Jean-François reports that all members of the FSIG were invited through communications on the Google Group to express their interest to be candidates, including professors, postdocs and students. Jean-François explains that despite the efforts of the Election Committee, the FSIG bylaws on the election process could not be followed. Therefore, the following proposal (sent to FSIG members prior the meeting through the Google Group) for the election of the 2015-2017 FSIG President mandate is submitted to a secret vote:

- A secret vote on the candidates that show their interest to the Election Committee or directly during the meeting (in person or via a representative attending to the meeting).
- If this process is accepted, each candidate (or its representative) would have an opportunity to say a few words before the vote.

No attendee asks for a secret vote on the proposal, thus the proposal was accepted as is.

As the president of the Election Committee, Mustapha Ouhimmou proceeds to introduce the two members who expressed their interest prior to the meeting (Shuva Hari Gautam from ULaval and Gregory Rix from EPM). Mustapha inquired all the attendees to nominate other candidates or to self-nominate. Claudia Cambero from UBC proposed her interest to participate as candidate in the election process. Mustapha accepted her candidacy and invited the three candidates to give a few words introducing themselves and expressing how they believe they can enrich the FSIG. All the attendees were invited to submit their secret vote. The votes were tallied by Mustapha Ouhimmou and Gregory Paradis. Claudia Cambero is announced by Mustapha Ouhimmou as the new FSIG president for the 2015-2017 period.

The Forestry SIG cordially acknowledges its former president Jean-François Audy, for his contributions, leadership and good work during the 2013-2015 period.

4) FSIG bylaws

Jean-François presents two joint propositions (sent to FSIG members prior the meeting through the Google Group) by FSIG members Jean-François Audy, David Martell and Mikael Rönqvist:

- 1) Amendment to the FSIG bylaws regarding the paper admissibility rules for the David Martell Student Paper Prize in Forestry (DMSPPF).
Motivation: to increase the number of papers eligible for the competition considering the usual long delay of the submission process.
Current condition 8 c): The competition is for the best student paper published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal in the two years before the year of the competition.
Proposed modification to 8 c): The competition is for the best student paper published, accepted for publication or submitted to a peer-reviewed journal in the two years before the year of the competition.

Jean-François asks members if they have any comments, concerns, modifications, etc., on the proposed amendment before submitting it to a vote. No attendee asks for a secret vote on the proposed amendment, thus the amendment is accepted as is. The new president will send the amended bylaws to all FSIG members and to CORS SIG liaison agent.

- 2) Submission by the FSIG of a request to CORS Council for a CORS contribution of funds provided to the finalists of the David Martell Student Paper Prize in Forestry (DMSPPF), for example through automatic eligibility for CORS program Graduate Student Funding to attend CORS Conferences.

Motivation: the last two DMSPPF competitions were supported by the VCO Network through a workshop organized by Jean-François Audy and Mikael Rönnqvist within the OR in forestry cluster. These funds were used to cover the registration fees (including CORS student membership and banquet fee during which the winner is announced) of the finalists and a \$300 prize for the winner. With the end of the VCO Network, that funding opportunity will no longer be available. This request to CORS is to secure funds to continue this support to the finalists of the DMSPPF, an initiative put in place and managed by the FSIG to recognize outstanding scientific contributions on the theory, methodology and/or practice of OR in forestry by an undergraduate, a graduate student or a postdoctoral researcher. It's worth to mention two others initiatives to also secure the continuation of this support to the finalists: 1) David Martell's commitment to find the \$300 for the prize winner, and, 2) potential royalties from the sale of a book co-edited by Sophie D'Amours, Mustapha Ouhimmou, Yan Feng and Jean-François Audy to a funds dedicated to the recognition of excellence and initiatives in value chain management in the forest products industry.

Jean-François asks members if they have any comments, concerns, modifications, etc., on the proposition before submitting it to a vote. Discussion lead to an improvement of the proposition: before the submission of the formal request to CORS, all members will be invited by email to provide comments on it. No attendee asks for a secret vote on the improved propositions and was thus accepted. The new president will be responsible to lead this action.

5) **Miscellaneous Items**

Jean-François encourages everyone to participate at the 2015 CORS Annual Conference in Banff, AB, and encourages graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to get their paper ready for the 2016 David Martell Student Paper Prize in Forestry.

The meeting is closed by Jean-François.