

Minutes of the Forestry SIG Annual Meeting

Convention Center, Halifax, NS, Canada

June 4th, 2018

Note that, in the meeting minutes that follow, motions can be assumed to have been carried unless otherwise stated.

1) Welcome and Meeting Objectives

Tasseda Boukherroub, president of the Forestry Special Interest Group (FSIG), opens the meeting by welcoming the attendants. Tasseda provides an overview of the meeting agenda and asks if there are any additions. Acceptance of the agenda is moved and seconded.

2) Approval of 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

Tasseda opens the floor for comments or questions related to the Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting that were posted on the FSIG website, FSIG basecamp group, and sent to all active members by email prior to the meeting. There are no comments or questions. Approval of the minutes is moved and seconded.

3) Review of FSIG Activities and Initiatives

Tasseda reviews the FSIG activities since the 2017 Annual Meeting.

OR in Forestry Cluster at CORS 2018

Two FSIG members chaired the OR in Forestry Cluster: Mikael Rönnqvist and Tasseda Boukherroub. In total, the program included three regular sessions and two special sessions. The first one included two presentations: “The challenges in managing private wood lots in New Brunswickthe” (Jules Comeau) and “The hierarchical transportation game a serious game as an educational tool” (Mikael Rönnqvist). The second special session was the David Martel Student Paper Prize in Forestry (DMSPPF). The three finalists of the 2018 DMSPPF were Foroogh Abasian, Maha Ben Ali, and Krishna Malladi.

FSIG Communications

Tasseda reviews the communications received by FSIG members during the period 2017-2018. These communications include the Minutes of 2017 FSIG annual meeting, announcements related to OR Forestry Cluster and DMSPPF, invitations to join FSIG Basecamp group, and invitations de complete a satisfaction survey. Tasseda encourages the attendants to e-mail her to receive news about FSIG. She also encourages the attendants to join the FSIG Basecamp group. Tasseda briefly presents the regular communication channels (FSIG website, LinkedIn group, and Basecamp).

4) FSIG membership

Review of FSIG members list

Tasseda presents the list of current FSIG members (54 members in total), and reminds the attendants about the procedures for renewing FSIG membership: (1) renewing CORS membership and checking the FSIG checkbox in the membership renewal form, or (2) contacting the FSIG president and requesting membership.

5) FSIG bylaws

Amendment to FSIG bylaws regarding the election of the jury for the David Martell Student Paper Prize in Forestry (DMSPPF).

Current bylaw article 8f:

Applications are judged by a three members committee chaired by David Martell or by a delegate nominated by him or otherwise by the SIG President. The two other judges are, preferably, the Forestry SIG President and the OR in forestry program chair but delegate could be nominated by the Forestry SIG President.

Proposed bylaw article 8f (by Jean-François Audy and David Martell):

The Forestry SIG President, in consultation with David Martell, should form a PRELIMINARY jury panel of three FSIG members. If needed, the latter will make the final choice (decisional). The composition of the jury should aim for complementary expertise/experience/background among the jury members and one of the jury members should be a junior researcher. It is desirable that jury members are rotated after serving a few years.

Phase 1 of the competition: selection of up to 3 finalists among the applications (note: eligibility of the applications has been validated by the Forestry SIG President)

If a member in the PRELIMINARY jury panel is co-author in one (or more) of the applications, this member should be substituted by a FSIG member that has no co-authorship on the applications. The selection of this substitute is discussed among the remaining member(s) of the preliminary jury panel and David Martell. If needed, the latter will make the final choice (decisional). The full list of papers submitted should not be sent by the Forestry SIG President to anyone that will be asked to withdraw from the jury panel because one of their students has submitted a paper that he or she has co-authored.

Phase 2 of the competition: selection of the winner(s) among the finalists by the jury panel in phase 1.

Tassedra reminds the attendants that at the 2017 FSIG annual meeting, Gregory Paradis proposed to change the paragraph *“The full list of papers submitted should not be sent by the Forestry SIG President to anyone that will be asked to withdraw from the jury panel because one of their students has submitted a paper that he or she has co-authored.”* by: *“The FSIG President should address any conflicts of interest within the jury before distributing submitted papers to jury members.”* The proposition was supported by 10 FSIG members during the 2017 FSIG annual meeting. Tassedra mentions that the next step in the procedure was to vote this change. The attendants accepted the proposition by consensus.

6) FSIG president election for the period 2019-2021

Tassedra reviews the steps for electing a new FSIG president. She mentions that an election committee should be formed in order to organize the election as soon as possible. Jules Comeau and Gregory Paradis volunteered to form the committee.

7) Discussion on INFOR Special Issue

Tassedra recalls to the attendants that an INFOR Special Issue (Volume 54, 2016 - Issue 3: Forestry Applications) was published online on *July 27th 2016*. Gregory Paradis was the Guest Editor of this special issue. Tassedra mentions that one goal of FSIG is to have a new INFOR Special Issue every two years. The guest editors of the up-coming special issue are *Mustapha Ouhimmou* and *Jean-François Audy*. Tassedra mentions that due to coordination issues reported by Jean-François Audy, a new guest editor was required for the special issue. Gregory Paradis proposed himself as a volunteer guest editor.

8) Continuous improvement of FSIG

Tassedra presents the results of the survey that she prepared on SurveyMonkey with the support of Gregory Paradis. The survey is anonymous. It was distributed to 56 (current and former) FSIG members. The survey included six short questions and was distributed online during the period October 2017- February 2018. The

survey was shared on the FSIG website, FSIG basecamp group, FSIG LinkedIn group and sent by e-mail. 20 members answered the survey. The respondents mentioned many improvement ideas such as more communication throughout the year (not only at CORS annual meeting), more active discussion online, collaborate more with the members, more clear information on what FSIG can do and doing, increased breadth of topics covered, more SIG activities during the year, frequent meeting, shorten the cycle time on the INFOR Special Issue on Forestry applications, more active recruitment of new members, and social activities. The detailed results of the survey are available on the “Slides of Presentation at 2017 FSIG Annual Meeting” that can be accessed via FSIG website and Basecamp.

10) FSIG Basecamp group

Tassedra invites Gregory Paradis to present Basecamp platform. A recent group for FSIG members has been created by Tassedra to encourage information sharing, networking and collaboration among the members. Basecamp addresses some of the improvement ideas mentioned in the survey (e.g. more active discussion online and collaborate more with the members). Gregory explains why Basecamp was set up and what is Basecamp used for. Gregory shows the Basecamp interface and presents its most important functionalities.

Tassedra invites Dirk Klauss to talk about his experience as a user of Basecamp. Dirk mentions that he has been using Basecamp for many years, and he encourages FSIG members to use it.

11) Miscellaneous items

Jules Comeau suggests that FSIG meeting stats should be included in the CORS council minutes. In addition, we should make sure that FSIG members are invited to the 2019 council meeting.

12) Meeting Close

Jules Comeau moves to close the meeting, seconded by Taraneh Sowlati.

13) List of attendants

- David Martell
- Mikael Rönnqvist
- Dirk Klauss
- Foroogh Abasian
- Maha Ben Ali
- Taraneh Sowlati
- Jules Comeau
- Krishna Malladi
- Gregory Paradis
- Tassedra Boukherroub