



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2009

Production, education and marketing of quality roundwood products

President's Message

As I reviewed the message that I wrote last winter, the thrust of it was how happy I was that the elections were over. Now, a year later, I am wishing we could have do-overs and try it again.



It is another fine fall day in Wyoming. The snow is falling from west to east. Weather forecasters have come up with a better way of

measuring snow fall

in southeast Wyoming by constructing a 12' wall and then measuring the amount of snow that sticks to the wall. This method has increased our measurable snowfall by 300%.

The IRA board of directors will have their teleconference quarterly meeting on December 3, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. Mountain Standard Time. If you wish to participate contact any director for connecting instructions. If you have any items you want to have discussed but are unable to attend contact any director ahead of time.

As there is just a little over three months until our annual meeting, and there will be four board positions open, please consider if you would be interested in serving as a board member. In these times of uncertainty and

demanding challenges it is critical that people step forward and serve. Our organization and the relationships that are formed, have provided encouragement and direction to all of the members who have availed themselves to the association.

I hope this letter finds you all well, facing the current challenges head on, and thankful you are doing what you want to do. I wish everyone a joyous holiday season and an especially Merry Christmas.

—Norman Tyser, President



View from Marks Lumber office/showroom in Clancy MT. Photo by Craig Rawlings

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Minutes

2009 Fall IRA Board of Directors Meeting

Date of Meeting: September 18, 2009

Meeting started at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes taken by Bill Baker

Attendees: Board of Directors members present included Bill Baker, Darrell Miller, Kal Kovatch, Craig Rawlings and Executive Administrator Karen Kovatch.

Open Meeting: 8:35 a.m. MDT, Darrell Miller called meeting to order in Norm's absence. Norm was called for a quorum to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Kal made the motion and with Craig's second the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: In checking account \$3,580.99. In Vanguard account \$7,067.15. Total account \$10,648.14. Norm was called for a quorum and with Karen's motion and Kal's second the motion carried.

Old Business:

--2010 Annual Meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula, MT., March 19th with the social on the evening of March 18th. Hilton is asking for a deposit of \$1000.00, Karen is looking to negotiate a smaller deposit. Board is looking for speakers, Peter Kolb has committed to speaking on Forestry and Forest Products in Germany. The board is trying to find speakers to match a theme, with Biomass as a potential topic. Other topics include PM 2.5 an EPA driven air quality standard, and small energy producing systems.

--Wood certification meeting, Darrell will try for March 18th and meeting should be about 5-

6 hours long and we will try to get other states to accept the certification training credits.

--Quality control brochure - Mike Sterling and Darrell Miller are working on this with some help from Jim Basler from Osmose. They will look at updating pictures and chemical information. They plan to have the brochure ready by the annual meeting.

New Business:

--FSA Biomass Crop Assistance Program. A program to give federal assistance for Biomass producers who produce to qualified Biomass conversion facilities. We will monitor program as new developments arise.

--Board recruiting committee - 2 positions should be open this year and Darrell suggested putting together a nominating committee. We would like to have a ballot for the annual meeting both for board members and officers. Darrell will work on putting together a committee after reviewing the by-laws.

--IRS tax filing - We are a 501-C6 trade corporation. We are looking into the correct way to proceed with filing with the IRS. Darrell will follow up on this with his accountant.

--November Newsletter - Items we have: Presidents Message; Minutes of Fall Meeting. Nominating Committee note, Qualifications of President, Annual Meeting notes, PM 2.5 air quality standards. Items we need: Pictures, Biomass Crop Assistance Program updates, Membership input for new quality control brochure.

Open Discussion--

--Membership count at Labor Day of 2009 is at 60 members. We are considering including a membership report at each board meeting.

--Bill suggested trying to do more as an organization in the way of education. Either by sponsoring an education organization or putting together some type of educational materials to be handed out to kids or educators.

--Craig asked about the possibility of IRA applying for a Forest Products Lab Grant. He will get more information for the Board.

--The next teleconference meeting is tentatively set for the first week in December. We will confirm the exact time by e-mail. (*Editor's Note: Thursday, Dec 3rd at 9am.*)

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

-Bill Baker, Director

The trees are there; we need the will

As a third-generation Clancy-area sawmill operator, I've watched in dismay as, one by one, my fellow sawmill operators have fallen by the wayside and closed operations over the past 20 years. What was once a vibrant industry in Montana with more than 40 operations just 15 years ago now numbers only 16, with most of these on the brink of closure.

Market forces, foreign trade policy and public lands management policy have combined to squeeze these operations out of existence while destroying the livelihoods of thousands of

Montana families.

Meanwhile, as you know, we're awash in a sea of timber in need of harvest. The pine beetle epidemic has exacerbated this timber supply situation, resulting in a scramble by federal, state and private landowners to attempt to mitigate the resulting catastrophic fire danger, protect wildland-urban interface-area homes, and make some attempt at managing the resource.

While much of this falls under the old adage of "too little, too late," nonetheless there is an effort under way. Foresters, woodsmen and

as like myself know that there is a 6-month usability window for pine timber before its only product is pulp wood, which makes these forests economically unviable. The best price scenarios and a market under current market conditions. On the other front, a major national effort is being placed on renewable energy, including wind, bio-generation, carbon sequestration, trade, etc. Innumerable federal programs are being rolled out and we must deal with this priority.



The IRA Directors toured Marks Lumber after the quarterly meeting in Clancy, MT. Photo K.Kovatch

Continued on next page...

...The trees are there; we need the will continued

However, I am dismayed that a simple, straightforward utilization of this dead and dying timber resource seems to be overlooked by our transportation officials. Treated wooden guardrail posts are no longer being utilized on highway projects. While officials give lip service to being open to their continued usage, the reality is that it's not happening.

Here's some concrete examples: The U.S. Forest Service put out a bid for Hyalite Canyon, specifying all steel posts (approximately 1,700 posts), Marysville project (approximately 7,000 posts), Bureau of Indian affairs - Browning, all steel posts, Garrison bridge across the Little Blackfoot River - all steel, etc. If you look at almost all new construction this summer, you see all steel.

Montana Department of Transportation officials cite all sorts of supposed reasons and rationale, including federal procurement policies, engineering design latitude, blah, blah, blah. But in the final analysis, when the smoke clears, we've got a dying Montana sawmill and lumber treating infrastructure, thousands of acres of dead trees with a short

window of usability, and our highway projects specifying steel guardrail posts. To use modern vernacular, "What's up with that?!"

Why are we overlooking an obvious, right-under-our noses opportunity to address part of the utilization of dead forest resources puzzle while being squarely in the center of the in-vogue renewable-resources initiative? In fact, treated wooden guardrail posts are much more environmentally friendly from a renewable standpoint than their steel counterparts! (Oh, and by the way, it might just help sustain some scarce wood-products jobs and industry while providing top-quality highway infrastructure materials!)

If I sound frustrated it is because I am. In a world of seemingly endless, more glamorous, headline-gathering public policy arenas, it'd be nice if someone would just roll up their sleeves and accomplish this little no-brainer that would really help some of us little working people on the ground in Montana.

Reprinted with permission. Steve Marks is owner of Marks Ranch and Lumber, and writes from Clancy, Montana. ☞

2010 IRA Annual Meeting

In Missoula, Montana at the Hilton Garden Inn

Save the date:



Production lines & systems for:
log & timber homes
small dia logs processing
post & poles
❖ Wood Treating Recertification & Social-
Thursday, March 18th
Also: log cross cut saws, notchers,
mortisers, dovetailers, pole pointers,
LogWorksDesigner computer software
❖ Meeting- Friday, March 19th
www.WoodLandia.ca
Toll free: 1-877-508-8777

Directors Wanted

Editor's Note: This year at the annual meeting we will have two positions open on the IRA Board of Directors as well as two current directors up for reelection. All IRA members are eligible to run for the board. Current president Norm Tyser wrote Darrell Miller on what to look for in an IRA president. We thought the membership would enjoy this and consider running for the board.

The following are some ideas that I would look for in an IRA President. It is always best to learn from the mistakes made by the previous administration. I see four areas of responsibility as it pertains to the IRA: 1) Leading meetings; 2) Message for the newsletter; 3) Listening to concerns of the general membership; 4) Being a peacemaker or arbitrator.

The # 1 thing that a president should bring to all of the above mentioned areas is a sense of sincere ENTHUSIASM. If the current growth of the IRA is to continue this is key. Genuine enthusiasm can only be generated by someone who believes in what he or she is doing and has a desire to ENCOURAGE others with his or her enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is extremely contagious when it is sincere. Enthusiasm begets enthusiasm. As a part of enthusiasm, your leader should be one who is sincere in encouraging others. I realize in these times it is difficult to encourage; but this is the time it is really needed.

These two attributes, enthusiasm and encouragement should be exhibited in all four of the responsibilities. As an arbitrator it is far better to listen than to talk. I have found most people will come to the conclusion needed if "they" talk long enough. Usually it is a matter of them being heard that goes the furthest to

resolving issues. The key to arbitrating is having the participants receive credit for the solution. When listening to concerns of others it is always best to acknowledge that you are listening and understanding, but as much as possible refrain from giving too much direction. Once again, listening is usually the key.

Leading of board meetings is simply a matter of listening and intervening when the problem becomes the repeated focus as opposed to the solution. This one takes getting to know your board as individuals, and one should always error on the side of politeness when it comes to moving on.

As far as annual meetings, this is where truly being enthusiastic pays the biggest dividends. We must continue to offer the general membership a reason to attend. With all of the effort Karen puts into the planning of the meeting, it would be a shame not to equal her efforts in the only face to face contact we have with the membership each year.

The President's message in the newsletter obviously should be pertinent to the current issues, but here again the focus should be encouragement, and work towards building enthusiasm and pointing to the annual meeting.

These are some random thoughts I have on the position. I believe these attributes are critical. As a side note; not as a must, but if you can find somebody that has a sincere affection for sheep, not a user, then you really have found a leader. A little self-deprecation never hurts.

-Norm 

Cash for Hogfuel

Biomass Conversion Facilities

There are now eight pages of qualified biomass conversion facilities. Visit

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> for a complete listing of users in your area who purchase woody biomass from producers. Those producers may receive crop assistance for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation costs associated with the delivery of materials.

Montana facilities include some school districts, Smurfit-Stone Container, Eureka Pellet Mills, Roseburg Forest Products and Thompson River Power.

Idaho facilities include Coeur D'Alene Fiber Fuels, Lignetics of ID, Stimpson Lumber, Tamarack Energy, and Idaho Forest Group.

Wyoming has one facility listed: Western Biomass Energy.

Oregon facilities include Biomass One, Cascade Pacific Pulp, Roseburg Forest Products, Interfor Pacific, West OR Wood Products, Freres Lumber, Enterprise School District and SP Newsprint.

There are no South Dakota facilities listed but California has 29 facilities.

Wedding Bells

The Marks-Miller Post & Pole family was in Missoula on July 25th for the wedding of Erica Miller to Brandon Ihde. Proud father Darrell said it was a perfect day and mother-of-the-bride Karen has the photos to prove it! Congratulations!

TourdeCure

Thank you to Marks-Miller Post & Pole, Inc. and Hills Products Group for sponsoring Karen Kovatch and Team Kathy's Krazy Kruizers on the Tour de Cure. The tour is a bicycle ride where participants raise funds for the American Diabetes Association. *



Antique jacks...



This summer Jan and Dave Guelff replaced the corral at their place in Seeley Lake, MT. The adjustable jacks were drilled, pinned with dowels and put up with split rails from Roundwood West. The interesting part is the penta treated posts themselves came from hoarded bundles brought from the postyard back when it was still "Nine Mile Post & Rails" over 20 years ago!

New IRA Member

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Membership Information

Thank you for inquiring about the Intermountain Roundwood Association.

Our organization is a nonprofit corporation representing the economic, educational, and social interests of roundwood producers. Anyone engaged in or interested in the harvesting, manufacturing, or marketing of small roundwood and associated products is eligible for membership in our organization.

Our association has been working for a consistent and stable supply of raw materials; presenting a united voice to government agencies and congressional delegations on those issues facing our association; working with government agencies on hazardous waste disposal alternatives; working to find State and Federal loan opportunities for small businesses; locating new out of region markets for members products; providing information on State and Federal Regulations; distributing a quarterly newsletter with pertinent information; providing advice to members in their dealings with governmental regulatory and land management agencies; and educating the public on the need to thin timber stands to provide a healthy environment and prevent stand-destroying fires.

Meetings

Members are encouraged to participate in the quarterly director meetings throughout the year as well as our annual meeting. The board conducts four meetings, usually two teleconference meetings and two physical meetings each year. Members are welcome to raise concerns and contact directors with specific issues and any questions.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be a teleconference meeting on **Thursday, December 3rd 2009**. All members are welcome and encouraged to participate. Contact IRA President, Norm Tyser for more information.

Advertising

Business Directory Ads:
Contact Gary Marks (406) 933-5981 or gary@marks-miller.com

IRA Website

Log on at:
www.intermountainroundwood.org
Email: info@roundwoodassociation.org

IRA Board of Directors

Norman Tyser, President	(307) 742-6992	ntyser@wyoming.com
Mike Sterling, Vice President	(208) 722-6837	mike@parmapostandpole.com
Rich Lane, Secretary	(406) 721-2573	rlane@naturalresourcesolutions.com
Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer	(406) 677-2300	roundwoodwest@blackfoot.net
Darrell Miller	(406) 933-5981	darrell@marks-miller.com
Bill Baker	(605) 348-8338	sawdust@orbitcom.biz
Craig Rawlings	(406) 728-9234	crawlings@mtcdc.org

Newsletter, Classified Ads & IRA Website

Karen Kovatch, Editor	(406) 677-2932	info@roundwoodassociation.org
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2009 IRA Membership Application Form



Please return this form and \$100 payment to: (Sorry, we do not take credit cards.)

Intermountain Roundwood Association

Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer P.O. Box 1275, Seeley Lake, MT 59868

1
Name of Business or Organization: _____

Contact person: _____

Mail me a receipt.

- This is how your membership will be listed on the back of the newsletter and on the IRA website.

Additional contact and services information for receiving newsletter, your personal IRA web page and the Membership phone and address lists:

New member: Complete remainder of this form. **Current Member:** Make changes as noted.

Current Member: No changes this year. *Stop here, as tempting as it might be: do not check any more boxes!*☺

2
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Fax: _____ Toll Free: [Optional] (____) _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY for your page on our website.

Email to info@roundwoodassociation.org or attach separate page. Limited to 150 words. Remember to include one photo or logo image to accompany your business or organization description. You may email photo or logo also.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Tipi Poles & Hogan Logs | <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Log Furniture | Wood, Lumber & Barkies |
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