

## Restoration Committee Meeting

April 8, 2022

1:45-3:15

Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon, VA and virtually over Zoom

**In Attendance:** Dr. John Scrivani (chair), Sara Fitzsimmons (staff liaison), Kendra Collins (staff recorder), Lynn Garrison, David Morris, Allen Nichols, Dr. Brian Roth, Jim Searing, Brad Stanback, Dr. Kim Steiner

**Guests** (should double check this list against committee membership): Dr. Brian McCarthy, Dr. Dawn McCarthy, Evan Fox, Debby Delmer, Becky Carter, Dr. Carolyn Keiffer, Doug Gillis, Yvonne Federowicz, Dr. John Hemple, Dr. Mark Double, Kathy Patrick, Loren Hostetter, Jack Swatt, Linda McGuigan, Dr. Martin Cipollini, Stephen Rist, Jay Cude, Betty Allison, Barb Tormoehlen, Dr. Dennis Liu, Dr. Thomas Klak, Dr. John Dougherty

**Staff** (should also clarify which staff are committee members?): Dr. Jared Westbrook, Tom Saielli, Jamie Van Clief, Shana Zimnoch, Lily Kingsolver, Dr. Vasiliy Lakoba, Eric Jenkins, Jim Tolton, Judy Antaramian, Tamia Dame, Jules Smith, Lisa Thomson

### Agenda:

1. **Approval of minutes from September 21, 2021 Committee Meeting**
2. **Old Business**
  - a. GPA Update
  - b. Approval of Distribution Policy for B3F3s and Recommendation to the Board
3. **New Business**
  - a. Review of 2022 seed distribution
  - b. Strategic Planning for Restoration
  - c. The need for partnerships in Restoration
  - d. Chapters' role in the Restoration program
  - e. Other topics of concern to the committee

#### **1. Approval of minutes from September 21, 2021 Committee Meeting (Scrivani):**

Minutes were approved, as written, by consensus.

#### **2, a. GPA Update (Fitzsimmons):**

Sara Fitzsimmons and Lisa Thomson sought legal counsel and as a first step they recommended we get governance issues worked out. Currently on hold until we have resolution from the governance committee and can re-visit with legal counsel, perhaps later this summer.

#### **2, b. Approval of Distribution Policy for B3F3 and Recommendation to the Board (Fitzsimmons):**

There is a formal policy currently in a holding pattern. The committee may prefer to only oversee distribution of seeds and seedlings for restoration projects, rather than all seeds and seedlings. We will eventually reach a point where this level of oversight is no longer possible, but are not there yet. The policy currently also includes oversight of chapter material. Discussion was tabled.

**3, a. Review of 2022 seed distribution (Fitzsimmons):**

Nothing formal to present. Typically, about 5,000 seed go to members, 10,000 go to science. 20,000-70,000 go out as seedlings annually – about 50,000 going out this year. Requests are logged in a shared Google sheet by RSCs and others on the science staff, should anyone wish to review in detail.

**3, b. Strategic Planning for Restoration (Scrivani):**

**3, c. The needs for partnerships in Restoration (Scrivani):**

**3, d. Chapter's role in the Restoration program (Scrivani):**

Discussed these agenda items together. John Scrivani led discussion – see PDF of presentation amended to these minutes (get from Sara/John).

What is good enough for restoration? This is a moving target but we can still start now. No harm in getting started, even as the material improves in the future. Currently leaning on the regions to develop their own plans, however would be great for this committee to take a more active role in planning.

How do we handle distribution of D58 material once deregulated? A marketing and distribution taskforce was working on this and, with deregulation on the horizon as a real possibility in 15 months, would be a good time to rekindle this effort. John Dougherty recommended a new product or launch committee. Thinking through the very first launch – what happens in August 2023 – what and where do you want to plant first? What are the legal issues? What information do you want to gain from the first launch? Enthusiasm for this approach; Dougherty agreed to help with a new product launch committee.

Currently need to respect permitting until deregulation, and will have many science questions to address once deregulation passes. There will likely be a limit on the number of acres planted and a need to track and report on the amount of planting - *dentata*Base is well set-up to handle that tracking.

Defining what we mean by “restoration” is important and provides a framework we can work within. Something to address through the strategic planning process. Restoration may be improving forest function over the current level, or could be when we have a proven product. How we define restoration has implications on how we proceed. In the face of a changing landscape, may need to accept range shift, as well as what ideal planting sites really look like. What is our vision?

Assuming deregulation, what is the minimum standard for release? By the time this is defined, we likely have a few next steps for improvement determined. Will need to manage expectations and balance those with any publicity and excitement. Will be under the microscope a bit with those opposed to the technology.

Localized habitat suitability maps will be the most useful for planning restoration. May want to also work with locally produced/adapted material. Discussion of a possible on-line tool for landowners to determine site suitability for planting – may be something we can develop in the future. Network of partnerships will also be important to maintain and grow.

**3, e. Other topics of concern to the committee**

No new business. Meeting adjourned.