

CONTINENTAL DIALOGUE ON NON-NATIVE FOREST INSECTS & DISEASES
NINTH DIALOGUE MEETING
NOVEMBER 4-5, 2013

Meeting Summary

On November 4-5, 2013, a diverse group of approximately 36 representatives from state and federal agencies; private business and industry; academia; and non-governmental organizations gathered at the Pittsburgh Convention Center for the ninth annual meeting of the Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases (the Dialogue). This meeting was held in conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation's Partners in Community Forestry Conference, which took place at the Pittsburgh Convention Center on November 6-7, 2013.

The Dialogue's ninth annual meeting was planned and convened by the Dialogue Steering Committee, a cross-section of stakeholders with an interest in protecting forests from the threat of non-native insects and diseases. Presentations and meeting materials (including the meeting agenda and speaker bios) are available on the Dialogue's website at:

<http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/index.html>.

I. Meeting Objectives

The purpose of this meeting was to advance collaboration around actions to address the threat of non-native forest insects and diseases. Specific objectives included:

- cultivate collaborations toward action to address the threat of non-native forest insects and diseases;
- expand the effectiveness and reach of public and private entities and citizens in the battle against the non-native insects and diseases killing their trees; and
- identify and seek consensus on needed actions for major initiatives the Continental Dialogue will advance in the upcoming year.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Facilitator Dana Goodson, RESOLVE, welcomed the participants to the meeting on behalf of the Dialogue's Steering Committee. Ms. Goodson briefly reviewed the materials provided to meeting participants and then provided an overview of the agenda and meeting ground rules.

Meeting participants then introduced themselves. The full list of participants is available at the end of this summary.

Ms. Goodson introduced Stas Burgiel, Assistant Director for Prevention and Budgetary Coordination at the National Invasive Species Council, who welcomed the group with an overview of forest issues from a national standpoint. Mr. Burgiel's presentation is available at:

<http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/BURGIEL.pdf>.

Bill Toomey, Forest Health Director with The Nature Conservancy and a member of the Dialogue's Steering Committee, welcomed participants and acknowledged the work and dedication of the Steering

Committee members, the RESOLVE team, and the TNC staff who work on behalf of the Dialogue. Mr. Toomey reminded the group of the Dialogue's goals, current activities, and accomplishments. He noted that the annual meeting provides an opportunity for Dialogue participants to help the Steering Committee determine key issues and activities on which the Dialogue should focus in the coming year. Mr. Toomey's presentation is available at:

<http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/TOOMEY-Continental-Dialogue-Ov.>

III. Presentations: Emerging Regional and National Issues in Tree and Forest Health over the Next 10 Years

The group then heard from two different speakers on emerging issues in tree and forest health. Speaker bios are available at: <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/CFD-2013-Speaker-Bios.pdf>.

- **Academic perspective** – Charles Canham, The Cary Institute. Mr. Canham's presentation is available online at: <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/CANHAM.pdf>.
- **Regional perspective** – Steve Koehn, State Forester of Maryland & Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters, chair of the Forest Health Committee.

IV. Panel: New Alliances and Opportunities

The group then heard from several speakers representing new alliances and opportunities for the Dialogue. Speaker bios are available at:

<http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/CFD-2013-Speaker-Bios.pdf>.

- **Introduction and Summary of the American Public Gardens Association Sentinel Plant Network**– Dan Stern, American Public Gardens Association. Mr. Stern's presentation is available online at: <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/STERN.pdf>.
- **Forest industry perspective** – Paul Lyskava, PA Forest Products Association
- **Update of Firewood Certification Efforts and Results** – Geoff Friedman, American Firewood Producers and Distributors Association. Mr. Friedman's presentation is available online at: <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/FRIEDMAN.pdf>.

V. Panel: Progress on Managing Plants for Planting as a Pathway of Pest Introduction and Spread

The speakers on the next panel addressed domestic and international efforts to manage plants for planting as a pathway for pest introduction and spread. Speaker bios are available at:

<http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/CFD-2013-Speaker-Bios.pdf>.

- **International Industry Efforts** – Craig Regelbrugge, American Nursery & Landscape Association. Mr. Regelbrugge's presentation is available online at: <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/Regelbrugge.pdf>.
- **Systems Approach for Nursery Certification (SANC)** – Ann Gibbs, National Plant Board. Ms. Gibbs's presentation is available online at: <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/GIBBS.pdf>.

A discussion of the lessons and opportunities afforded by these efforts brought the day to a close. The sessions continued the morning of November 5 beginning at 8:00 AM.

VI. Panel: Overview and Update of Dialogue Initiatives and Actions

The panelists informed the group of some of the key activities the Dialogue has undertaken in the past year. Speaker bios are available at: <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/CFD-2013-Speaker-Bios.pdf>.

- **Don't Move Firewood and Firewood Outreach Coordination** – Leigh Greenwood, Forest Health Protection Program, The Nature Conservancy. Ms. Greenwood's presentation is available online at: <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/GREENWOOD.pdf>.
- **Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities Initiative** – Rachel Holmes, Forest Health Protection Program, The Nature Conservancy. Ms. Holmes's presentation is available online at: <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/HOLMES2.pdf>.
- **Update on Policy Work** – Christine Cadigan, American Forest Foundation

VII. Panel: Wood Packaging Update

The group heard updates from two speakers on federal efforts to manage wood packaging as a pathway. Speaker bios are available at: <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/CFD-2013-Speaker-Bios.pdf>.

- **Assessing the effectiveness of ISPM #15 in reducing infestation rates of wood packaging material: An NCEAS Report**– Robert Haack, USDA Forest Service. Mr. Haack's presentation is available online at: <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/HAACK.pdf>.
- **Enhanced enforcement proposals and practices** – Kevin Harriger, US Customs and Border Protection. Mr. Harriger's presentation is available online at: <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/HARRIGER.pdf>.

VIII. Breakout Sessions

The participants broke into a number of smaller discussion sessions. Following these breakout sessions, the group reconvened in plenary to hear brief reports on each breakout and specifically the next steps they planned to take.

Initiative Breakout Session I (Concurrent Sessions)

- **Establishing collaborative priorities for invasive species management** – Michael Buck, NASF

Takeaways: Federal agencies are struggling with how to establish budget priorities in a time of declining resources. There might be a role for the Dialogue in helping to organize a cross-agency or multi-stakeholder conversation on the issue of priorities for invasive species management.

Possible Dialogue activities:

- Hold a workshop focused on developing a strategic framework for setting priorities
- Invite the “users” of invasive species management funding to discuss priorities

- Identify frameworks for priority-setting that are used elsewhere
- **UFORHIC (Urban Forest Health Information Center) project and update on phone applications/citizen science tools; follow-up to meeting hosted by APHIS in May** – Eileen Luke, Purdue University; Scott Maco, Davey Institute; and Bill Toomey, Forest Health Protection Program Director, The Nature Conservancy

Takeaways: More can be done to build on, disseminate, and make accessible the UFORHIC platform for forest data as well as apps and other tools for citizen scientists.

Presentation: The session presentation is available online at:
<http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2013-11-04/LUKE.pdf>.

Possible Dialogue activities:

- Ensure relevant data is included in the UFORHIC database
- Make the data exchangeable
- Use Dialogue members' networks to promote tools

Initiative Breakout Session II (Concurrent Sessions)

- **Firewood Outreach and Firewood Industry Labeling Efforts** - Leigh Greenwood, The Nature Conservancy and Geoff Friedman, American Firewood Producers and Distributors Association

Takeaways: Building on the “Don’t Move Firewood” message, the Dialogue could have a role in promoting the idea of distributing free firewood at parks and campgrounds.

Possible Dialogue actions:

- Develop case studies, survey data, or a position paper around the idea of free firewood
- Offer assistance to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in developing a “Don’t Move Firewood”-based domestic policy

- **Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities: Integration and Next Steps** - Rachel Holmes and Bill Toomey, Forest Health Protection Program, The Nature Conservancy

Takeaways: Participants felt the Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities approach is a good one and that it is important to consider the different geographies of different areas. They also identified synergies between this program and other efforts, which suggest a potential for mutual reinforcement.

Possible Dialogue actions:

- Identify overlapping interests with other programs by overlaying the criteria for “hot spots”
- Promote messages related to biodiversity and urban forest planning

- **Proactive Outreach and Communication** – Faith Campbell, The Nature Conservancy

Takeaways: There is a lot of member interest in the Dialogue undertaking outreach and communication activities, and the breakout participants identified several key areas where the Dialogue could be most useful.

Possible Dialogue actions:

- Develop a repository for school-based educational materials
- Highlight the efforts of companies that are leading the way on good practices in wood packaging
- Develop a set of fact sheets on non-native forest insects & diseases using data available due in part to past Dialogue activities; some of the fact sheets could be focused on individual states. These fact sheets could be used in meetings with policymakers.

IX. Summary and Next Steps

Ms. Goodson reminded the group that the Dialogue Steering Committee would meet directly after the plenary adjourned in order to set the Dialogue's priorities for the coming year, drawing upon the options discussed in the plenary meeting. All members were invited to sit in on the Steering Committee meeting. The committee's decisions on priority actions will be shared with the full Dialogue participant list.

Mr. Toomey concluded the meeting by thanking the group for their participation, the presenters for sharing their knowledge, and the Steering Committee's planning group for coordinating the meeting. He expressed the hope that the attendees found the meeting valuable, and will continue to remain engaged with the Dialogue.

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Participant List

Erin Appleton

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Bob Benjamin

USDA APHIS Michigan

Stephan Briere

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Michael Buck

National Association of State Foresters

Stas Burgiel

National Invasive Species Council

Christine Cadigan

American Forest Foundation

Faith Campbell

The Nature Conservancy

Charles Canham

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

Sharon Coons

Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry

Andrea Dierich

The Morton Arboretum

Keith Douce

University of Georgia

Mark Faulkenberry

Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry

Geoff Friedman

Lost Coast Forest Products Inc.

Brad Gething

National Wooden Pallet and Container Association

Ann Gibbs

Maine Department of Agriculture

Dana Goodson

RESOLVE

Leigh Greenwood

The Nature Conservancy

Bob Haack

USDA Forest Service

Kevin Harriger

Customs and Border Protection

Rachel Holmes

The Nature Conservancy

Anne Hoover

U.S. Forest Service

Sarah Johnson

The Nature Conservancy

Steve Koehn

Maryland State Forester

Eileen Luke

Purdue University

Paul Lyskava

PA Forest Products Association

Scott Maco

Davey Tree Expert Company

Ken Rauscher

Michigan Department of Agriculture, retired

Craig Regelbrugge

American Nursery & Landscape Association

Dave Schmidt

Pennsylvania DNR

Robert Schutzki

Michigan State University

Kurt Schwartau

Phyllom boreGONE!

Hilary Smith

The Nature Conservancy - Adirondack Chapter

Daniel Stern

American Public Gardens Association

Bill Toomey

The Nature Conservancy

Danielle Watson

Society of American Foresters

Rosa Yoo

New Jersey DNR