**Attendees of the 2011 Great Plains Tree Pest Council Meeting**

**Cheyenne, WY – July 12-13, 2011**

**Kiwanis Community House – Lions Park**

**Participant Agency/Organization/State Representation E-Mail**

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**GPTPC Meeting Notes**

* Mark Harrell and Les Koch started the meeting welcoming all attendees and briefly discussed the agenda for the next two days.
	+ Presented discussion about mailing a letter expressing GPTPC’s condolences for the Costello family
	+ Personal letters will be mailed separately
* Corrections to past minutes from Chadron, NE meeting
* Comment on updating the e-mail list (is thought to have been done 2 years ago)
* *Jim Walla* presented on “Proposed disease cycle for Stigmina needlecast on spruce”
	+ Rhizosphaera needlecast has periodically caused problems (especially wet years)
	+ Stigmina lautii sproduces fruiting bodies in stomatal pits of spruce needle
	+ The two fungi cannot be distinguished w/o 20x+ magnification
	+ Spore shape change noticed earlier but not researched
	+ Lifecycle proposed 1.5 yrs after infection
	+ Current year needles seem to appear unaffected
	+ 15-16 months – spores affecting other needles
	+ Symptoms include yellow on tip or band on the needle (June-ish)
	+ 3rd and 4th year needles constantly producing spores
	+ By 2nd year of infection – needles fall
	+ June & July treatments should be applied to see improvement (need to protect new growth for first 2 months)
	+ Unsure of infection window for mature needles
* Followed by “Dothistroma needle blight – regional & national collections”
	+ Found last year (2 species – long vs. short spores)
	+ Dothistroma pini identified by molecular analysis – was on Ponderosa pine
	+ First time Dothistroma spp. was found in ND or on Ponderosa pine
	+ Using the previous standard of spore length to identify the pathogen species would have led to incorrect identification as D. septosporum.
	+ 37 host species found in USA (provided by literature search)
	+ By having molecular markers – can trace the origin
	+ Looking for hosts and geographic ranges of Dothistroma spp. in USA
	+ Dothistroma exploding in N. Hemisphere (pathogen movement, global warming, pathogen aggressiveness, new spp. in SW????) All unanswered
	+ LOOKING FOR DOTHISTROMA SAMPLES – WILL MAIL ENVELOPES.
* *Bill Jacobi* presented on “Forest and shade tree disease studies”
	+ Had a hand out
	+ Publication on camper movement of firewood out in Urban Forestry
	+ Additionally completion on a manuscript on the insect infestation of retail firewood purchased in CO, NM, UT, and WY.
	+ MgCl2 studies: 3 manuscripts available & greenhouse studies soon
	+ Banded elm bark beetle – artificially infested beetles can transport fungus
	+ National elm trial: 16 states w/ 17-19 commercially available elm cultivars
	+ White pine blister rust studies: multiple manuscripts being submitted
	+ Other topics of research include: Ponderosa pine wood borers, Technology transfer of forest pathology research information, Fire/Dwarf mistletoe and mtn pine beetles (mpb) in Front Range CO ponderosa pine, Thinning effects on bark beetle attack in CA, bark beetle mortality and future fire risk, MPB preference for lodgepole & ponderosa pine, aspen die back in CO, Armillaria root disease in the Black Hills, Limber pine status and regeneration potential.
* *Les Koch* discussed a State & Private Forestry Western Competitive Multi-State Grant through WY, CO, MT, and ID that was funded for FFY2012.
	+ Will be creating various media efforts to educate the public on the dangers of transporting infested firewood
	+ Each state will be accomplishing firewood management activities in different ways (ex: weather proof posters, playing cards, brochures, postcards ect… all with the same message)
* *John Ball* presented on “Public perception of flood damaged trees”
	+ Had discussed questions the public has and will be bringing up about trees surviving several months of flooding during the growing season
	+ Asked how are other states addressing this issue
	+ Encouraged permanent research plots to be set up along flooded areas to study effects on trees/landscape years later
* *Jeri Lyn Harris* presented on “USFS Risk Map”
	+ Discussed various uses and benefits of National Insect and Disease Risk Map project
	+ Forest parameters for NIDRM were stand basal area (BA), stand density index (SDI), and tree diameter or its surrogate, quadratic mean diameter (QMD)
	+ Each of the 188 models which predict the reaction of 42 mortality agents acting on 57 tree species were documented using a spreadsheet template
		- The likelihood (on a scale of 0 - 10) of an agent/host interaction resulting in mortality
		- The percent contribution to total basal area loss attributed to that model
	+ Looking to add Great Plains Forest Protection (Great Plains Initiative) data to models

**Reports from States & Agencies**

* John Ball/Brian Garbisch (handout included Coe Foss)
	+ Mountain pine beetle
		- Began in 1996 around Sturgis, from there it has spread from federal lands to private around the central hills and Rapid City
		- Relic stand of limber pine in Cathedral Spires of Custer SP are stressed already and a beetle attack could eliminate the species from the area
			* Anti-aggregation pheromone, verbenone has been used as part of the management
			* Losses of this tree has been <1% even with MPB in high number in surrounding ponderosa pine
		- USFS (Kurt Allen) & SDSU Mountain pine beetle Verbenone Trial
			* 1 ac plots with mature ponderosa pines near infested stands on state and federal lands
				+ Control plots and plots with Verbenone patches
				+ Applied patches before flight and ½ way through
			* Followed manufacture’s recommendations
			* In addition, funnel traps w/ attractant lures were placed at the center of each plot
			* No difference was found between any plots, all incurred mortality
	+ Pine engraver beetle
		- Populations on the rise
		- Increased mortality in ponderosa pine in Black Hills
		- May be due to MPB
	+ Locust borer
		- Becoming more commonly reported
		- Black locust increasingly being used as an ash substitute
		- Attacking young trees and community plantings, leading at times to 100% mortality to the stand within several years
	+ Redheaded ash borer
		- Increased calls due to EAB awareness
	+ Grasshoppers
		- Western part of SD
		- Newly planted shelter belts attacked and defoliated mid-season
	+ Ash leaf curl aphid (wooly ash aphid)
		- Reported across the state
		- Symptoms: curled leaves forming rosettes at end of ash shoots (terminal shoots in particular)
		- Usually cosmetic
	+ White pine blister rust
		- Discovered in relic limber pine stands in Custer SP
		- Canker now present on some stems and has killed trees in recent years
	+ TCD awareness on the rise
		- Several declining walnuts in SE examined but TCD not found
		- Yellow sticky survey didn’t collect any beetles
	+ Diplodia tip blight
		- Commonly reported on Austrian and ponderosa pines in shelterbelts or community plantings
	+ Pine wilt nematode
		- SW part of SD rapidly declining Austrian and Scotch pines
		- Many shelterbelts and community plantings have disappeared due to PWN
		- Now seen in Mugo pines in the SW
	+ Flooding
		- CO blue spruce and most other planted evergreens seriously affected
		- Blue spruce needles yellow/red and then shed by late summer 2010
		- Significant tree mortality expected from this years 2011 flooding
* Bob Cain touched on a couple forest health topics
	+ Remeasured Armillaria, comandra blister rust, and white pine blister rust permanent plots in Pest Trend Impact Plot System (SD, WY)
		- Wood blocks showed moderate amount of *Armillaria solidipes* (A. ostoyae)
	+ Did final assessment of “Hail Damage & Diplodia Shoot Blight” in Black Hills
		- Many trees didn’t die and are recovering
	+ Cooperated with APHIS setting up gypsy moth traps
	+ Spread awareness for exotic invasive species
	+ 1st MPB record in NE was published\*
		- Low level populations in Scotch and/or ponderosa pines
	+ Inspected donated firewood and did outreach in Black Hills NF during Operation Golden Coyote
	+ Ips spp. at low levels in SD and NE
	+ Assisted Canadian researcher for genetics project on MPB range
	+ WY and SD are experiencing epidemics of bark beetles of several kind
	+ Conducted aerial surveys of SD, WY, and NE [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r2/fh](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r2/fh)
	+ Assessed limber pine, lodgepole pine health and worked on aspen mortality write up
	+ Will continue evaluating Ips and MPB in NE, gypsy moth, bark beetles, DFB.
	+ Trainings will be offered:
		- Hazard Tree Assessment – DuBois & Cody WY – Oct 2011
		- Insect & Disease ID and Mgnt – TBA 2012
		- Cruiser Training (Defect/Decay Component) – TBA 2012
	+ Many new publications out
		- Please email for more information\*\*\*
	+ Emerald ash borer detection kits available to states that need more or were shorted earlier in the year (contact him directly)
	+ Bark beetle movement is north of Rocky Mtn NP – south of that is Ips
	+ New limited edition waterproof cover of Field Guide to Insects and Diseases of the Rocky Mountain Region (passed out 1 to each state)
		- This will be available as a pdf within the year
	+ Could this book be used in conjunction with the Disease of Trees GP book?
* Larry Cain
	+ Set up gypsy moth traps
	+ Each state set up 200 purple sticky traps for EAB
		- Ash trees in cemeteries have seemed to work best
	+ Conducting a bark beetle survey to find all species in WY
	+ Collaborating with firewood awareness
	+ This year at the state fair the theme is “Pest Detection/Forest Pests”
* Aaron Bergdahl
	+ Threats, lower diversity and lack of regeneration, over maturity of forests, impacts of summer flooding
	+ Getting a FH intern
	+ Conducted/coordinated EAB Preparedness Field Training
	+ Creating a invasives website for NDFS
	+ Looking at the EAB trapping effort over time (map in presentation)
* Jim Walla
	+ National Elm Trial
		- DED resistant elms on market
		- Promoting the increase in urban forestry mix
		- Danada Charm, New Horizon, Patriot, and Pioneer seemed to do the best so far, but results vary over the years
	+ X-Disease on Chokecherry inoculations
	+ Inventory of Juneberry: selected plants for field trials (entomosporium leaf and berry spot fungicide evaluations)
* Nicole Ricci
	+ Pine wilt has continued to move westward (11 counties now had positive finds in 2010)
	+ KFS/KDA are actively surveying black walnuts around the state for signs or symptoms of TCD
	+ KFS/KDA coordinating Pest Detection Workshops and training 1st detectors about EAB, TCD, and other common pests/diseases
		- As of 2010 EAB & TCD has not been found in KS
	+ The usual suspects have been seen around the state: Bagworms, pine related diseases, rhizosphaera on blue spruce, mites, pine sawflies, walnut caterpillars, anthracnose
	+ Oak wilt popping up in the NE and general oak decline seems to be occuring
* Mark Harrell, Laurie Stepanek, & Rachel Allison
	+ Mnt pine beetle has caused scattered mortality in the Wildcat Hills and Pine Ridge in ponderosa and scotch pines (both rural and urban environments)
		- Assisting landowners with cost-share program to treat valuable trees, remove infested trees, and thin/treat infested stands
	+ EAB/TCD free as of 2010
	+ New citizen monitoring program installed through Tree Pest Detector Program
	+ Scotch pine no longer recommended by agency due to pine wilt
	+ Diplodia blight continues to increase
	+ Bur oak shredding seen
		- Caused by Downy woodpeckers feeding on gall insects
	+ Bur oak decline has been more and more by both biological and environmental factors
	+ DED is still causing mortality to American elms
	+ Zimmerman pine moths continue to cause branch or tree mortality
	+ New publications by NFS:
		- Restrictions on moving walnut wood
		- Chlorosis of trees in eastern NE
		- Chlorosis of trees in western NE

**Business Meeting**

* Mark Harrell: Chair 2011 – led the business meeting Wednesday July 13, 2011
	+ Continued interest to update the Great Plains insect and disease publication
		- Comparisons are needed between the new RM book
		- Looking for gaps/limitations
		- April or July are tentative dates to move forward with what to include and who will do the edits and add new material
		- Aaron, Les, and Nikki formed a committee to lead this effort
	+ E-mail list serve to be updated by asking people if they would like to remain on the list
* **The 2012 meeting with be held in April this year**
	+ **Dates: Week of April 16th or the 23rd**
	+ Will be held in Kansas – looking at the KS City area for hotel options to reduce flight costs
		- Tours will be focused in the NE part of the state
	+ Exploring the idea of having the meeting available in a Webinar format
	+ NEW NOMINATIONS:
		- Nicole Ricci – 2012 Chair (by default from previous years position as secretary)
		- Aaron Bergdahl – 2012 Secretary (unanimously passes by all attendees)
* Meeting adjourned at 11:30am MT