



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

**Department of Forestry (0324)**

College of Natural Resources  
228 Cheatham Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061  
Phone: (540)231-6924 Fax:(540)231-3330  
Email: rvisser@vt.edu

**Virginia Tech IFO Co-op Meeting Minutes,**

**Date:** Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003

**Location:** Cheatham Hall, Virginia Tech

**Participants:**

John Montague (Georgia Pacific), Jason Thompson (FS, Auburn), John Hancock (MeadWestvaco), Jim Scronce (Caterpillar), Rick Meyer (FRA), Bill Anderson, JR Atkins and John Reinstettle (International Lumber), Denny Cornet (Contractor), Phil Araman and Matt Winn (FS, Blacksburg).

Tom Gallagher, Bob Shaffer, Rien Visser, Harold Burkhart, Shawn Baker, Tal Roberts, Scott Barrett, Tom Walbridge and Russell Meller (all Virginia Tech).

**Financial Report**

We continue to have great success in attracting additional funding to help leverage the coop dues that are being paid in. We still hope to attract some additional permanent members. Also, as a complement to our recent graduates, they have completed their Masters in a very timely fashion, which saves us money! We have been able to graduate six Masters and one PhD student through this program in the last two years.

<b>Industrial Forestry Operations Co-op</b>	<b>April 2002 - April 2003</b>
<i>Beginning balance</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>
Revenues	
Dues	\$12,000
Projects	\$18,500
subtotal	\$30,500
Expenditures	
Grad student	\$12,335
tuition	\$5,665
travel - vehicles	\$506
travel - M & L	\$169
conferences	\$0
telephone	\$390
misc.	\$535
subtotal	\$19,600
<i>Ending balance</i>	<i>\$25,900</i>

**Projects funded in association with the IFO Co-op: April 2002 -**

**April 2003**

\$11,000 Timber security project for Shawn's thesis  
\$15,000 Safety study from THAT'S Foundation  
\$5,000 Forest Service for Jeff's project on landslides  
\$25,000 EPA to fund new TMDL project  
\$56,000 Subtotal  
In the pipeline for next year:  
\$20,000 VDOF low impact harvesting  
***\$76,000 Total***

**Presentations made at the meeting:**

10:00 Welcome and Financial Update - *Tom Gallagher*  
10:15 Timber Theft Study - *Shawn Baker*  
10:40 Value Recovery in the Hardwood Operations - *Rien Visser*  
11:00 Cost and Benefits of Green Inventory - *Tom Gallagher*  
11:30 Professional Training, Roadside Timber Auctions: Cable Logging  
11:45 Lunch – Downtown Blacksburg  
1:15 Results from 2003 Logging Injury Study - *Tal Roberts*  
1:40 IFO Harvest System Allocation Model - *Rien Visser*  
2:00 SHARP Logger Training Program Update – *Scott Barrett*  
2:20 BMP's, TMDL's, VDoF, EPA.... – *Rien Visser*  
2:40 A Word from our Sponsors... new research initiatives?  
3:00 Coffee Break  
3:20 Open Forum: Operational Research Needs in 03/04  
3:50 Closing Remarks  
4:00 Adjourn Meeting

**Future Research**

A good discussion was had to help us shape future IFO coop research. The two main projects the group asked us to evaluate included:

- (a) Value Recovery project continuation. Hylton Haynes project showed current losses of approx 22% during the hardwood bucking decision making process – and the new research would address more closely what new practices can we put into place to avoid these losses, how much would they cost and how much can we realistically recover.
- (b) Work Force Survey. Attracting and retaining good workers continues to be a real problem for contractors. What the industry would like to know not just who makes up the workforce but also who stays in the workforce, who leaves and most importantly, why do they leave and where do they go.

These projects will be evaluated, additional funding sought, but most importantly we need to find appropriate students to work on this! I will keep the group updated.

Rien Visser