

R·O·C·K·Y·M·O·U·N·T·A·I·N

SECTION NOTES

AUGUST 2000



2000-01

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

by Stan Kavalinas

As I was sitting writing (or more correctly tapping together) the Message from the Chair, I was really wondering what I could say. In an ideal world it would be nice to put together something really inspiring like the Gettysburg Address (evidently Abe Lincoln put it together in a few minutes and didn't think it would mean much) but then I might get carried away and who knows where I'd end up (you know: five score and 1 year ago our CIF fore fathers...). So I'll just stick to the facts and provide you with an overview of where our Section is.

To date it has been a busy year for your Executive. Overall I think the item we have discussed the most is how we can best continue to serve our membership. Changes brought on by such things as AFTA joining the Section, changes to the *Forestry Profession Act* etc., have meant that this discussion has been timely.

The Program Committee is busy preparing for the next three Technical Sessions. The Committee has representation from the AFTA and ARPF as well as from the Executive Council and your general membership. On October 22nd the session will be held in Grande Prairie and the topic will be Riparian Area Management. Presented will be results of research that can be applied to fieldwork. There will also be an important business meeting in the morning where we will approve a new business plan and vote on changes to the Section's by-laws (the changes proposed are generally house keeping in nature). The business plan and changes to the section by-laws will be posted on our website fairly soon for your review and comments. If you don't have access to the Internet, please contact a member of your Executive and copies will be sent to you. The following Tech Session will be in January in Calgary and will be a jointly held with the ARPF and AFTA. The March session will be at the Shaw conference centre in Edmonton. The topics of

these two sessions are still being discussed and once again will be posted on our website when finalized.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of "A Strategy for Ground Rules Renewal". This paper is being circulated for review and comment by members of the ARPF as well as CIF-RMS. I think that all members of the CIF-RMS should review it. In looking at the document, I noted the section on "Incorporation of Research" where the system of ensuring that research is described as inadequate. Our October Tech Session is an attempt to present operational research to our members. So, maybe that is a role that the RMS can continue to assist in. CIF-RMS members, who do not belong to the ARPF, can forward their comments on to me via my e-mail address which is at the end of this message.

The RMS has recently become a partner in Alberta Environment's Firesmart Program. This program enables urban/wildland interface communities to plan and prepare for wildfire emergencies. In May, the CIF-RMS hosted a public session in Rocky Mountain House which dealt with this program. Our role is to help present information to the public on how to protect their communities as well as to educate them on fire in the environment. We are just getting our feet wet here but I think that there is a great opportunity for our organization.

Of final note, in case you have not already heard, the Society of American Foresters is looking at coming to Edmonton in 2004 to hold a joint national meeting with the CIF. This would be a big event. We have support from CIF national, the municipal and provincial governments and industry. I believe that the SAF is keen to come and a representative of the SAF will be touring the city hopefully this fall. The final word on hosting this event won't come until February. This will be exciting.

If you have any comments or concerns you can contact me at stan.kavalinas@gov.ab.ca or at (780) 422-4572.

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