August 28, 2009

2009 - State of the Association Report

History

The NCAPL is marking its second anniversary. The initial twelve loggers who chartered the group in mid - 2007 has grown to 78 logging members and 76 partner members. Our goal is a working group of at least 300 loggers and 100 partner members taking an active role in their business future. A new membership category called "5 star partner" was added in 2009 and will contribute significantly to dues income. Special considerations and services are granted to 5 star partners.

Mission

The NCAPL is a 501 C 6 non-profit that functions as a business league. A for-profit LLC was formed in 2009 to manage income unrelated to the primary mission of the NCAPL. Equipment for sale listings, endorsed insurance programs, waste oil pickups, bulk supply purchasing, and procurement consulting are offered at www.loggingservices.biz. Fostering partnerships with other organizations is a strength of the NCAPL. We continue to promote emerging biomass industries and are members of 25x'25.org, NC Association of Agricultural Energy Partners, and NC Sustainable Energy Association. Alliances with state forestry associations, landowner groups, regulatory groups, extension services and others continues to build. Business and policy relationships are the common elements upon which the NCAPL will grow its influence.

Officers and the Board of Directors

All officer and board member contact information is available at www.ncloggers.com. Our board recently approved a ratio of one board member per five logging business members.

Legislative

Our federal lobbying efforts supported the ALC agenda and three Washington DC trips were conducted in 2009. State legislative issues were minimal with most focus on the state's financial crisis. We sent strong signals not to remove the sales tax exemption provisions for loggers. One transportation bill was successfully worked to prevent financial penalties prior to proper informal hearings on weight and special hauling citations.

Training

The NCAPL has received a grant from the USFS to design a means to perpetuate the HVIP (Hardwood Value Improvement Program) in NC, VA and TN. See www.hardwoodvip.org. We anticipate working with those logging, forestry and extension groups in three states who would have a part in designing and delivering an ongoing program. We serve on a NC Department of Labor committee to update and publish the very successful and long running Logger Safety Checklist Booklet. The NCAPL arranged for one of its large partner members (paper mill) to donate all the paper needed to republish the booklet. The NCAPL also completed a DVD video training product on storm damage clean-up and safety in conjunction with Forestry Mutual. We have continued to discuss, refine and solicit input on a broad based forest equipment operator training program in conjunction with the NC Community College System. The operator program roll-out has been delayed due to the economy.

Other Accomplishments

We have also initiated the following activities in support of our logging membership:

Publishing a quarterly newsletter

Hosting a live, in-woods demonstration at least quarterly for our equipment partner members

Conducting resource assessment studies for county economic development commissions to support new markets on both brownfield and greenfield sites

Completing and maintaining a National Transportation Website through a THAT's Foundation grant