



**American Loggers Council
Quarterly Report to the States
June 28, 2014 – October 2, 2014**

The ALC Board of Directors has requested that a quarterly report be generated from the ALC office, highlighting the events and activities of the American Loggers Council. Our hopes are that you will use these reports to inform your members on how the American Loggers Council is working on their behalf to benefit the timber harvesting industry.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met three times during the quarter, two face-to-face meetings with the Board of Directors in Pella, Iowa and Harris, Michigan, and again on August 28 to discuss the proposed 2015 budget and review the position of Executive Vice President and proposed 2014/2015 service agreement for association management services.

Activities

The summer ALC Board of Directors meeting was held on July 25-26 in Pella, Iowa hosted by Vermeer. All committee reports were presented as well as updates on the work that was being done to secure cosponsors on the “Future Logging Careers Act,” H.R. 4590/S. 2335 and the “Right to Haul Act of 2014,” H.R.5201 introduced by Congressman Steve Southerland (R-FL) on July 24, 2014. The ALC was instrumental in getting both of these pieces of legislation introduced in the House and Senate.

The Forest Service published a proposal to amend its Watershed and Air Management directives to establish direction for management of groundwater resources on National Forest System (NFS) lands. The changes are described by the agency as “providing direction on the consideration of groundwater resources in agency activities, approvals, and authorizations; encouraging source water protection and water conservation; establish procedures for reviewing new proposals for groundwater withdrawals on NFS lands; require the evaluation of potential impacts from groundwater withdrawals on NFS resources; and providing for measurement and reporting for some larger groundwater withdrawals.” A link to the manual provisions can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/geology/groundwater.html>. ALC has worked with allied associations and members to provide comments to the groundwater directives.

The ALC was invited to send a Pennsylvania logging business owner as a witness before the full House Natural Resources Committee field hearing held on September 15, 2014 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on the proposed listing of the Northern Long Eared Bat and the potential impacts to the industry should the proposed listing be granted. Martin Melville, long time ALC participant testified, representing himself and the position of the American Loggers Council on the impacts of the proposed listing the NLEB to the timber harvesting industry.

The “logging careers” website is complete and can be accessed at www.americanloggers.org/careers. A downloadable brochure is located on the web site and hard copies of the brochure are available through the Forest Resources Association and soon all State and Regional logging associations. This project has been a joint effort between the ALC and the Forest Resources Association with Husqvarna sponsoring some of the costs associated with design and printing.

President Nelson has written three excellent “As We See It” editorials for the quarter which have been distributed to members and press as well as posted to the web site.

The Fall Board of Directors meeting and 20th Annual Membership Meeting were held September 25-27, 2014 in Harris, Michigan. Over 225 loggers, log truckers, sponsors and invited guests were in attendance at the meeting which included 4 technical sessions qualifying for continuing education credits for Michigan and Wisconsin loggers. An in-woods demo/logging tour was also a part of the program allowing all ALC sponsors the opportunity to showcase their equipment.

Membership

Plans are underway to visit West Virginia in October to meet with the West Virginia Forestry Association and some of their logger members and Board members to discuss bringing the state of West Virginia in to the American Loggers Council. Early discussions are also underway to try and set up the same type of meeting in Pennsylvania.

Travel

Travel in the 3rd quarter of 2014 included the July trip to Pella, Iowa for the Summer Board of Directors meeting and the trip to Harris, Michigan for the 20th Annual membership meeting.

Danny also traveled to Shreveport, Louisiana to attend the Louisiana Forestry Association/Louisiana Logging Council Annual meeting on August 27th.

With limited activity in Washington, DC due to August recess and now the mid-term election cycle upon us, there were no scheduled trips to Washington during this quarter. We are expecting activity to resume again following the November elections.