

Renewing the Renewable Industry: Driving Innovation In Forest Products

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Speaker Information

Mr. Ron Brown

President and Executive Director of the Agenda 2020 Technology Alliance

Agenda 2020 is an independent organization which identifies technology needs of the forest products industry and facilitates collaborative R&D programs to address those needs. It is co-located within the American Forest & Paper Association, in Washington, DC.

Ron has more than 30 years of experience in technical management in the paper industry. He held leadership positions in industrial research, engineering, and manufacturing with MeadWestvaco Corporation. He has served on the TAPPI Board of Directors and as president of the Board of Trustees of the Miami University Paper Science and Engineering Foundation. He received a B.S. from North Carolina State University and Ph.D. from the Institute of Paper Chemistry, which is now IPST at Georgia Tech. Recently he was appointed to the Secretary of Agriculture's Forestry Research Advisory Council.

Since joining Agenda 2020 in 2008, he has worked with companies, government agencies, and research institutions to advance the development of new technologies for the forest products industry. He led the preparation of the *2010 Forest Products Industry Technology Roadmap*.

Mr. John G. Cowie

Vice President and Director of Technology Management and Deployment for Agenda 2020 Technology Alliance

Agenda 2020 Technology Alliance is a non-profit research organization located in Washington, D.C. The Agenda 2020 Technology Alliance is a forest-products industry-led organization that focuses on innovation in forest products industry processes, materials and markets. Cowie is responsible for the technology portfolio management and strategic direction. Two of the major research initiatives Cowie is presently directing are the biorefineries and nanotechnology programs. Before joining AF&PA in 2007, Cowie was Vice President for the Copper Development Association in New York City where he was actively involved in the commercialization of new products and processes. Cowie was a consultant to Los Alamos National Laboratory while an adjunct professor of Materials and Science Engineering at the University of New Mexico, a senior research scientist for Olin Metals Research Laboratories in New Haven, Connecticut, and a materials research engineer at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory in Massachusetts. He has a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Ms. Kathleen M. Bennett

Principal—Kathleen M. Bennett Consulting, LLC

Ms. Bennett is an experienced business executive, offering extensive experience in manufacturing industry with concentration in strategy, government affairs, communications, environment, and business process development. She has special expertise in integrating regulations and other external expectations of industry operations with business and operational goals. Prior to establishing her independent consulting firm in 2008, she was vice president—government affairs, communications, and environment for Bowater Corporation, and prior to that was a vice president at Georgia-Pacific Corporation. For many years, she served as corporate vice president of environment, safety and health for Fort James Corporation, with operations throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. President Ronald Reagan appointed her Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Air and Radiation, a Senate confirmation position, where she led a series of major federal programs. She served as lead strategist for the paper industry on the Cluster Rules, combined US EPA air and water regulations profoundly

affecting the processes of pulping, bleaching, and papermaking. She was elected president and chairman of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry. She offers clients a unique perspective, bringing extensive business and process knowledge from the perspective of both the corporate executive and the federal and state regulator.

Beth Cormier

V.P. of Research, Sappi Fine Paper

Beth is Vice President of Research, Development and Innovation at Sappi Fine Paper North America. Beth has been with Sappi for 25 years where she has held positions in engineering, product development and marketing. She is a member of Tappi and Vice Chairman of the Agenda 2020 Technology Alliance for the forest products industry. Beth has a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Physics from the University of Maine, and an MBA from Boston University.

Mr. Mark T. Watkins

Senior vice president of MeadWestvaco Corporation

Currently, Mr. Watkins is responsible for corporate engineering, stewardship, sustainability, safety, health and environmental. Previously he served as vice president of technology for the Mead Corporation.

Mr. Watkins joined Mead in 1997 as vice president of Michigan operations for the Publishing Paper Division, where he had oversight of the Escanaba, Michigan paper mill and related woodland and sawmill operations. In 1999, he was promoted to vice president of human resources and organizational development for the newly combined Paper Division. Beyond his duties to ensure a successful reorganization of the division, he served as the lead management sponsor for the division's ERP implementation project. Mr. Watkins was appointed vice president of technology for Mead in 2000. As a member of the corporate executive management committee, his responsibilities included the functions of central research, central engineering and the corporate safety, health and environmental group.

Mr. Watkins began his career in the paper industry in 1977 when he joined Union Camp at its Franklin, Virginia mill as a process engineer. In 1989, Mr. Watkins was named operations manager of the Eastover mill and managed the start-up of a \$750 million expansion of the mill, including a new chemical recovery line, fiber line, market pulp dryer and paper machine. Mr. Watkins was promoted to resident manager of the Eastover mill in 1991 and served as the senior management representative for Union Camp in South Carolina. He served as a member of the division's multifunction management team, participating in strategic and business planning, as well as leadership in the division's total quality implementation and order management system redesign.

Mr. Larry N. Montague

President/CEO of TAPPI

Mr. Montague joined TAPPI as President/CEO on October 2, 2006. Before joining TAPPI, he spent nearly a decade with The Newark Group, an integrated global producer of 100% recycled paperboard and paperboard products with manufacturing and marketing operations in North America and Europe. Montague served as vice president, sales and marketing, responsible for \$185 million in sales. It's a position Montague achieved over a successful 27-year career in sales and management.

After earning his B.B.A. in Marketing from the University of Memphis (formerly Memphis State University) in 1977, Montague became an account supervisor for the Armour Dial Company. He joined the pulp and paper industry in 1980 as a market specialist in the Timber and Wood Products Division of Boise Cascade Corp., and later served as sales representative for the Corrugated Container Division. Montague then joined Republic Group Inc., where he first served as sales representative for Republic Gypsum (where he was named 1989 Sales Representative of the Year) and later as general manager of Republic's Corrugated Container Division. In 1991 he was named vice president sales and marketing, as well as G.M. of Republic Recycling, a post he held through 1997. Montague also served as point person

for Republic's Acquisition Team.

Larry is currently a member of AGEND2020, ASAE, ASPI, CESSE, GSAE, and serves on the boards of TAPPI, PIMA, TAPPI Foundation, and the Executive Advisory Board for NPT2 and TAW.