

MSR COUNCIL MATTERS

March 2009

Suspension of Membership Dues and Assessments in 2009

If you're still waiting for your 2009 MSR Lumber Producers Council dues invoice to arrive in the mail, you'll have a mighty long wait! The Board of Directors has determined that membership dues and assessments will NOT be collected for the 2009 calendar year.

We value your membership in the MSR Lumber Producers Council, and we'd like to show you that we are committed to working hard on your behalf to represent the interests of machine stress rated lumber producers in the manufacturing, marketing, promotion, utilization, and technical aspects of MSR lumber.

Given the financial situation of our members this year, we are confident that we can undertake the work of the Council using our existing resources. Acting prudently, we will continue to move forward through this economic downturn and focus on expanding the market for our members' products.

At the end of the year, the Board will decide how to proceed in 2010. In the meantime, please be sure that we have your contact information up to date, so that we can keep you informed of the work that **your** association is performing on your behalf this year.

A membership roster is included with this issue of our monthly newsletter. Please forward any questions or changes to info@msrlumber.org.

Thank you for your membership in, and support of, the MSR Lumber Producers Council!

Binational Softwood Lumber Council Update

We're pleased to report that our Board members in Vancouver – Steve Hardy, Craig Stuart and Griffin Jones – met with Cees de Jager of the Binational Softwood Lumber Council (BSLC) in February to discuss the MSR Lumber Producers Council and possible projects that would benefit lumber industry producers and end users. We are in the process of submitting proposals for five projects and our chances are good that we will receive funding for one or more.

The marketing projects on which our proposals focus include upgrading our website, providing online training, and participating in industry tradeshows and forming relationships with other groups, such as the Canadian Wood Council (CWC) and Forestry Innovation Investment (FII), in addition to our current relationship with the Structural Building Components Association (SBCA).

We'll be meeting with Cees very soon to review the proposals and we'll keep you posted on our progress.

Component Manufacturers Survey on MSR Use

Our **MSR Quick Poll** to component manufacturers on why they do, or do not, use MSR has generated 57 very pertinent responses. This information will help us help you as we re-craft our approach to the market so that customers and end users can more easily understand, identify and value the benefits of using MSR lumber. Please encourage the manufacturers with which you work to take the survey posted on www.msrlumber.org – **thank you!**