

BUSINESS

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Bigfork logger named logger of the year

MSFI REPORT

The Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative recently named Greg Cook Logging of Bigfork as the 2015 Logger of the Year.

The award was presented April 14 during the Minnesota Logger Education Program conference in Tower.

“Greg Cook Logging exemplifies the significant and unique contribution the state’s timber harvesters provide Minnesota’s economy, wildlife and healthy forests” Tim O’Hara, vice president of forest policy with Minnesota Forest Industries, said in a release.

Greg Cook started the logging business in the 1970s in the Bigfork area. In 2006, his son, Clinton, purchased the business from his father. Minnesota’s woods and timber harvesting were not unfamiliar ground to Clinton; he had worked alongside his dad since he was in the eighth grade.

The company has since grown with Clinton at the helm; his wife Tracy, managing office operations along with forester Carl Bleiler and the company’s long-time equipment operators: Jason Roach, Fred Pitzen, and Jason Tower.

“The Minnesota SFI Logger of the Year Award



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Roger Johnson, right, a forester with Molpus Timberlands and chair of the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee presents the SFI Logger of the Year Award to Clinton Cook of Greg Cook Logging.

should be defined by the characteristics of honesty, hard-work and motivation to continually improve,” Damon Polus, procurement forester with Sappi Fine Paper wrote on his nomination form. “Greg Cook Logging fits that definition perfectly.”

Greg Cook Logging has been a member of the Minnesota Logger Education Program since the program’s beginnings in 1997. Many of the company’s employees annually attend training to ensure safety on the job. The company has achieved recognition as Minnesota Master Loggers

since 1996.

Clinton has served on the board of directors of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, as well as on its transportation and membership committees.

“Greg Cook Logging represents perfectly the commitment to responsible forestry that is required to achieve logger of the year,” Kathy Abusow, SFI president and CEO of SFI Inc. said in a release. “The team’s significant contributions to a sustainable community, conservation, logger training and market access are what make them leaders.”

PCA reports Q1 results

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Packaging Corporation of America Monday reported a first quarter net income of \$91 million, or \$0.92 per share compared to last year’s first quarter net income of \$90 million, or \$0.92 per share.

Earnings included charges for special items for the Boise integration and DeRidder, La., mill restructuring of \$9 million. Excluding special items, first quarter 2015 net income was \$100 million, or \$1.01 per share, compared to first quarter 2014 net income of \$106 million, or \$1.08 per share. First quarter net sales were \$1.4 billion in both 2015 and 2014.

Excluding special items, the per share reduction in first quarter 2015 earnings compare to first quarter 2014 was driven by increased annual mill outage downtime and costs, lower white papers prices and mix, lower export

containerboard prices and higher costs for wood, medical, labor and benefits and depreciation.

These items were partially offset by increased volume, lower costs for energy, chemicals and purchased fiber and a state tax credit related to the investments at the DeRidder mill.

Lower earnings compared to PCA guidance of \$1.07 to \$1.10 per share for the first quarter were a result of extreme weather conditions, additional downtime to complete the DeRidder annual outage and lower prices from the retroactive price decrease by trade publications and mix changes in white papers.

“Our overall operations remained strong



Mark Kowlzan

with steady demand and price in both domestic containerboard and corrugated products,” PCA CEO Mark Kowlzan said in a release. “Despite lower prices and changes in mix, we were able to improve profitability and margins in white papers.”

Various factors contribute to a forecasted second quarter of 2015 earnings of \$1.03 per share, Kowlzan said.

“Looking ahead to the second quarter, we expect earnings improvement driven primarily from a full quarter of operations at the DeRidder mill which will increase containerboard production and lower mill costs,” Kowlzan said in a release. “We also expect seasonally higher containerboard and corrugated products shipments. Costs of annual mill outages, including amortization of repair costs, will be slightly higher than in the first quarter.”



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