

MESAF Executive Committee Meeting
March 28, 2008
212 Nutting Hall, UMaine Campus, Orono

Attendance: In person: Ken Laustsen, Jake Metzler, Bill Livingston, Spencer Meyer, Dave Field, Jack Lutz and Sue Aygarn (arrived at 9:21 AM). On the phone: Laura Audibert, Tony Filauro, Dave Maass, Gary Balhkow. Henry Whittemore was unable to participate in the meeting.

In Henry's absence, Jake opened the meeting at 9:00 AM with a brief anti-trust statement.

Ken added a few items to the agenda.

Secretary's Report

Laura had sent the minutes via email after the meeting in January. Dave M. motioned to accept the minutes as written, Spencer 2nd. Gary abstained from voting since he was not at the last meeting. Otherwise, unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report

Bill emailed the Treasurer's report to the group on March 27, 2008.

\$500 was given to the Student Chapter for attendance at the NESAF Winter Meeting in NY, to meet the intent of the Marc Johnson Scholarship.

Bill sent in \$150 to reserve a table for MESAF at the Maine Woods Expo in April.

MESAF was not asked to reimburse any fall meeting speakers for their travel expenses.

Bill reported that the checking account currently has a balance of \$6,733.67 and the savings CD has a balance of \$4,843.16. The Forestry Awareness Program has a balance of \$2,219.52.

Gary motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, Dave F. 2nd. Gary wants us to look at the increased meeting registration fees vs. losing non-member participation. The group earlier concluded that the \$50 differential didn't discourage too many non-members from attending. The Report was unanimously approved.

NESAF Update

Spencer and Ken reported that 450–500 folks attended the NESAF/NYSAF meeting in NY.

Ken has contacted some individuals to write sections on forestry in Maine for the History Project.

Scott and Maggie Machinist from VT will be the new editors for the News Quarterly beginning in June. They are very excited about the position, Brad is relieved.

The next NESAF Exec Comm meeting will be on June 19 in Portland. Spencer mentioned that they were missing the Maine state report from FY07. Spencer put something together on Gary's behalf.

The NESAF Nominating Committee needed names for the Maine Rep. position. Spencer put his name in to run again. He enjoys serving in this capacity.

The Forest Science Coordinator, Jim Harding, put on a good poster session at the winter meeting. Spencer reported that the new easels held up just fine.

National has decided to offer the Leadership Academy this spring on short notice. It will be held on April 26-29, 2008 in Maryland. NESAF is sponsoring Spencer to attend. NESAF will also pay the registration for a Maine person to attend. The group decided that there is not enough time to try to find someone to go at this point. The airfare, room and board cost is estimated by Ken to be \$1200-\$1500.

(Sue arrived at 9:21 AM).

Jim Harding is wondering if a student should be a member of the NESAF Exec Comm. If anyone has any thoughts on this, please contact Jim or Spencer.

2008 Field Meeting Updates

Conservation Easements—Jake and Spencer.

Jake and Spencer reported that their meeting will focus on the Katahdin Forest Mgt easement. They have asked Marcia McKeague to explain the benefits to the company, the constraints and how it fits into their business model. They have also enlisted Tom Rumpf of TNC to speak on their evolving strategy. Matt Polstein and perhaps Bill Patterson will also be speakers. Jake will speak from the enforcement perspective. Matt has offered a riverside lunch, but the cost hasn't been determined yet. Jake and Spencer need to finalize the order of the stops.

The tour will be opened up to members first, likely be sending the announcement to members a week or two ahead of non-members. Reservations will be on a first paid—first served basis. The tour will be limited to one Cyr bus, roughly 35- 50 people.

Jake and **Spencer** will let Laura know more of the details soon. They are looking at the first week in June for the tour. The target date to get Laura the materials for the mailing of the chair letter and meeting announcements is **April 18**.

Biomass and Silviculture – Sue and Jack

Jack found an appropriate Journal of Forestry Article that will be required reading for tour participants. Sue and Jack are planning on two field stops. One is with a conventional mechanized crew putting up tree-length biomass. The other is a cut-to-length operation that is also putting up biomass. Both sites will likely be on P&C ground.

Jim Contino will be hosting the tour of the Verso mill, which will take ~ 1.5 hours. He will also discuss energy credits and the like. A Thursday or Friday afternoon is best for Jim.

Don Mansius, who is on the Biomass Stakeholders group will present a version of the state's biomass guidelines.

The tour will likely be done with a small bus or vans. The liability question came up on van rental. SAF will insure van riders, but only if all of them are SAF members. More information is needed on the vehicle issue. *(who is checking into this?)*

Jack and **Sue** will shoot for Friday, **May 30** for their field meeting.

Nature-based Tourism – Dave F. and Dave M.

This tour will be in the Kingfield, Stratton, Bigelow area. One focus will be on the Huts and Trails system. One hut is already built.

Dave and Dave will likely contact Steve Swatling to talk about the reaction within the Bigelow Reserve. The Appalachian Trail may also be factored in. Other ideas are the many sporting camps on Flagstaff Lake and the construction of mountain bike and/or ATV trails in the area. There are also some deer wintering area/hiking trail issues that may be worth investigating.

This tour will likely be held in August or September, when more of these trails are being used. **Dave** and **Dave** will have some preliminary info ready for the April 18 deadline.

They will also look into vans vs. buses.

The group decided that the cost for all three field meetings should be the same. Van/bus costs will be checked out for each trip and the cost set based on this info. The 2006 and 2007 spring field meetings were priced at \$35 for members. **We** will confer via email on this issue.

(Dave M. left the conference call at 10:20 AM)

2009 Election Process

The Maine Division Nominating Committee (**Gary** and **Todd**) must get all the Maine election materials to Spencer by August 15.

Gary and Todd Caldwell form the Nominating Committee. They met recently to figure out how to get members to serve in leadership positions within the division. Gary was reminded by an older member that there are older folks out there who would like to serve and are just waiting to be asked.

Gary requested \$700 for a mailing dedicated to soliciting members willing to serve. He and Todd plan to send a printed wedding-like invitation (no doilies...) to members with a postage-paid return card where members can indicate in which position they would consider serving. Sue asked if a line indicating interest in serving with the Forestry Awareness Program could be added.

Gary said they would do the mailing very shortly if approved.

Spencer motioned to use \$700 of the Leadership Academy budget line item for Gary's mailing. Gary 2nd. Unanimous approval. The Leadership Academy line item will be reduce to \$1300.

(Spencer left the meeting at 10:37 AM).

Licensing Task Force

Gary reported that the board has some new appointees and now has a quorum. Gary attended the first meeting and the board was able to conduct business.

Gary feels that SAF's involvement has had an effect. The Task Force relayed that was the process of how appointees are made, needs to be understood by more than just a few people. Ron Lovaglio has been very helpful to this end. Gary mentioned that Don Mansius is now on the task force.

Deleted: board

The TF is intending to have a MESAF person involved in the future and to keep a list of potential board appointees available for submission. He expects that the TF will remain active at least through the 2008 Fall Meeting.

2009 NESAF Winter Meeting in Portland

Ken reported that the Holiday Inn by the Bay has been booked for March 18-20, 2009. We will get the prevailing gov't rate of roughly ~\$90 per night.

Other groups invited to sponsor with us are the Maine Chapter of the Wildlife Society (decision pending), SWOAM (yes), Northeast Pest Council (decision pending) and the NE Chapter of International [Society of Arboriculture \(NE-ISA\)](#). The latter has declined to sponsor, but is willing to provide speakers.

Deleted: Aboriculturists (or something like that... sorry)

Many volunteers are still needed.

NESAF Bylaw Referendum

Ken reported that all NESAF members will be receiving a ballot in late April asking to revise the NESAF bylaws to allow electronic balloting. The Maine Division bylaws will also need to be revised for this purpose. Ken has made the revision already and it will also need approval by Maine members on the April ballot. Ken sent Henry a copy of the proposed Maine revision.

Maine Woods Expo

The Expo will be held at the end of April. Ken, Bill, Tony and Jake will help man the booth. Bill will request national's large display board. The shipping will cost ~\$120. The group will have The Greatest Good DVD playing and they may have a scavenger hunt (someone needs to contact Pat Maloney). Sue donated some compasses from the Forestry Awareness Program.

Committee Reports

Policy

Dave Field reported that he had sent out an email to the group earlier, explaining the current situation with the state's dept. consolidation plan. Ken mentioned that the DOC had held a retreat on the subject, but he doesn't know the results. Dave's general recommendation is to keep on top of any developments and to send him any details if we hear something. We should watch out for forestry interests.

Forestry Awareness

Bill reported that the Dept. of Education's grant RFP is due May 9, 2008. The RFP has a short timeline. MESAF is named as a partner in the proposal, along with other groups and 20-30 teachers are involved.

Sue reported that MESAF is a sponsor of the Envirothon program. We are helping train Teams through our Forestry Education Network (ForEd). Foresters have worked with 2 or 3 schools so far. Some folks attended the Unity Forestry Day where they saw the training that the teams will need and they really need our help.

The ForEd is working on getting volunteers to activities such as the China Forestry Day, Litchfield Forestry Day, Gorham Forestry Day and the Southern Maine Water Day. More foresters are beginning to get involved.

There will be a Project Learning Tree workshop in April for [resource](#) people. So far 15-18 folks have signed up. Call Sue or Pat Maloney if you are interested in attending.

Deleted: land use

Communications

Tony submitted Maine news items to Brad W. recently for the next Quarterly. Tony wants to meet again with Kevin Miller of the Bangor Daily News. He usually builds on the themes of the upcoming field meeting themes.

Student Chapter

In Katie's absence, Bill read her email report (*below*).

I was planning to attend the meeting tomorrow, but something has come up last minute. I just wanted to provide you with the student chapter report.

The calendar project was very successful this year! We are still producing some for the new students accepted to the forestry department. Tonight at our meeting we picked out themes for our 2009 and 2010 editions. The 2009 theme will revolve around non-traditional forest products and 2010 will be an aerial theme of Maine's landscape. By the end of May letters will be sent to our contact list looking for donations for our project.

During Spring Fling, SAF will host our second annual pie eating contest. We will also be fielding a volleyball team. For our Maine Day project, we are looking into building two picnic tables (with help of the FPS) for Nutting.

On Thursday April 10th at 5pm, Mike Maguire will be doing an evening lecture for our group about his "typical day at work" and careers with the forest service. All are welcome to attend.

We just held nominations for the 2008-2009 academic year. As soon as the new officers are known, they will be taking over their responsibilities with the help of current officers.

Please let me know if there are any upcoming events for MESAF that I can help with.

Other

Bill reported that Jim Runyan hasn't audited the MESAF books yet. **Ken** offered to do it right away.

Tony suggested that for our spring meeting registrations, we ask registrants if we can list their name, town and contact info on our website to facilitate carpooling to the meetings. **Laura** will incorporate this into the registration forms.

Jake mentioned that we had to cancel the bus to the NE/NYSAF meeting due to lack of interest, at least among paying riders. The group suggested we keep the idea open for the future, as gas prices rise.

Adjourn

Dave Field motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 AM, Jake 2nd.

Submitted by
Laura Audibert