

**Maine Division Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
August 3, 2009
204 Nutting Hall, UMaine Campus, Orono**

Attendance: In person: Bill Livingston, Jake Metzler, Sue Aygarn and Wil Mercier. Ron Lemin arrived at 9:48 AM and Kelsey Troy arrived at 1:00 PM. On Skype: Laura Audibert and Henry Whittemore. On the phone: Dave Maass and Katie Cousins.

Jake opened the meeting at 9:10 AM with an anti-trust statement. There were no changes to the agenda.

Secretary's Report

Laura had emailed the minutes around earlier. Dave M. motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Wil 2nd, unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report

Bill issued three checks from the Forestry Awareness Program (FAP) account for the Envirothon and two checks from the main MESAF account. He also paid the NESAF hotel bill.

The NESAF meeting account has an ending balance of \$15,273.82. There are still three outstanding items to be received. The current amount to be split 50/50 with NESAF is \$12,873.82. Our anticipated share is ~\$6500, when all the outstanding monies are received. Bill indicated that this amount is higher than usual.

Tracking income and expenses from the Spring Meetings is a bit complicated due to the on-line process. All the payments for both workshops were lumped into one check from the on-line company. The company deducts its fees directly from the check.

The Northeast Forest Health Workshop had ~50 registrants for two days. The revenue was \$3654 and the expenses were \$4275. MESAF subsidized its member's registrations for an amount of \$210 and CFRU and UM split the balance of the net loss. The on-line fee for their service was \$310.14, which Bill feels is high. Bill felt the meeting was well worth the MESAF subsidy since it exposed our members to folks from other geographic areas that we would not have had at our regular meetings.

The GIS workshop was successful as well. The online payments and cash taken in totaled \$1970 and we earned \$80 above our expenses. Bill put the mailing expenses of \$349.94 against the meetings.

The group agreed that the on-line credit card service is convenient. Maybe in the future Laura can be given access to the registration list so she can keep track and prepare the needed registration materials quicker.

For the Fall Meeting we will go the traditional way, without credit card payments. **Bill** will check with PayPal for costs and the information they would provide. **He** and **Laura** will decide if PayPal is a worthwhile option for the future.

National Meeting Foresters Fund Request

Jake received a request from national for a donation of an auction item from our division. Dave motioned that we spend up to \$100 for donate a container of maple syrup or a gift certificate for a Christmas wreath. **Jake** will look into getting either of the above. Wil 2nd. Unanimous approval.

<Henry signed out at 9:30 AM>

Wonder of Wood Expo

It will be held on Saturday, September 19 at USM all day. The cost for a basic booth (6' x 8' table) is \$325. Jake wondered if it was worth it for us to be represented. Bill will already be there for the University. Dave said he could man the booth all day. Dave felt that foresters should be represented, but Jake said it has been poorly attended in the past.

<Ron arrived at 9:48 AM>

The group decided we should attend. Bill suggested offering souvenirs to attract kids. The group decided to give out the SAF bumper stickers, "Trees are the Answer." **Ron** will get his supply to Jake. Jake will try to get more folks to help out. Sue will help organize volunteers, but cannot attend in person. She suggested we need intriguing ideas to attract kids. She has some books and compasses and will confer with Bill on more ideas.

<Katie came back on at 10:00 AM>

Spring Meetings

Wil sent around his evaluation results via email prior to the meeting. He reported that 100% of the attendees learned something new. Wil wants to follow up with another workshop next year. Maybe have 2-3 rooms available with more hands-on technical sessions.

Wil also mentioned that there was an individual who claimed to have sent in his registration info and check, but Laura never received it. Laura mentioned that her mail route has been having delivery problems over the recent years and mail disappears. **Wil** will contact to have him look for his cancelled check and if he hasn't received it, issue us another one. We are willing to drop the issue if it is a hassle.

Wil has the name badges left over from the meeting. He will hang on to them. **Wil** will mail Laura the CD of GIS presentations to post on the website.

Licensing Task Force Report

Tabled since Ken is absent.

Communications Committee Report

Tony indicated earlier that he had nothing to report.

NESAF Update

Jake read through the list of items Spencer had given him. Ken is working on the History Project which is due in 2009. The executive committee members discussed insurance company procedures.

The nominations for NESAF and Division positions are due by August 28, 2009. If we do not get our materials in to NESAF by then, we will not be able to do the electronic voting.

The Working Groups are not active, with the exception of the Silviculture Working Group chaired by David Hall (MESAF member). He is re-energizing the committee. He had one field tour already and is planning another for the Dartmouth College Grant and Grafton Notch on September 11-12, 2009. **Laura** will post this info on the MESAF website. Ron mentioned that Deb Boyer, who handles the NESAF website is good at mass emailing notices.

A Maine member submitted a request directly to NESAF to have NESAF co-sign loans for small loggers to purchase equipment. This item was not brought up for consideration.

NESAF is looking into public outreach efforts. Spencer suggested they contact Sue and Bill to explain their FAP work. NESAF is trying to decide where to go at their level.

Pete Howland is the current chair and only member of the NESAF Policy Committee. Pete is looking for more members. He has been handling the draft statements. Peter Greeno helped him email the recent High-Grading statement to the membership.

Forest Policy Issues

- **NESAF Request for Information**
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- **Update to Maine's current document (Goals and Standards)**

Jake mentioned that Tony feels this document should be updated. Jake asked who the audience is for this document. He feels we should wait for a NESAF initiative. He suggested that "Good Forestry in the Granite State" may be a model. Our Goals and Standards was started in 1982 and published in 1989. Dave M. suggested funding a grad. student do a literature search. Someone else mentioned that a stipend would be a better way to go. Bill suggested that this document should be a series of "wiki pages", where the content could be continually updated.

Jake wants to tie this document work into the Fall Meeting. What other topics should be added to the document? Ron thinks that Ken's work in the history document includes this information. Sue suggested a roundtable group.

Fall Meeting

Laura suggested a 1.5 day meeting. Day 1 would have speakers on the different topics, Day 2 would have working groups on each topic.

Other suggested topics to be added to the document are certification and conservation (under Regulation), invasive plants (under Forest Protection), forestry workforce. It was suggested to include ethics in all sections. Forest technology should also be added, as well as infrastructure, which would be included in the workforce section.

The location for the Fall Meeting has been changed to Nutting Hall, since the Corbett Business Building was assigned to an organization who would pay for its use.

Katie suggested inviting Barry Burgason, he can speak on multiple topics. Jake wants to focus on wildlife issues. Katie also suggested inviting the Wildlife Society folks. We will send their membership a flyer as well.

After much discussion, it was decided that the meeting title would be The Regulated Forest (or something similar) with four topics:

LURC and the CLUP—Henry suggested doing this one first; Maybe get Catherine Carroll.

Taxation—Tree Growth—ask Steve Schley from MFPC, Andy Shultz (MFS) on gov't incentives.

Wildlife—Salmon listing, eagle de-listing, deer wintering areas

Workforce—logger availability and trends—Sandy Brawdars, Sen. Troy Jackson workforce issues, rep. form Susan Collins' office—H2B issue

The speakers should fit their talk to the Goals & Standards document. They should address a historical overview, today's issues and the future trends. Bill suggested having each speaker submit a one page summary with links.

Student Chapter

Kelsey Troy, the new Chair rejoined the meeting after lunch at 1:00 PM. She reported that the Chapter has sent out its letter to businesses for 2010 calendar submissions. The theme is New England Aerial Photography. Anna Schwarz is chairing this committee. Jeremy Wilson is still the Chapter Advisor.

Bill reported that the Fall Envirothon Field Day is September 17, 2009 at the University Forest and student help is needed.

Fall Meeting (cont.)

Laura needs to do the minutes ASAP and send them around so task assignments can be made. Nutting is reserved from October 13 and meals will be figured out later. **Jake** will do a brief outline of the meeting and send it around.

2010 Elections

The candidate info is needed by August 28, 2009. Jake has some names for the various MESAF positions. We also need to submit names for the NESAF awards. This will be discussed at the September 11, 2009 MESAF Exec Comm meeting. All should review the award information on the NESAF website. No one had nominee ideas yet. Jessica Leahy had expressed interest in a Member-at-Large position.

Forestry Awareness Committee

Sue reported that MESAF had donated an additional \$1000 to the Envriothon for team transportation. The total expenses were \$1463 of the \$1500 allocated.

The FAP participated in a Forestry Field Day at Bangor Christian School. There were 120 kids and 5 forestry presenters on PLT topics. The group planted 7 trees, one for each grade.

The Leonard's Mills Days were held and we had 3 foresters there doing compass work and tree ID. The group reached roughly 300 kids. MESAF has many opportunities to reach out to kids, but the timing is not always good for foresters.

The Maine Outdoor Heritage Grant was accepted. The Maine Tree Foundation is trying to get schools to have their own School Forest. Maybe 10 schools will join in this year and learn from schools that already have one.

The PLT teacher tours are in progress. Many foresters, both members and non-members are involved. The cost per teacher is \$650, they will have 70 teachers participating this year. The group figures that ~5000 students will be impacted by those 70 teachers. MESAF supports this effort by donating \$500 to Maine Tree. Sue feels that this is a great project and we should donate more if we have the funds.

The China School Forest Day is coming up. Bill's Envirothon Forestry Day is also coming up soon. In 2008 they had 80 kids participating.

Bill reported on the Lewiston/Auburn Dept of Education grant for high school teachers. There was a workshop in June and 29 teachers attended. There is also the Lewiston Tree Board which includes foresters Dave Griswold and Jay Braunscheidel. They are encouraging the schools to put their collected data toward Stewardship Plans for their forests. Bill suggested working with juniors and seniors at the Lewiston Regional Technical Center to develop the management plans. **Bill** will pursue this. Bill filled out a 30 page website of info for the DOE. There are still two more years of funding under this grant. There is \$90,000 available for this coming school year. There are five schools participating.

We usually allocated \$500/yr for Envirothon. Jake asked if we should allocate more than \$750 for the teacher tours. Bill suggested proposing an increase at the Fall Business Meeting. **Bill** and **Jake** will work on the budget for the Fall Meeting.

Ron submitted the Poster Contest and FAP as a HSD Success Story. Ron gave out copies of his submission. Ron and Carol Redelsheimer are already attending the national meeting in Orlando, FL during the last week of September. Ron requested that MESAF sponsor Sue to attend if we win. A plaque and award are given out to the winners. The price for plane fare, hotel and registration is \$1100. Maybe NESAF can split the cost with us. Bill suggested using the \$1000 budgeted for the Leadership Academy and unused to put toward this HSD travel. Ron suggested waiting on the budget change until he gets info on the process. The \$425 registration fee holds until September 19, 2009.

Other

The next ExecComm Meeting is Friday, September 11, 2009 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. It may be at the Buchannan House, **Bill** will set it up. Lunch will not be provided.

Bill mentioned that MESAF would again support the UM student social schedule sometime in September. The approved budget includes \$250 for this purpose.

Adjourn

Katie motioned to adjourn, Wil 2nd. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Submitted by
Laura Audibert