

**Maine Division Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
April 26, 2010
Buchanan Alumni House, UMaine Campus, Orono**

Attending: Jake Metzler, Dave Maass, Jessica Leahy, Bill Livingston, Spencer Meyer, Tony Filauro, Don MacKay. On Skype: Dan Simonds, Laura Audibert. Missing: Sue Aygarn, Katie Cousins, Ron Lemin, Ken Laustsen, Kelsey Troy.

Dave opened the meeting at 9:10 AM with an anti-trust statement.

There were no changes to the day's agenda.

The March 19, 2010 meeting minutes presented via email. Spencer motioned to accept them as presented, Jessica 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report

Bill passed out and emailed out a copy of the Treasurer's Report. The primary activities since the March meeting were the \$300 web site payment, the Field Meeting mailing costs (allocated between the executive committee and field meeting line items) and the \$600 Student Chapter award. Laura noted that some of the mailing expenses (postcard postage) may need to be transferred from the FAC budget since they are directly attributable to that program). **Laura** and **Bill** will work on the proper allocation of these expenses.

No new activity has occurred in the FAC account.

Laura will get clarification from Bill on the budget and expenses for the student travel to the NESAF meeting. It appears this item may have been recorded twice. The following is an amendment with information from Bill (April 28, 2010) on the NESAF student expenses.

\$300 from the Marc Johnson Award allocation to support Jacob Hicks and Anna Schwartz to attend the NESAF meeting.

\$300 from the Student Travel allocation to reimburse room costs for Emma Schultz, Jacob Hicks, and Anna Schwartz to Attend the NESAF meeting (total hotel costs for the 3 were \$600).

The ending amounts in the accounts were: \$7,096.4 in checking, \$4,970.40 in savings, and \$3,513.32 in the FAC account. The total funds in MESAF accounts is \$15,580.12.

Spencer motioned to accept the minutes as amended per the above changes, Jake 2nd. Unanimous approval.

NESAF Update

Carol Redelsheimer, our District VI council rep. sent an email to the NESAF group relative to a letter sent to state Governors from the Coalition of National Resource Societies which was co-signed by Michael Goerghan of SAF. Maine ExComm members found out through The Wildlife Society (TWS), not from SAF. Carol inquired at the national level and it appears to be an innocent oversight on national's part not to have informed SAF divisions of the letter. Spencer doesn't feel it is a big deal that we were left out, but we lost opportunity to follow up

with the Governor. Bill feels that the states should be the ones contacting Governors and that the national office should deal at the national level. Spencer suggested contacting TWS about co-sponsoring future programs.

Forestry Awareness Committee Report

Sue was not available, but she sent an email indicating that she has received 50 postcards back from our recent mailing. Thirty folks signed up to help, 20 declined, from ~900 letters sent out. A few more cards continue to trickle in. Bill suggested to have additional postcards available at our field meetings to encourage folks to sign up. The group concluded that mass mailings are not a very effective way to recruit volunteers. It was suggested that Sue should make an additional pitch at the Fall Meeting in October.

Communications Committee Report

Tony will not do his periodic follow-up with the Portland Press Herald and BDN environmental writers at this time. He will pursue these contacts in person before the Fall Meeting. He does however plan to notify them of our field meeting plans. The group discussed inviting Andy Kekacs to come to our field meetings and perhaps write an article for his publication. Don mentioned that he does not want a reporter at the KI field meeting, due to landowner concerns.

Tony does send meeting summaries to the NESAF News Quarterly. Spencer suggested that for each meeting we have, the Members At Large should contact an attendee and offer them free registration to prepare a short (~2 paragraph) summary and a relevant photograph to be published somewhere. **Tony** will do this for the Vernal Pool Workshop on May 7, 2010. Bill could write the attendee a refund check after the meeting.

Student Chapter Report

Kelsey Troy was not available to present any information. Bill mentioned that Jacob Hicks has been elected as Chapter Chair for the 2010-2011 school year. **Bill** will forward Jacob's email address to Laura for inclusion in future meeting notifications.

Travel Expense Proposal

Dave suggests that MESAF cover the expenses for ExComm members to travel to our periodic meetings for a trial period of two fiscal years. We will see if this policy helps to recruit ExComm members. Spencer indicated that NESAF currently does this and when the budgeted travel funds are spent for the year, that's it. Spencer suggested paying the federal mileage reimbursement rate, but not food or lodging. All agreed that the Division Manager situation is different and should be handled separately. Whether ExComm members choose to submit reimbursement claims is up to each individual.

Dave motioned that a line item be added to the 2011 MESAF budget beginning in October 2010 to reimburse Maine Division Executive Committee members for mileage expenses incurred for travel to ExComm meetings for two-year trial period. Mileage will be reimbursed at the prevailing federal rate and there will be a cap of \$2,000 annually. Spencer 2nd, with the amendment that if a member's employer funds their travel expense, they will not be entitled to reimbursement from MESAF. The group approved the motion unanimously. The issue of fair distribution of the travel funds will be addressed later. **Bill** will add a line item to the 2011 budget and **Dave** will write a formal proposal to be presented at the annual Fall Business Meeting in October. It was clarified that this is not an incentive to become an

ExComm member, but the reduction of a barrier to membership. It should be used when teleconferencing does not work.

Division Manager Contract

Dave added an item to the Division Manager contract allowing for reimbursement of mileage, hotel and meals for travel to ExComm meetings. The reimbursement will be at the prevailing federal rate. The contract can be amended annually. Dave signed the contract and has it on file. Jake motioned to accept the amendments to the contract, Don 2nd, unanimous approval.

Field Meetings

Vernal Pool Workshop

Jessica reported that based on Laura's registration spreadsheet, 46 folks were currently registered for the workshop. Two Forest Guild members, 31 SAF and 13 non-members. Katie will be doing the speaking at the meeting, since Jessica needs to leave early. Katie and Jessica will finalize the workshop with Rick M. next week. Snacks and drinks will be provided for the afternoon. Jessica allowed that a few extra registrants may be able to attend, depending on travel arrangements. She and Laura will handle these details.

Baldwin Area

Jessica has not done additional work on the Baldwin meeting.

KI Area

Don has secured the Brownville Alumni Hall for the indoor session, for \$90/day. He is lining up the speakers. The landowner is okay with the tour spots. Lance Case and Ian Pryor will be the indoor speaker and Lance and other Huber foresters will handle the field work. Don will arrange the morning speakers, Katie will handle the afternoon folks. Vendors may also be asked to speak. Don feels that the tour should be limited to 25 registrants, so each person can have a better learning experience with the equipment. Don will continue to look into travel arrangements. Spencer noted that the school bus we rented in '07 cost \$375. Typically the cost of the transportation, lunches and snacks are built into the cost. Laura will email Don a copy of a meeting flyer so he can fill in the necessary info for this workshop.

This workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, June 29, 2010. The insurance piece has not been addressed yet, but Jessica gave Don the contact info for Debbie Adams (443-921-2590). It appears that the workshop venue receives the insurance certificate. Don indicated that the landowner would need a copy as well.

Laura suggested that for the Baldwin meeting, MESAF hire a Cyr bus to leave from Old Town and pick up "northern" foresters and others along the way to Baldwin. Then this bus could be used for the field trip.

Laura inquired about the mailing notices for these meetings. The group decided it would be best to send an email notice to SAF members with an email address and a paper copy in the mail to those who don't. If they have an email address, they would not get a paper copy. Laura will also send the information to the Maine Forest Service to be sent out to their Stewardship Forester email list. This would be the only notice to non-members, since the workshops have smaller attendance limits.

Laura indicated that **May 21, 2010** is the **deadline** for getting the KI meeting flyer information to her for credit assignment and mailing.

Details for the Baldwin meeting will be finalized at the next ExComm meeting in early August.

Fall Meeting Topic

The Fall Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 19, 2010** at the **Wells Conference Center** on the **UMaine** campus in **Orono**.

Dave suggested “collaborations” as the topic. It could have some esoteric content, but with a practical take home message at the end. After much discussion, it was decided that the topic will be something like, “Forging Relationship...” and speakers will be contacted and asked to specifically address five things: the Challenge, Parties Involved, Process, Solution and 3 Lessons Learned. The possibility of break-out groups may be pursued. **Dave**, **Don**, **Katie** and **Jessica** will work out the details of this meeting and will share ideas with the rest of the ExComm as needed. By **August 2, 2010**, they will have a firm idea and begin lining up speakers.

Jessica motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 AM, Spencer 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Submitted by

Laura Audibert