

**Maine Division Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
July 15, 2011
204 Nutting Hall, UMaine, Orono
Amended January 24, 2012**

Attending: Wil Mercier, Bill Livingston, Kris Hoffman, Katie Cousins, Jessica Leahy, Laura Audibert (on Skype). Sue Aygarn arrived at 11:30 AM.

Absent: Dan Simonds, Dave Maass, Tony Filauro, Mallory Bussell.

Katie opened the meeting at 9:14 AM with a brief anti-trust statement.

Katie asked to remove the Nomination for new MAL item from the agenda. She mentioned that she spoke with Bob Chandler, Jr. but he declined. She did not contact Bart Plourde or Frank Cuff. Jessica and Kris indicated to Katie that they are comfortable handling the MAL workload themselves.

Minutes of May 6, 2011

Wil asked that on the NESAF Update, 2nd paragraph, Jonathan *Nute* be changed to Jonathan *Wood*. Katie motioned to accept the minutes as amended, Wil 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report

Bill passed out the report and emailed it to Laura. Bill noted that the Membership Dues income is currently \$1881, down from the \$2200 budget. We are not likely to see much more coming in at this point. The Executive Committee Travel has only expended \$47.18 (Laura's Fall 2010 Meeting motel) of the \$2500 budget. The group concluded that the balance will likely not be spent.

The budgeted transfer amount to the Forestry Awareness Committee is \$5000. To date only \$2000 has been transferred. Bill suggested the topic be addressed when Sue arrived later in the morning.

Bill is looking for ways to cut back spending since we have been donating quite a bit to various programs.

The Student Professional Development item of \$500 has not been spent, although two students did attend CLP training. **Bill** will check with Mallory to see if/when they will submit their expenses.

Next year is the 10th anniversary of the accident involving the migrant workers at John's bridge on the Allagash. Our account holds the \$939.48 collected for the memorial by the Student Chapter. Ron Lemin would like to put the memorial at a North Maine Woods gate, since it is not likely that the Allagash Wilderness Waterway would allow one. Mallory thought this was a great idea. Ron will check with 7 Islands or North Maine Woods to get permission for the memorial to be erected in 2012.

Of the \$1200 NESAF grant we have to offer cost-share of forestry equipment purchases to Envirothon teams, only \$266 has been expended. There is another \$100 pending once the teacher connects with a forester. Bill sent in a report to NESAF for the grant activity to date. The Fall Field Day Envirothon trainings are coming up in Liberty, Orono and Aroostook County, so there will be another chance for schools to apply for equipment funding.

We have disbursed the \$2000 to Maine TREE and the additional \$750 may go as a general contribution.

The Forestry Awareness Committee (FAC) has spent \$960, roughly \$400 for the Fall 2010 Field Day and roughly \$500 for team travel. There will be \$1500 left to contribute in 2011 or we'll move it ahead to 2012. We will discuss this issue later in the meeting when Sue arrives.

The Northern Forest Forum \$500 has not been expended yet. Laura feels there may be a Forum in September. Bill noted that the expense for the NFF equals is offset by the income collected.

Jessica motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Wil 2nd. Unanimous approval.

MESAF Travel Expense Form

Katie distributed the draft form she developed. The group recalled that the reimbursement for the executive committee is strictly for mileage to attend executive meetings, not Field or Fall meetings. The group decided to revise the form and leave the mileage and toll items, but remove the other items. Currently none of the committee members have submitted any expenses. Wil recommended leaving the \$2500 in the budget for now, since it would be easier to reduce it later. We will wait until after the elections for 2012 to see where the new committee members live. **Katie** will amend the form and send it around to the group via email. **She** will also add a line for the Chair's signature of approval.

NESAF Update

The last meeting was in mid-June in Scarborough. Wil had brought our proposal of agreeing to host a May/June 2013 NESAF Field Meeting following the February 2013 NESAF Winter Meeting in NY as long as the NESAF revenues from both meetings were pooled and split 50/50 with us and NESAF agreed to help us advertise for our May meeting at their February meeting. The NESAF Executive Committee motioned and approved our proposal.

The 2012 Winter Meeting will be held at UMass Amherst, April 3-6. Bill Van Doran is the general chair. Planning is still in the early stages.

Bill noted that the local ski areas may have good rental facilities and rates for our May 2013 meeting at this time of year. **We** need to get a General Chair and an Arrangements Chair fairly soon to begin working on this. Ron Lemin is functioning as the liaison between NE and NY. NE and NY have their own funding formula. **Wil** will bring to NESAF our idea that sponsorships should be recruited for both meetings together.

Our Leadership Academy will be held immediately before or after the 2012 Amherst meeting. Maine needs 5-6 members to invite. **We** need to get a list to Ron Lemin. The cost will be minimal, likely \$20-\$50. Some people suggested were Cassie Vaillancourt, Nate Vir and Erica Kaufmann. It was suggested to leave spots for newly elected Members-at-Large on our committee. The ideal attendee number is 20, but we need to invite more and expect declines. The objective of the Academy is to improve leadership skills and to encourage participation in SAF. Laura is also a possible candidate.

Two positions within NESAF need to be filled for 2012. They need a secretary and a treasurer. There is currently one person running for each position, but more candidates would be better. **The names and profiles of all MESAF and NESAF candidates need to be received by Paul Dolan by August 1, 2011.** Profiles from 2011 can be re-used.

Peter Greeno has been replaced as Membership Chair by Jeff Hutchins from Mass. Wil recalls him to be an energetic and active member. Peter encouraged the group to reach out to former SAF members and get them to re-join. He noted that the currently available NESAF membership list is from Feb. 2011. Former members are still receiving membership info and the Journal. The group agreed that national needs to get up to date quickly. **Laura** will send Christopher Whited an email requesting a current membership list.

The Student Conclave is supposed to be organized by Paul Smith's this year and will likely occur in September. Wil suggested giving the students a "heads-up" now so they will have time to plan for the event shortly after they return to school.

The NESAF Awards deadline is December 1. Wil checked with NESAF and there was no objection to nominating Hugh Violette posthumously.

The News Quarterly will be digital only beginning with the 4th quarter issue.

Licensing Board Update

Ken was absent but it was noted that the next board meeting is sometime in August and we will likely get a report after that.

Katie raised the question whether new student members at schools other than UMaine Orono were offered their free first-year SAF membership. **Laura** will check with UMFK to see if there are any students who would qualify for a reimbursement. Students at Unity would also be eligible.

MESAF Elections

Laura will contact Dan Simonds to find out whether he plans to fill current term as Chair and next year as Past-Chair. **She** will inform the rest of the group with his answer. Laura checked the bylaws for the proper procedure should Dan officially resign. The bylaws state that if the Chair resigns, the Vice-Chair (Chair-Elect) will fill the term and the committee will vote by majority to appoint a new Chair-Elect for the remainder of the term, until the annual elections. Although not stated, it appears that the executive committee would be missing the position of Past-Chair for the following year, since the Chair-Elect becomes the Chair.

Jessica decided that she would like to run again for MAL. Kris will entertain the Chair-Elect position, but would like to be at least a MAL. Bob Cousins may be interested in a MAL position. Other names Wil suggested are: Mike Dann, Gordon Gamble, Dan McConville, Rick Morrill, Jensen Bissell, Bart Plourde, Nate Vir and Aaron Weistketl. Ron Lemin was also suggested for a MAL. **Katie** will ask Jake to be the Nominations Committee Chair, since he offered to do it earlier. Ron Lemin may be interested in Chairing the 2013 Maine NESAF meeting and perhaps Ken Laustsen would be interested in running for Maine Chair-Elect.

Spring (Field) Meeting Updates

The Duck Lake BPL tour is scheduled for July 22. Kris and Jessica have everything all set up. Kris needs a more accurate lunch figure next week. There are currently 30 registrants. Laura asked **Bill** to email the membership about the field meetings again and include the flyers for the Duck Lake and SFMA tours and also the general info on the third tour at the Dartmouth College Grant.

Kris will send Laura the draft Dartmouth flyer. **Kris** needs to contact Kevin Evans again for further details. A bus will meeting attendees at the Errol site. **Kris** will investigate renting a van(s) from Downeast Toyota for \$55 per day and pick up registrants on the way to Errol. Lunches will be provided by the Dartmouth group. **Kris** will also need to check with the SAF insurance group.

Jessica reported that the SFMA tour is set up as well. There will be an ice cream stop in Patten on the way back. **Jessica** will check with the insurance person as well.

Field Meeting Evaluation Forms

Laura had emailed around a draft of her suggested evaluation form asking whether meeting registrants preferred to have a lunch provided or to bring their own. The group decided to ask the question for all three tours this year and go with what the majority prefers for next year. Eliminating lunches would mean less work and a lower registration cost, but perhaps less convenience for the attendees.

Fall 2011 Meeting

It was decided that the topic/title would be "Outside Looking In" and would address the world markets and situations and how Maine fits in. Looking at past agendas, there are typically five hours of speaker time and the MESAF business meeting usually concludes at 9:30 AM. It was suggested to email out the proposed 2012 budget and the 2011 business meeting minutes to the membership ahead of the meeting to speed up discussion at the meeting.

<Sue arrived at 11:30 AM>

The group decided on five speakers for half hour slots. It was decided that the following contacts would be made:

Katie—Brian Milakowsky (Russian forestry), Donna Cassesse (Westbrook mill) and Ken Laustsen (to find a Woodland mill rep)

Kris—Henry Whittemore (European mills)

Wil—Bret Vicary (Sewall)

Bill—Rick Smith (Distinguished Alum)

Jessica—Eric Kingsley

Committee Reports

FAC –Bill mentioned to Sue that the remaining undisbursed funds from the equipment rental grant will be held over to 2012. Bill suggested keeping \$1500 of the budgeted Envirothon funds (\$2500) for the fall field days and travel grants. The balance will be sent to them soon. Our current budgeted donation to Maine TREE is \$2750 and \$2000 has been expended for the teacher tours. **Bill** will send the remaining \$750 soon to their general fund.

Sue mentioned that Maine TREE is starting a three-year capital endowment. Maybe we donate to this in the future.

Bill wants to ask the membership how they would like to spend the meeting revenues MESAF generates each year. He would also like to advertise how we currently spend our revenues.

Sue reported that the Envirothon Field Day was held on March 18, 2011. MESAF sent 12 folks and they did a great job, a great improvement to the program. The student attendance was roughly 300. The Leonard's Mills event had 4 presenters and over 700 kids were involved. It was great exposure for MESAF. Sue helped out at a PLT teacher workshop and exposed new teachers to our stuff. The PLT Teacher Tours are this week. One had 20 teachers and the other registration list was smaller.

<Jessica left at 12:14 PM>

Sue noted that Bill was honored by PLT with their Stewardship Award. (Great job Bill!)

The Envirothon Fall Field Days are coming in the fall. Tish Carr will make the needed contacts. Students at UMaine will likely participate. The China School Day will occur in the fall as well and this is usually a last minute request for assistance. The Knox-Lincoln County SWCD Fair is September 29 and has a forestry theme. About 600 students are expected to attend. Bill suggested MESAF host an orienteering station. Sue suggested having a MESAF exhibit and an activity. **Sue** will put out the request on the For. Ed. network and request a response in two weeks. Sue has a board on an easel and Bill has the large, heavy wooden display case. **Bill** will forward the request for participants to the grad students.

Katie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 PM. Wil 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Submitted by

Laura Audibert

July 18, 2011