

Maine Division - Society of American Foresters
Business Meeting
D.B. Corbett Building, University of Maine
Orono, ME
October 14, 2008

DRAFT January 25, 2009

Henry Whittemore convened the business meeting at 8:05 am and provided an Anti Trust statement. The first order of business was approval of the previous year's business meeting minutes. A draft of the minutes has been available on the MESAF web site since the previous spring. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

Bill Livingston provided the treasurer's report. Main highlights:

- Fall 07 meeting had a net of \$4,686.66; the Spring 08 meetings net of \$150.27
- Had to spend \$2,057.50 on the hotel deposit for NESAF meeting
- We did not spend funds for SAF academy but used \$800 for nominations mailing
- The Northern Forest Forum registration revenue does not include \$140 from September 07. Therefore, registration fees were \$118 short of expenses. This is well within the intent of the MESAF Executive Committee when they agreed to help with the Forum.
- The transfer of \$1,000 to the FAC account was not done because there was plenty of existing funds to cover costs through September 08
- Not in the original budget was \$300 spent on SAF supplies (bumper stickers) that were given to members
- \$500 was given to the Envirothon from the FAC account (not in original budget)
- Paying for 12 new student members (\$420) exceeded the budget (\$300)
- MESAF has received \$1,000 from NESAF to establish a new account for the Winter 09 meeting

The treasurer's report and 2009 FY budget were passed as presented.

Spencer Meyer, the MESAF rep to NESAF, talked about the online voting for state, regional and national positions. Nominations were solicited and submitted to the national office by October 5. Email was then sent to the membership. Nearly 90% of the membership has valid email addresses. Those who don't have valid emails will receive paper ballots. It is up to members to

update email addresses on the national SAF web site. The ballot will close on November 5. This is the first year for online voting, and there are some problems. On the first try, a Maine member could see and vote for all the other state positions, and a person could vote for only one MESAF member at large candidate. The former problem was resolved but not the latter. Because there are only 3 names for 3 positions, there is no problem with this error for this year. Electronic and paper votes will be reviewed by a tellers committee. Because of the reduced postage needs, there should be a cost savings for all.

Henry talked about the spring meeting format in which field trips were held in 3 regions. There have been problems with big field meetings, such as bus problems and not being able to hear the speakers. The intent of the new format was to try and focus on venues and topics of interest to members. The field trips for 08 were on biomass markets and harvesting in central Maine (Sue Aygarn and Jack Lutz), conservation easements (Katahdin Forest) (Jake Metzler and Spencer Meyer) and recreational tourism in western Maine (Dave Maass and Dave Field). The total attendance at the three field meetings was probably a bit lower when compared to previous spring meetings. Based on positive feedback from the meetings, the MESAF Exec. Comm. believes the new format was successful. Members should complete the evaluation form in registration packet to express their opinion on the new format.

There was a question on whether any tours had to turn away people. Henry believed all requests could be met. Attendance at the biomass tour was 35, conservation easements 25, and recreation 30. In response to another question, Henry confirmed that if the same person attended two field trips, the person was counted twice.

There was a preferential sign-up for MESAF members; the meeting notice was sent to them first by about a week. The recreation trip was advertised in NH and VT, but no one attended from either of those states. There was one comment on continuing with the small field trip format but consider a larger spring meeting if that option makes more sense. Henry did note that the biomass tour led to the fall meeting.

Henry provided an update on licensing board issues, including board membership, licensing fees, how licensing works for forestry, and as a barrier to young foresters. Carol Leighton is the state administrator for the licensing board in Augusta. Max McCormack reported on what's happened over the past year. Board members are Bob Seymour (chair), Steve Pelletier, Tom Rumpf, Mark Beauregard, a public representative, and a vacancy for a forester. MESAF has a standing invitation to attend meetings and can submit agenda items. We can also submit names as suggestions for filling board vacancies, and Max recommends that we recommend names aggressively. Henry mentioned a state "sunrise" policy for all new licensing boards. The forestry board was established prior to this requirement, and Henry believes we could evaluate the current status of the Forestry Licensing program by going through the 13 point criteria used in the sunrise process.

The question on how many violations the board handles was answered by Steve Coleman who observed about 1 complaint per year during his 4 year term. All complaints concerned costs, not practices. Also, practices of foresters with no license never get reviewed by the board. So, how much does the board help good forestry? Al Childs commented that the whole reason for the forestry license was to protect the public. Licensing isn't protecting a soul, so why do we have it? Max responded that if licensing is dropped, there would need to be major revisions in law and statutes, such as the requirement of a license forester to do a management plan for land in the tree growth program. Al Kimball talked about the problem with forestry graduates as the process becomes more cumbersome. The barriers in the process, such as the 2 yr internship, is real and results in people choosing jobs out of state. It's worth putting the licensing program through review.

October 30 is the next Forestry Licensing Board meeting in Gardiner. If anyone interested in attending or reviewing the board functions, let Henry, Gary, or Max know. Tony Filauro asked about the vacant board position, and Max said the position replacement must be a licensed forester. Henry added that the person cannot be a state employee or serve on another professional executive board. Steve mentioned that an earlier effort to change the licensing, an effort that he did not support, did go before the legislature, but it failed. Peter Triandafillou recommended that MESAF submit names to replace the current board vacancy.

There were no other new business items.

Communications efforts are handled by Tony Filauro. He writes MESAF updates to the NESAF quarterly. Let Tony know if he is not providing information that you want in the newsletter, and he will try and make it more worthwhile. He met with the environmental writer from the Bangor Daily News on May 20th and discussed various issues.

Spencer Meyer gave the NESAF update. The election ballot process and problems were previously discussed. The 2008 winter meeting had net earnings of \$3,000 for NESAF. The web site has had a complete overhaul, and it has two list-serves, one for NESAF business and one for non-NESAF business. The site does have an events calendar that will hopefully become a regional clearing house for CFE credits. There is also a Job Board where members can post job announcements. Ken Laustsen is in charge of the NESAF history project, and 1 more state report is needed to complete it. NESAF grants are available again this year with a December 1 deadline. Awards are up to \$1,000 from a total pool of \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Ron Lemin mentioned that NESAF awards accept nominations until the end of November. Information on how to nominate can be obtained from Ron or the NESAF web site.

Ken Laustsen announced that thanks to a National Foresters Fund Grant, NESAF can host a regional leadership academy which will be held in conjunction with the winter meeting. This will not be a replacement for the national academy. New York sponsored a similar academy

which helped new people to get involved with running the group. The NESAF Leadership Academy will invite 4-5 members from each state, and there will be no additional expenses for Maine attendees. The MESAF executive committee will make a list of people who they will recommend for attending the Academy. Anyone interested in attending can put his/her name in for consideration. Priority will be given to younger members.

The 2009 NESAF winter meeting will have the theme, “Biomass, Bioproducts, Biodiversity – Resource Management in a Changing World.” Dates are March 17-20, and it will be held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay. Cosponsors are SWOAM, Wildlife Society, NE International Society of Arboriculture, and the NE Regional Forest Guild. Continuing ed credits for different areas (pests, foresters, others?) will be available. Online registration through national office will be used and will accept credit cards for payment. Meeting information will be available in the newsletter and web pages. Registration fee is \$125. Room rate is \$89 for single/double. Volunteers are needed to help with meeting. There is no limit on banquet – the room can handle 500.

Kelsey Troy gave a report for the Student Chapter. Jeremy Leicy is chair, Jacob Hicks is vice-chair, Cassie Vaillancourt is treasurer, and Kelsey is secretary. The chapter helped with a service project at Leonard’s Mill in September that helped new students meet current students. Five members will help with an Envirothon Field Day in October. Calendars for 2009 will be produced for sale and fund raising. For the spring semester, the group plans to help with the NESAF meeting and to visit the Huber Optimization facility.

Gary Bahlkow headed the MESAF nominating committee and also agreed to be the third nominee for the member at large position. Todd Caldwell and Gary suggested a mailing to get more names for nominations, but no one responded. Unfortunately, this year’s ballot is not a competitive race. Gary made a request for any ideas on a more effective approach for getting names on the ballot.

Membership awards: 50 yr membership were presented at the NESAF meeting which included the Golden Award letter, pin and plaque. Ancyl Thurston received the award and shared a few thoughts at the MESAF meeting. Fifty years is a long time, and Ancyl is proud to be member for all of those years. Over the 50 years he met and worked with many foresters who deserve recognition, such as Austin Wilkins and Bob Dineen who pushed membership – a big reason why he stayed in the organization. He gave his thanks to all who put up with him.

Other member awards include:

60 yr: Joseph Gray, Oric O’Brien

40 yr: Gilbert Viitala, Robert Weir

30 yr: John McNulty, Russell Roy

Ron Lemin thanked Max McCormack for serving on the Northeast Fellows Nominations Committee. Three new Fellows are from MESAF: Ken Laustsen, Carol Redelsheimer, and Bob Seymour. Max's term ends in December and can't be renewed. The committee can suggest 4 nominees from the Northeast, and there is no deadline for nominations. The nomination process starts by submitting nominations to the Fellows Committee.

The business meeting session was adjourned at 9:35 am

The business meeting continued at 11:17 with a Forestry Awareness Committee update by Sue Aygarn. Activities over the past year included a forestry day for Envirothon teams in March; getting foresters to help Envirothon teams; sponsoring kid's activities at the All Things Wood Expo; having a booth at the Maine Environmental Education Association meeting; helping get foresters to the Forestry Field days at China Schools, Gorham, and Litchfield; sponsoring activities at the children days at Leonard's Mills; helping with the PLT training for foresters; and participating in the development of a Dept of Education grant for teacher workshops in Lewiston and Auburn. Upcoming events include looking for foresters willing to work with Lewiston/Auburn schools; fall Envirothon Field Days on October 22 at Sebago Lake and October 30 in Orono. The purpose of the Field Days is to get high schools interested in sponsoring a team for the spring Envirothon. Other planned activities include helping with PLT workshops.

Sue thanked the regional coordinators for the Forest Education Network who were Laura Audibert, Rick Jones, Mark Lapping, Sam Langley, Mark Leathers, Kirby Ellis, Nick Baser, and Sarah Medina. People who helped with the Forest Education Network were given a copy of the "Forest Trees of Maine." These people were Laura Kenefic, Kirby Ellis, Justin Waskiewicz, Doug Reed, Terry Coolong, Tyler MacIntosh, Travis Howard, Andrew Brown, Ryan Robichaud, Bill Livingston, Toni Filauro, Ken Laustsen, Mac Browning, Kevin Osborne, and Cassie Vaillancourt.

Henry Whittemore thanked Sue Aygarn and the rest of the MESAF exec committee for their valuable help during the previous year.

Business meeting concluded at about 11:45.

Respectively submitted by Bill Livingston