

Maine Division, Society of American Foresters

Executive Committee Meeting, February 15, 2005.

Alumni Center, University of Maine

In attendance: Bob Wagner, Kenny Fergusson, Bob Seymour, Bill Livingston, Steve Coleman, Ken Laustsen, Tony Filauro, Rory Eckardt, Bob Chandler

Bob Wagner convened the meeting at 8:35 am. Rory Eckardt reported on recent activities of the student chapter. The students have completed scanning the policy documents for \$27.98, and the next step is to get links to put on a web site for forest policy. These activities are part of the Policy Project being headed by Ken Laustsen.

Volunteer activities in the student chapter include helping with the NESAF meeting in Portland, showing a USFS 100th anniversary DVD to the campus and public, clean and fix-up the undergraduate reading room in Nutting Hall, helping Bob Chandler with the membership survey, organizing peer guidance for undergraduate students, professional mentor program for next fall, and manning a booth on forest resources at next fall's Fryeburg Fair. Trips for the spring include an ice fishing trip, a visit to Augusta and the legislature, and a trip the Huber concentration yard. Fund raising for the St. John's Bridge is continuing, and a PLT workshop will be sponsored by the chapter in late April. Molly Simonson will lead an effort on promoting student membership including a survey on what students want from the chapter.

Kenny Fergusson is leading the effort to review the Division's by-laws, and they currently meet the minimum standards set by the national SAF. The Division does need an Operations Manual to specify more detailed responsibilities and processes, such as what is needed for the Division Manager. A draft of the Operations Manual and any changes needed for the By-laws should be ready by June, and By-law changes would need to be voted on by the membership. Kenny thought that no By-law changes were needed, but the Operations Manual does need to be written. When drafts are ready, they can be made available on the Division's web site.

Ken Laustsen reported on the SAF Task Force Report on revisions to the national By-laws, and there are significant changes that would raise the prominence of student chapters in the organization. Ken urged Rory to download a copy of the draft and comment on the changes affecting student chapters.

Ken added that the Policy Project will need an electronic chat room in addition to the planned web site. The idea is to help members find out about and to discuss developing policies in Augusta.

Because the weather prevented Laura from attending the meeting, a motion was approved to table the discussion of the previous Executive Committee Meeting minutes (January 7, 2005) until the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Bill Livingston gave the treasurer's report, and there is a balance of \$15,673 in the regular accounts, \$1,870 in the Poster Contests account, and \$1,922 in the NESAF meeting account. The primary transactions since the last Executive Committee meeting were receipts of dues (\$1,640), a \$500 contribution to the Maine Tree Foundation, and \$1,125 received in sponsor fees for the NESAF meeting. The treasurer's report was approved.

Bill has not yet prepared the balance sheets needed for an audit of the 2004 transactions. He'll try and get the information to Kan Laustsen in the next few weeks.

Considerable time was spent in reviewing the survey questions that Bob Chandler will send to all licensed professional foresters in the state. Bob's project is funded in part by a grant from NESAF. The key objective for the survey is to get a better idea on what foresters want from a professional organization. The survey is not sponsored by MESAF; the project is a student project that will help Bob satisfy a requirement for the MBA program at UMaine. Bob thanked the committee for their input, and he will make revisions based on the comments.

Judy Round and Louis Morin gave a presentation to the committee on efforts to construct a 100th Anniversary Memorial in the courtyard of Nutting Hall in honor of UMaine's forestry program. The project will completely change the courtyard and will prominently display a sculpture by Forest Hart, his "Cub Scouts" work. The cost for the sculpture, excavation needed to ensure adequate drainage, laying of granite walls and a sunken walkway is about \$140,000. At this point \$80,000 has been raised for the memorial. Additional contributions are being sought from forest industry (\$20,000 is likely, another 6-7 contacts will be asked), alumni, and faculty. Judy said that the college's 100th Anniversary Committee recommended that MESAF be asked for a contribution. She noted that any contributor that gave at least \$5,000 would have a plaque placed along the memorial's walkway. In the discussion that followed, one comment was made that a significant number of SAF members in Maine did not earn a degree in Orono. In response, it was emphasized that the staff on the Orono campus do provide critical leadership in researching and providing information on important forestry issues. As an example, UMaine's Al Nutting had a critical role in getting the McIntire-Stennis Act written and passed, and this funding has had far reaching impact on Maine's and the country's forestry research. A motion was made to have MESAF contribute \$5,000 to the Memorial such that a plaque in MESAF's name will be displayed in the courtyard. The money would likely come from meeting revenues and not membership dues. Plans and pictures for the memorial will be placed on the University's web site, the membership will be notified about the proposal to make the donation, and a vote on whether to make the contribution or not will be held at the spring meeting.

At the January meeting of the Executive Committee, a motion was approved to increase the budget line for funding travel to the SAF Leadership Academy from \$1,000 to \$1,700. Combined with about \$300 from NESAF, MESAF could send two members to the Academy, one regular member and one student. Two students applied for the funding, Rory Eckardt and Molly Simonson. Rory will be graduating this May, and Molly will return to another year on campus. Therefore, a motion was made and passed

that awarded Molly the travel funds for a student. Rory is now considered eligible for travel as a regular member. The previous member being considered for the travel funds, Ben Dow, will be contacted to see if he can attend. If not, a motion was made and passed that the offer to attend the Academy will be made to Rory if Ben can't attend.

Bob Wagner reported on the NESAF meeting preparations. He emphasized that industry sponsors have been contacted by Ron Lemin and Dave Maass, and the goal of reaching \$3,000 in sponsorships is likely to be reached. This year's proceedings will be published at no cost by the US Forest Service. However, the USFS will charge about \$5 a copy beginning next year. Because a long lead time is needed for submitting abstracts (over 3 months) such that not all abstracts are included, an alternative for publishing next year's proceedings should be investigated. As for this year, the registration form is out and the program is set to go.

Wagner reported that Mandy Farrar has the plans for the spring meeting with the Wild Turkey Foundation well developed. The time and place is set June 9, but a facility is needed. The final arrangements need to be ready and sent to the membership with the April letter from the chair.

Ideas for the fall meeting were discussed. Thursday, November 3, was suggested as a tentative date. Tuesday, October 11, was suggested as an alternative because students will not be on campus which will make more rooms and parking available. Wagner will find which campus facilities are available on each date. Possible topics for the fall meeting include ramifications of partial cutting, or implications of carbon sequestration and carbon credits.

Tony reported on communication efforts. Marc Johnson will rite a news release for the NESAF meeting and will try and get it published in the Portland Press Harold. Tony was successful in making contact with a reporter, Diedra Flemming, but not with the editorial board. Everyone thought the Division's web site is looking much approved, and Tony expressed his thanks to Laura for her efforts.

Ken Laustsen reported that of the 6 NESAF awards this spring, 3 are going to Maine members - Filauro, Farrar, and Laustsen.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Bill Livingston
Secretary (part time!)/Treasurer