

MESAF Executive Committee Meeting
December 7, 2006

UMaine campus, Buchanan Alumni House, Large Board Room

Attendance: Ken Laustsen, Jim Runyan, Henry Whittemore, Jake Metzler, Bill Livingston, Katie Manende, Ron Lemin, Bob Seymour, Gary Bahlkow, Laura Audibert, Rene Noel.

Bob Seymour opened the meeting at 9:37 AM with an anti-trust statement. The agenda was reviewed by the group and items on the Marc Johnson scholarship, his replacement as News Quarterly Correspondent and membership changes were added.

Ron will do a write-up on this exec. comm. meeting for the News Quarterly.

✱ **Minutes from Last Executive Meeting**

The minutes from September 14, 2006 were reviewed. Jim motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Jake 2nd, unanimous approval.

✱ **Treasurer's Report**

Bill passed out the Treasurer's Report. We took in \$9945 from the Fall Meeting, our expenses were \$3321 so our net was \$6623. The food service charged us a late fee for adding more registrants after our initial estimate, but Bill had them cancel it since they delivered our lunch late.

Recent expenses include a toner cartridge for the photocopier, Bob Wagner gift, the September 14 exec. comm. lunch, the SWOAM scholarship, the \$192 cost for the Wood Expo and the \$480 for the student chapter national convention expenses. The Forestry Awareness Committee had the expense of the recent teacher mailing.

There will be no Leadership Academy in 2007. In 2008 it will likely be held in the southeast (Alabama).

The group had a brief discussion on how the meeting revenues are spent. Examples are the Leadership Academy, Nutting Statue and the Maine TREE Foundation.

Jake motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Gary 2nd. Unanimous approval.

✱ **NESAF Report**

Ron reported that he, Ken and Spencer Meyer (newly elected MESAF rep) attended the latest NESAF Exec. Comm. meeting yesterday in Concord, NH.

NESAF award nominations are due December 31.

Ron explained some of the proposed membership changes. He would like our opinion on them so he can report to national. He noted that on the November 2006 report 80% of the members purged were in the 1-9 year category. He also noted that only 20-25% of the student members actually transition to the professional category. National is proposing to go to three membership categories instead of ~12. The categories would be Student, Member and Golden (50+ years membership). The proposed membership rates would be \$30 for students (\$85 for years 1-5 of professional membership), \$133 for Members and \$105 for Golden members. The Golden members would not receive the Journal at that rate. To receive the Journal they would need to pay \$130. The group felt that slighting the Golden members by taking away the Journal was ridiculous, insulting and contrary to the society's goal of valuing membership.

The proposed changes would also allow all dues-paying members to vote, this would include students and technician members. The years of membership would also include time within the student chapter.

The current membership application does not indicate that in addition to the application fee, the local dues must be paid as well, which can be an unwelcome surprise to new members. The current proposal is to charge a single \$20 application fee, which would get split between NESAF and MESAF. It would result in a net loss of \$6 to NESAF.

<Bob Wagner joined our meeting at this point>

Bob S. motioned to recommend to NESAF to waive the \$20 local application fee for the first year for new members. Jim 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Rene motioned that members 62 years old, retired and with 30 years of SAF membership, should get the same benefit as professional members. Bob S. 2nd, unanimous approval.

Henry is concerned that SAF is too worried about running the organization and not about serving its members. Ken indicated that National plans to host focus groups in the future on how to serve its members.

Ron proposed that MESAF should appropriate funds to pay the dues of executive committee members who volunteer their time for the organization. The dues benefit would be realized the year following their service. Henry suggested that it would be easier to forgive meeting registrations costs for volunteers.

Henry suggested that membership may increase if SAF provides the forum to bring foresters together to discuss relevant issues that reach broader audiences and allow for the group to have input in larger decisions. The group discussed different impediments to SAF membership and felt it was either the dues themselves or the value they receive for their dues.

* **Wood Expo**

Ken, Bill and Jake attended. Ken felt it went well for the first time, but the attendance was less than hoped. The group agreed that the venue was not good. Our exhibit was very appealing. The yoyos and the Greatest Good videos were popular. Ken thinks the response will grow. Jake suggested that it should be held in conjunction with a larger event that typically draws big crowds. The group agreed that it is important for SAF to be there. Katie suggested having it at the campus career fair. The group liked national's display board and agreed paying its shipping fee was better than buying our own.

* **Fall Meeting Recap**

Jake suggested that all speakers should have their registration fee waived. He feels that employers would be more receptive to allowing their employees the time to speak at our meetings. Bob W. motioned that all invited speakers, moderators and MESAF members-at-large have their conference registration fees waived. Rene 2nd, unanimous approval.

It was decided that as part of MESAF meeting preparation, the speakers will be asked for a copy of their presentation so it can be loaded on the MESAF website. **Jake** will try to get some of the presentations from the Fall 2006 Meeting.

Ken noted that the NESAF website is up and running with a webmaster and a web site administrator. In 2007 Maine will be the only division within NESAF with its own website. Ken

suggested that we can use the NESAF website if we need more room to post our stuff. NESAF will have job postings and an open calendar for upcoming events on their site.

Jake asked what our policy is on releasing meeting attendee lists. Henry thinks we should do it to cultivate relationships as a service to our members. Ken told the group that SAF membership lists are not to be distributed to anyone.

Jake motioned to add to the meeting registration packets an attendee list (as of a convenient cutoff date), with registrant name, organization, address, phone and email. Henry 2nd. Unanimous approval. On each meeting registration form, **Laura** will add a check off box that registrants can check if they don't want their name to be included on the list.

Jake also asked if the Fall 2006 meeting attendee list was available to others. The group discussed this and decided against it. Jim motioned to not make the 2006 Fall meeting attendee list available to anyone. Gary 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Laura mentioned that she has had requests from MESAF members and non-members who were sponsoring meetings to forward their meeting agendas to our membership. She was given the okay to forward other meeting announcements to the membership via email. When Bill sends the email it only shows his address, not the entire mailing list. Laura can run the request by the chair first if necessary.

A reminder to **Bill** or **Bob S.** to confirm our 2007 Fall Meeting date request with the appropriate University personnel in mid-February. We will again request the Corbett Business Building for the Tuesday after the Columbus Day holiday (October 9).

✧ **John Sinclair Scholarship**

The John Sinclair scholarship has been around 10-15 years.

Ron motioned to take the money budgeted for the 2007 Leadership Academy (\$1000) and add another \$1000 to be donated to John Sinclair's and Marc Johnson's scholarship funds. The allocation will be: \$500 to the Sinclair fund and \$1500 as capital to Marc's fund and up to an additional \$250 to send a student to the 2007 NESAF Winter Meeting. Jim 2nd, unanimous approval.

Ken explained that Marc's memorial fund is designed to pay one student's expenses to attend the annual NESAF Winter Meeting. The fund needs \$5000 before it can begin paying out. Ken helped Marc and his wife set up the fund. The student will be chosen by the director of the forestry school and the SAF student chapter group. It will be based on a student's drive and ambition.

Ken will officially ask Tony Filauro to replace Marc as the MESAF News Quarterly Correspondent.

<LUNCH at 12:00 noon>

✧ **Harvesting Practices Task Force**

The task force report is complete. Should more work be done?

Bob W. explained that the regeneration component was dropped because it led too much toward predictions and was not needed for an objective classification of the harvest. The diameter classes and harvest pattern categories were simplified.

Bob W. feels he has a better handle on what to call the harvests. Where do we go with it? Henry voiced his concern that the state may try to use it for an unintended purpose. Bob W. said that if the system was being used improperly, SAF should take a stand as an organization and tell them it is being used incorrectly.

It was decided that **Bob S.** will formerly ask the MFS for Ken's help in working with the FIA data. Once an analysis is complete **Bob S.** and **Bob W.** will try to get their findings published in a journal. The findings will also be published on our website.

Bob W. would like feedback on the latest report **by December 15.** The final report will be approved at the next exec. comm. meeting. **Bill** will email the membership when the final report is posted on our website. **Ron** will put the info in the News Quarterly.

✳ **NESAF White Paper**

Ken said the intent at this meeting was to give him our priorities, which will help NESAF develop a strategic plan for New England.

Bill mentioned that the report did not address outreach to K-12 students. Ken said it was a worthwhile addition. The group agreed that we should restart our Legislative Breakfasts, since we have 4 foresters in the legislature. Bob S. feels that more attention should be given to the high quality forestry practices going on and forestry does not equal timber cutting. Bob S. also feels that forester credentialing is very important. The group discussed getting more involved with journalist groups.

Ken would like our comments on the white paper **by March 1, 2007.** He will be leading a discussion on the topic on the Wednesday afternoon of the Winter Meeting in Vermont.

✳ **Northern Maine Forest Forum**

Laura reported that it is going well and will continue.

✳ **Student Chapter**

Katie reported that they had a field trip with Huber to look at their ground herbicide applications. They also spent some time working on the FERP inventory and the chapter will get paid for this.

The group sent 2 students to the national convention and they placed 6th in the quiz bowl. Ken mentioned that of the 1200 SAF student members, 400 were at the convention.

The chapter has had 2 movie nights that were successful. They have also had 2 noontime lectures, but student attendance was poor. The group is planning an ice fishing trip this winter. Their 2007 calendars have been printed and are for sale. They have had ~100 copies printed.

Katie mentioned that the members they have are very committed, but they lack the numbers. They have tried many strategies to get the underclassmen to attend meetings and be involved. **Bill** intends to have a meeting with the freshmen group in January to find out how they are spending their time.

Our group concluded that the forestry faculty should play a larger role in encouraging students to join SAF. **Bill** will also try to set up a service project for next fall. The students apparently do enjoy working on service projects.

The group discussed the status of the UMFK forestry students. It was concluded that any UMFK students could join SAF and be members of the larger UMaine chapter. Different meetings could be held but projects and activities could be done jointly.

✧ **Forestry Awareness Committee**

Bill reported that Sue would like to have a meeting in January. Pat Maloney will organize a meeting with the state department of education and high school teachers on how to get forestry into the K-12 curriculum. The group received 12 responses for interest in PLT from among the ~300 letters sent to teachers this fall.

<Katie and Jim left at this point, 3:00 PM>

✧ **NESAF Awards**

The group discussed possible nominees for the various NESAF awards. We will nominate Cliff Foster for the Distinguished Service Award—**Rene** will write the nomination letter. Ron Lemin will be nominated for the James Twoumey Award—**Laura** will write the nomination letter for him. **Bob S.** will refresh his nomination letter for George Ritz as our Austin Cary Practicing Professional nominee. Sue Aygarn will be nominated for the Gould Technology Transfer Award. We did not come up with nominees for the Mollie Beattie Young Forester Leadership Award or the Integrity in Conservation Award. All nomination paperwork is due to NESAF by **December 31, 2006**.

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 PM.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 16, 2007 at the LandVest office in Portland.**

Submitted by

Laura Audibert