

## MESAF Executive Committee Meeting

March 21, 2006, (fixed spellings April 10, 2006) (revised with grammar fixes June 16, 2006)

UMaine campus, Buchanan Alumni House, Large Board Room

Attendance: Bob Seymour, Gary Bahlkow, Jake Metzler, Mandy Farrar, Sue Aygarn, Tony Filauro, Ken Laustsen, Laura Audibert, Bill Livingston, Will Mercier, Bob Wagner.

Bob Seymour opened the meeting at 9:33 AM with an anti-trust statement.

The agenda was reviewed by the group and Ken added the 2005 MESAF audit to the Treasurer's Report.

### Minutes from Last Executive Meeting

The minutes from the January 12, 2006 meeting, as revised by Bob S., were reviewed. Jake added a note indicating that he had left the meeting before Mandy and Laura. Gary motioned to accept the amended minutes, Jake 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

### Treasurer's Report

Bill passed out the Treasurer's Report. Ken reported that the 2005 MESAF audit was done and Bill's records look good. Ken checked on whether our accounts are stated correctly, whether fund transfers are done properly and corrected some terminology. **Bill** will send a copy of the audit results to National, as per policy.

The membership dues are almost up to the budget amount. The Forest Forum is doing well, although Laura questioned the amount of ~\$100 of revenue over profit. She feels it is excessive. **Bill** will check into it and get back to her.

The total in all accounts is \$16,562.86.

Bob W. motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Mandy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimously approved.

### Business Items

#### \* Awards

Ken listed the NESAF awards being given out this year:

- ♦ Austin Cary: Jeff Jones;
- ♦ Integrity in Conservation: Northern Woodlands Magazine;
- ♦ Distinguished Service: Dave Field;
- ♦ Mollie Beattie: Laura Kenefic;
- ♦ Gould Tech Transfer: Michael Snyder;
- ♦ Toumey: None.

The list is posted on the NESAF website. Laura mentioned that the list is posted on the MESAF site as well. Ken mentioned that the non-winning nominees can be reconsidered with refreshed info to run the following year. Nominees for the NESAF awards do not have to agree to be nominated.

Ken mentioned that the Fellow award nominees are picked by a committee and elected by the same committee. There is no membership input. He suggested contacting our District 6 rep and raising the issue.

✳ **NESAF Executive Committee**

In Ron's absence, Ken gave the report. Maine's NESAF rep. position is up for election this year. It is a 2-year term. The Vice Chair position is up as well.

The 2007 NESAF meeting will be held in eastern Vermont at a resort on Lake Morey, March 20-22, 2007. We will have the entire resort to ourselves. Register early, since rooms are limited.

The 2006 meeting in Nashua has 250 registered to date and the banquet is nearly full.

The 2008 meeting will be co-sponsored by the Yankee Division and the NY Chapter. The location is not set yet. Ken is working with Craig from NY to make it all happen.

The HSD recommended the VOS items to the Council. The HSD wants input on the recommendations. The request for input should filter down to Bob S. Most HSD people don't like the VOS recommendations. NESAF was the only one who liked them. There will be a student (non-voting) member on the Council in the future.

There will be a retreat for division chairs in Littleton, Mass on June 6. The discussion will focus on the future of foresters in New England. The results will be shared at the 2007 NESAF meeting. They have invited the NESAF exec. comm., chapter/division chairs, and will solicit younger members to attend as well. The group has submitted a \$3000 Foresters Fund grant proposal to host the meeting, although it is not approved yet.

✳ **Division Manager Contract**

Bob S. made some revisions to the existing contract and he and Laura signed it for this year. Ken finally heard from National with some comments. Some language was changed to stress the "independent contractor" status. The lawyer SAF hired to review it recommended a limit of \$200,000 for general liability insurance and also worker's comp.

Laura is currently looking into premiums for this insurance and it will likely run ~\$1500/year.

Ken suggested creating a Service Agreement and paying the Div. Mgr per diem, as they do with the NESAF position.

Laura will prepare a rough list of the hours she spends on MESAF work and will send it to Gary. Ken will send the group the comments he received from National's lawyer.

Bob W. motioned for Gary to pursue legal counsel to look at the existing Division Manager agreement, the NESAF administrative service agreement and National's review of the agreement and get recommendations to bring to the next Exec. Comm. Meeting. The expenses for such counsel are limited to \$1000. Bill 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Unanimously approved.

Laura will continue to work under the current signed agreement.

✳ **Spring Meeting**

Jake passed out a map with 2 proposed tour routes and a draft of the program flyer. The group chose the Jackman-based tour route since the contacts have already been made. The tour will include stops on Plum Creek (Mark Doty), Orion—Passamaquoddy (Marie Bibeau, Dale Covey), LandVest (Steve Coleman), BPL (Eric Hoar ?). There will not be a mill tour.

**Ron L.** and **CFRU** will supply lunch coolers. **Bob W.** has a bullhorn, but we need another one. **Mandy** will talk to Ron L. about making the bus arrangements with Cyr Bus Lines. Snacks will be purchased at Sam's Club.

The tour group will be split in two and each go with a different guide, so each landowner will need two foresters and two different stops for the tour. We will plan on two buses, ~95 people. The bus should leave from Old Town by 5:45 AM to get to Jackman by 9:00 AM, when the meeting will start. The tour will end at 4:00 PM, when the buses will head back. Laura requested tour handouts to be available for the bus rides in the morning. **She** can make any needed copies. We will request that no personal vehicles be taken on the tour. There is a big truck stop nearby where vehicles can be left.

**Laura** needs the agenda by March 31 so she can get LPF credit assignments. The member rate will be at-cost and the non-member will be +\$20. **Jake** will email Laura the copy of his cover information for the flyer.

✧ **Cliff Foster "Tell It Like It Is Award"**

Bob S. spoke with Peter Lammert, who thought that continuing the award would be a great idea. The group agreed that this year Cliff will award it to the deserving SAF member of his choice. That recipient will award it to his/her choice the following year. The current recipient will continue to choose the next year's recipient. Presentations will be done at the MESAF Fall Meeting annually. This motion was moved by Bob S. and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jake. Unanimously approved. **Bob S.** will notify Cliff of our decision.

✧ **Leadership Academy**

Jake has decided to attend the LA in Utah, June 17-20, 2006. The next Exec. Comm. date was then changed to Wed. June 14, 2006 to accommodate his attendance. Will didn't receive any applications from the student members, so the group decided that Will should attend himself. **Jake** and **Will** will each make their own arrangements and send the bills to Bill.

Ken mentioned that Ron L. had asked for a NESAF grant to send one Maine member to the LA for 2 years. It was not accepted. Two other divisions are sending a member, but there still remains \$900 of NESAF money allocated for this purpose. Ken suggested that someone should motion at the NESAF business meeting in April to allocate the remaining funds among the divisions currently sending people to help offset more of their costs.

Mandy motioned to amend the LA budget item to \$2500 to sponsor Jake and Wil attending the Academy. Bob S. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimously approved.

✧ **Contact with Forester Licensing Board**

Bob S. has not written the letter to the board yet. This item was tabled until the June Exec. Comm. meeting. **Bob S.** will work on this in the meantime.

✧ **Hurricane Relief Contribution**

Bob S. received a letter from Don Grebner, the Student Chapter Advisor at Mississippi State. The amount to cover the school book expenses for the four neediest students is \$1740. Gary motioned to increase MESAF's donation to \$1000. We will contribute \$1000, the Maine Student Chapter will contribute \$500 and the personal donations are \$240. **Bill** will write the checks to the individual students and send them to Don G. for distribution. Bill will keep the recipients' names confidential. **Will** will look into sending the students Maine T-shirts and calendars along with the money. An article will be appearing in the Forestry Source on the donations. **Tony** will follow up with his BDN contact to see if an article can be published there as well. The group agreed that emphasis should be placed on the student chapter's generous donation.

✳ **Bylaw Revisions**

The group reviewed the bylaw revisions Bob S. had made. Ken mentioned that members cannot take legislative positions as SAF members. They can mention that they are members, but are speaking on their own. He also mentioned that by law, Maine SAF cannot lobby, since we are a non-profit. National can do it for us, since they are allowed a certain % of their budget for lobbying.

**Bob S.** will look at the bylaws again and make sure his revision complies with the National minimums and specs. **He** will send it to Louise Murgia for a review.

Comments: Article 5, the NESAF member will remain as a voting member of MESAF. The Student Chapter will be added to the Standing Committee/Executive Committee list and they will be a voting member.

Article 12, added the chair will handle the contract with the Division Manager and the Division Mgr does not have to be a “member in good standing.”

Article 13, discussion of 2% or 10 members being allowed to recall elections and wreak havoc. Group decided to leave as is.

Mandy left the meeting at 12:00 PM. The group ate lunch.

✳ **Harvesting Practices Task Force**

Bob S. prepared the Charter for the TF. The meeting will be held on March 22, 2006. TF members attending are Doug Denico, Bob S., Bob W., Laura Kenefic, Jeremy Wilson, Kenny Fergusson and Mike Saunders. Their mission is to determine what elements are needed for an objective harvest classification system. It will serve to assist in future wood supply modeling and as a communication tool for foresters. Each forester should be able to read the “card” and arrive at the same classification for every harvest. Landowner reps are concerned that MESAF will develop an unruly system for landowner reporting. The group agreed that the classification should be descriptive, not prescriptive.

**Bob S.** will make a few changes to the charter and send it as a working draft to **Laura** for posting on the website as such. Jake motioned to accept the charter as amended, Bob S. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimously approved.

Bob W. left at 1:00 PM

✳ **Fall Meeting Themes**

Some suggestions are: another discussion of the harvesting classification system being developed; management objectives for the new style of Maine landowners; and bio-energy and bio-products. The group was enthusiastic about the bio-product/energy suggestion and will determine interest among colleagues. The final decision will be made at the June Exec. Comm. meeting.

✳ **Forestry Awareness Program (FAP)**

Sue/Pat M. did not receive any responses from among foresters for the upcoming PLT workshop. She received four new volunteers for the China School Forest Day. There were no bites on the Southern Maine Water Festival event. The big question is how to get foresters involved in these opportunities.

Sue suggested asking individual foresters for their permission to post their names on the website as contacts for teachers. She mentioned that going through PLT would be the best route. Bill suggested having “county contacts” with a phone tree for making connections with teacher requests. It was suggested that our events get tied in with the PLT and MFS websites to increase visibility. The group feels that it’s okay to have non-SAF foresters involved in these projects.

**Sue** will draft a letter and postcard to be sent to all LPF and SAF members asking “Would you be willing to help with forestry education in your community?” We would like both Yes and No responses, so we will send stamped, self-addressed, return postcards. This will be the first mailing. The second mailing will be the meeting flyer, chair letter (with plug from Bob S. for participation) and the same postcard, without postage—the members can indicate Yes or No on their meeting registration form. **Laura** will handle the actual mailings and try a legal size meeting flyer (4 panels) to accommodate the additional information request. **Sue** will send Laura the letter and postcard info (**Laura** will make postcards) ASAP.

Tony left at this point (2:00 PM).

Sue asked about school awards. **Ken** will ask Michael Goergan for signed SAF certificates to present to the China School and the Gorham Middle School for their efforts in forestry education. Ken will make these presentations in person. Bill suggested getting this info to the media firm hired by the Univ. and Maine Tree Foundation for publicity. Bill also mentioned that he received a request to participate in a Girl Scout field day in Bridgton on May 6. He will be recruiting Nutting Hall volunteers and **Ken** agreed to help too.

✱ **Communications Committee**

Before leaving, Tony mentioned that he received a call from Kevin Miller of the BDN requesting a contact for deer mgt issues. Tony made a referral. He was pleased that the communication link had been made, even if it wasn't for a forestry topic.

✱ **Student Chapter**

Will reported that the Guest Lecture series is going well this spring. He also reported that the Policy Project of collecting and maintaining a website on current forest policy issues turned out to be more than they could handle. Ken asked whether he should return the grant money allocated for that purpose. It was decided that the \$1700 Foresters Fund grant will be returned. **Ken** will handle this.

There may be a student willing to do a survey of Maine Forester licensees to find out their thoughts on the internship and exam process. This project may only start in a year and a half. A grant can be applied for at that time.

**Ken** will send **Laura** the four existing policy documents for posting on the website. Ken expressed the desire to have an on-line policy creation process. This would involve a members-only section (not currently figured out). And there is not a current issue around which to form a policy.

Will mentioned that there will be four Maine students attending the NESAF meeting and participating in the Quiz Bowl.

The students will attempt to do a calendar fundraiser again next year.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Submitted by

*Laura Audibert*