

MESAF Executive Committee Meeting
August 27, 2007
Buchanan Alumni House, UMaine Campus, Orono

Attendance: Tony Filauro, Laura Audibert, Spencer Meyer, Jake Metzler, Sue Aygarn, Gary Bahlkow, Jim Runyan, Henry Whittemore. Absent were: Rene Noel, Bill Livingston, Ken Laustsen, Ron Lemin and Bob Seymour.

Gary started the meeting at 8:47 AM with a brief anti-trust statement.

A few changes were made to the agenda.

Minutes from June 7, 2007 Meeting:

Henry motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Jim 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report

Prior to the meeting Bill emailed the group the Treasurer's Report. The group looked it over briefly and commented that we have a good balance.

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

Licensing Board Task Force

Gary told the group that Bob Seymour had been appointed to the Licensing Board and because of this, had to resign from the MESAF Executive Committee.

Gary reported that Max McCormack is the chair of the Task Force (TF) and he has met with Alec Giffen. Max also talked with Don Mansius and Ron Lovaglio, since Ron was involved with the board early on. At least three people were asked by the Governor to serve on the board, Steve Pelletier (Woodlot Alternatives), Tom Rumpf (TNC) and Bob Seymour. Bob is the only one known to have accepted. Henry suggested Don MacKay as an additional candidate.

Alec Giffen feels the licensing board should be within the Dept. of Conservation. Max is trying to figure out how the system came about. Apparently the DOC commissioner and/or State Forester is supposed to come up with possible candidates for the Governor to appoint. This has not been done recently, likely it has been a low priority. It seems that getting names to the State Forester is the best approach.

Jake mentioned that Steve Holt finished his masters on the subject of the licensing board. Jake has a copy.

The question is still out there as to whether Maine needs a licensing board at all.

Max will produce an interim report for the Fall Meeting. The TF work will be discussed during the full meeting, not within the MESAF business meeting.

Henry suggested we find out when Maine will have a fully functioning board and who is on it. Tony asked when the last group of foresters was licensed, no one knew the answer.

NESAF Update

Spencer reported that their last meeting was on June 19 in VT. The electronic ballot process is stalled. All the NESAF state/sub-divisions need to have the same election time frame for the system

to work. Spencer will get more info at their next meeting. The earliest the system would be ready is a year from now.

The comments on the winter meeting in VT were favorable, except that next time a list will be compiled of off-site restaurants.

NESAF currently has ~50 wooden poster easels, which are difficult to transport to the winter meeting locations. NESAF would like to purchase metal folding easels instead. They are looking at options. Jake suggested taking a "tax" from each winter meeting proceeds until the purchase is paid off. After some discussion it was decided that Spencer would mention to NESAF that Maine is will to contribute toward the purchase, as long as other divisions do the same. Apparently funding the easels is not an appropriate grant proposal.

NESAF has \$2500 in their grant fund. The deadline for proposals is December 1.

The NESAF Executive Committee received a letter from the four recipients of the 2007 Integrity in Conservation award. The Committee decided to purchase full size awards for each individual recipient, instead of just the one presented. The Committee has learned from its mistake.

The 2008 Winter Meeting is scheduled for Feb. 26, 27, 28 in Saratoga Springs, NY. Spencer is frustrated that not much organizing has been done yet.

Brad Wyman is still looking for a replacement as News Quarterly Editor. His last issue will be June 2008.

Maine has one Golden Award recipient in 2007, Carl Van Husen. Carl will receive his award at our Fall Meeting.

Spencer noted that NESAF is looking for candidates to fill the Secretary and Treasurer positions. Maine has candidates for each of the 2008 NESAF awards.

NESAF's next meeting is in a few weeks.

2008 Elections

Henry listed the individuals he plans to recruit as candidates:

Dave Maass, Don MacKay, Jack Lutz, Rory Eckardt, Mandy Farrar, Craig Troeger, Dave DeGruttola, Marcia McKeague, Dan Corcoran, George Motta.

Laura will send Henry Sally Butler's contact info. Jake agreed to run for Chair-Elect. Sue, Tony, and Spencer declined to run for a position and Jim is on the fence.

Henry feels the Exec. Comm. needs fewer meetings, but more of them face to face.

Spencer mentioned that opening CFRU meetings to SAF members would not work at this time. Perhaps jointly sponsoring a meeting would be more appropriate.

2007 Fall Meeting

Jake passed around his draft of the meeting agenda. One afternoon slot needs to be filled. Gary phoned Rene and **Rene** agreed to find an ethics speaker. **Jim** will follow up with him. **Jim** and **Rene** will come up with an ethics dilemma closely related to the meeting theme. There will not be any break-out groups, but attendees will be encouraged to discuss the dilemma during lunch.

Gary suggested a title for the meeting: “Rate of Return, First Class Forestry—Can We Have Our Cake and Eat It Too?” Spencer feels the flyer needs an overview statement to lead into the afternoon discussion.

Gary will see that Alec Giffen or Don Mansius is at the meeting. **Gary** will also re-confirm with the current speakers. **Jim** will ask Jay Haynes, Tom Gardner or Jeannot Carrier or speak in the “owner/operator” category. Gary told his speakers that MESAF will pick up their travel expenses.

Laura needs all the info for the mailing by Friday, August 31, 2007. **Jake** will update the program and email it to the group by Tuesday, August 29. **Bill L.** is handling all the lunch/break arrangements. **Jake** will check with him on progress.

The group discussed the meeting cost and an appropriate differential between members and non-members. It was decided that the Fall Meeting registration costs would be: Members – \$25, Non-members – \$75, Students – \$10.

On the flyer, **Laura** will ask if the registrants are licensed Maine Foresters. This info will be used by the Licensing Board TF for discussion at the meeting. **Spencer** will handle the parking arrangements.

Annual Business Meeting Agenda

Laura will follow-up with Cliff Foster about the “Tell It Like It Is Award”.

The following items will be on the agenda:

- ★ Publishing the annual meeting minutes on the website as a “Draft” copy, prior to their approval the following year;
- ★ Interest in a bus to the February 2008 NESAF/NY winter meeting in NY (**Jake** will find out the bus cost);
- ★ Plan to have more numerous, smaller field meetings in 2008;
- ★ Membership pins—30, 40 year, Carl Van Husen’s Golden Award;
- ★ Parting gift to Bob Seymour (**Laura** will investigate what to buy);
- ★ Marc Johnson death announcement and update on his scholarship fund (**Laura** will check with national for other Maine deaths);

Gary will hang on to the gavel until the end of the year.

Guide to Forestry in New England

The group discussed the Guide that Gary forwarded from the Patrick Hackley of NH. The audience is non-foresters, SWOAM-type folks and the general public. NH is looking for 2 people on the committee and shared cost for printing production.

Their proposal did not have much support from the Maine exec group. Jim mentioned that SWOAM already has a good document in circulation. **Gary** would contact Pat with our decision.

On-line Meeting Registrations

Laura reported that national offers the service of handling on-line registrations and making name tags for \$5 per person plus 3% for credit card transactions, or they can just do the credit card transactions for the 3%. **Laura** will pursue the details further. The group prefers having national handle the credit card stuff.

UMaine Student Social

Laura followed up with Bill on his suggestion for a fall student social. The forestry faculty may be organizing a welcoming event for September 14, 15, or 16. They would have a service activity on

the Univ. Forest or Orono Bog Boardwalk followed by a BBQ. Steve Reiling, the School's director would be happy to have MESAF help sponsor the event. Bill suggested a couple of hundred dollars. Jim motioned to make a donation toward the social of not more than \$250. Henry 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Student Chapter Update

Laura mentioned that Katie had nothing to report since school was not yet in session.

Forestry Awareness Committee

Sue reported that the grant application they put together for the \$100,000 Dept. of Educ. Grant to develop a forestry curriculum was not accepted. Two other groups were successful. Their options at this point are to look for other grants, review and learn from the grant applications that were successful and to discuss other options entirely. Sue will investigate Gary's suggestion of hiring a professional grant writer in the future. Sue will discuss the whole endeavor at the fall business meeting.

At their last meeting the FAC outlined how the Forestry Education Network will work. Sue's email is on the website and all requests for speakers, etc. will go to her. She will forward them to the appropriate regional coordinator and they will make the connecting phone calls. One event was successfully done this way in Bangor.

Currently there is a request to train Girl Scouts at Camp Pondicherry on Sept. 29. The FAC's next meeting is September 14, 2007 in Orono.

PLT is celebrating its 30th anniversary soon. MESAF has been invited to come and to help sponsor. There is \$500 in the FAC budget allocated for PLT. Henry motioned to donate \$500 to Maine Tree in support of PLT and another \$500 as a congratulatory gift for the PLT celebration. Spencer 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Communications Committee

Tony reported that there have not been any active meetings recently. The last one was with John Richardson of the Portland Press Herald, attended by Gary, Rene and Tony. This may have led to an article on southern Maine forestland loss.

Tony needs info on the Fall Meeting from Jake to send to the Bangor Daily and then to put in the October News Quarterly.

Dave DeGruttola got a reporter from the local Bethel paper to report on our spring meeting. Gary suggested inviting John Richardson to our Fall Meeting. Jim suggested inviting visual media to our meeting, Henry suggested Maine Public Radio. Laura suggested that we always invite the local papers in the area of our meetings.

Laura suggested buying SAF bumper stickers to put in members' registration packets at the fall meeting. The group agreed. Laura will handle this. Laura also suggested promoting Richard Louv's book, "Last Child in the Woods", since he is the keynote speaker at the national meeting in Oregon. Gary will endorse the book in his chair letter. The group may consider purchasing some of the books in the future to distribute to others.

Jim motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:19 PM.

Submitted by
Laura Audibert
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