

MESAF Executive Committee Meeting
March 1, 2007
Video Conference

Attendance: Gary Bahlkow + Rene Noel in Gray, Bob Seymour, Ken Laustsen, Spencer Meyer, Ron Lemin and Bill Livingston in Orono, Jim Runyan in Machias and Laura Audibert in Fort Kent.

Gary started the meeting at 8:24 AM with his gavel and a brief anti-trust statement.

Agenda Review

Spencer indicated that he needed to leave early, so the NESAF Climate Change statement was addressed first. Spencer received three strongly negative responses from MESAF members on the statement and three others in support of the negative responses. He did not receive any positive responses. Ken indicated that the MESAF Exec Comm does not have any control over the passage or rejection of the NESAF statement. Spencer will vote 'no' for the Maine Division, saying it needs more work. Ken suggested that Gary could share our thoughts with George Frame via email or bring it up at the business meeting in VT.

Ken described the history of the statement. The Carbon Coalition approached Brad Wyman asking if NESAF had a statement on climate change, and they didn't. The Coalition was planning to attend many town meetings in NH and thought it would be a good idea if NESAF had a statement and could present it at these meetings.

The group decided to see what NESAF will do with the statement before determining if MESAF will do anything on its own.

NESAF Report

The website is looking to upgrade so VT, MA and CT can get their info on the site. They are okay with Maine staying with its own site.

Brad Wyman will be done after 6 more Quarterly issues. He feels that the job has outgrown the stipend. NESAF either needs to increase the stipend or decrease the workload.

NESAF is looking at producing an electronic version of the Quarterly, but will likely still retain the paper copy.

The 2008 NESAF meeting will be in Saratoga Springs, NY on February 26, 27, 28, 2008.

Executive Committee Minutes Feb. 7, 2007

Laura read Ken's edits to the minutes. Laura will correctly spell Roger Dziengeleski's and Mariann's names; Brad Wyman will retire from the Quarterly effective with the June 2008 issue; the dates of the NESAF meeting will be February 26, 27 and 28, 2008; our 2007 Fall Business Meeting minutes can be posted on the website as long as it is very clear that it is a draft and has not yet been approved by the membership; the Marc Johnson scholarship may have some interest available for disbursement in 2008, so the MESAF contribution to the students for the NESAF meeting may be less than the appropriated \$250.

Bob S. motioned to accept the minutes as amended, Rene 2nd. Unanimous approval. Ken's version will be used as the final draft.

Treasurer's Report

Bill reported that he has received more dues money from National, now totaling \$1547.50. Expenses since the last meeting include the lunch for the Feb. MESAF ExecComm meeting, Marc

Johnson and John Sinclair scholarship donations and \$300 for the student chapter to attend the NESAF meeting. The total in the general account as of Feb. 28, 2007 is \$10,084.17.

For the Forestry Awareness Account, the check for the remainder of the NESAF grant was received, so the total in that account is \$2241.80. The grand total for all accounts is \$12,326.97.

Henry had emailed Ron inquiring about which MESAF positions are eligible for free meeting registrations. After some discussion, Bill motioned that the elected members of the MESAF Exec Comm and the Division Manager would have their registration fees for MESAF and NESAF meetings waived or paid for by MESAF, effective after the Fall 2007 Business Meeting. Rene amended and Bob S. 2nd the amendment to pay the Division Manager's registration fees effective immediately. Gary clarified that the amendment as to pay all the Division Manager's expenses for NESAF meetings that are sponsored by MESAF, and only the registrations for meetings in other states. Bob S. 2nd Bill's motion as amended. Unanimous approval. Gary added that the objective of the motion is to eliminate obstacles to participation in MESAF leadership and involvement.

Rene motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Bob S. 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Laura will email the group National SAF's 2006 Annual Assessment that she filled out and emailed to Louise Murgia.

2006 Spring Meeting

Rene has a Master Logger who has volunteered to show some of his work in marked and unmarked harvest sites in the Bethel area. The landowners are okay with us touring the sites.

Gary suggested a title such as, "Foresters and Loggers: Myths, Misconceptions and Common Ground." The geographic location will be in the Bethel area. Jim will attend the FRA meeting and check out potential speakers. Rene's contractor will lead us around.

<At this point Bob S. offered an addition to the agenda regarding the licensing board. The item was added to the end of the agenda.>

The group discussed the points that we should be working together with the loggers, not against them and that sustainable growth is a concern for both professions. A suggestion was made that someone give a brief history and description of the Master Logger program and likewise SAF, the CF program and the licensed forester credential, with the code of ethics for each.

There will be a limit of 3 buses for the tour, roughly 150 people. Each site will have one bus at a time and the sites will be broken into tour locations for 3 groups. We will strive to find one lunch stop for all buses.

Student Chapter

Since Katie was unable to attend the meeting, Laura read the notes she sent along. They are listed below:

Here is the Student Chapter rundown:

We are planning for two noontime lectures:

Rory Eckardt on Starting a Business

Upland Forestry

Also doing a service project (perhaps on the University Forest) for Maine Day

Planning pie eating contest for Spring Fling.

Starting up the New Calendar Project, currently working on theme ideas.

Was a write up about the calendar project in Umaine Today, so that generated a few more sales.

\$250 from this years project went to the Marc Johnson Endowment

We also pledged \$250 to send students to NESAF

Planning NESAF trip-

About 12 of us going in "organized" SAF trip.

Will be there Wed-Fri, we are all looking forward to it!!!!

Had an ice fishing field trip, good time had by all.

Totals on the day (brought home) 17 pickerel, 5 perch.

Bill added that Steve Reiling has been helping the Student Chapter out with many expenses. Bill also suggested that **we** should make an effort to interact with the students at the NESAF meeting.

Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be a video conference on **Tuesday, April 10, 2007**. **Bill** will make the arrangement. Other meeting dates will be decided at that time.

Gary will add a plug in his upcoming Chair Letter encouraging members to volunteer as officer. He will also mention the free meeting registration. Rene suggested adding more committees with appointed members, as it was in the past. Spencer was concerned that we may create a problem by having more positions to fill every year.

Licensing Board

Rene mentioned that at the last board meeting Steve Holt resigned, leaving only three members. Four members are needed for a quorum. Rene is serving until he is replaced. Without a quorum the board cannot vote on licensing those who will be taking the test in March.

Bob offered to write a letter to the Governor's appointed person and suggest names of qualified potential members. He indicated that Dave Field is willing to serve and is very qualified. Rene suggested that the letter should express outrage at the incompetence of those responsible for the appointment process. Gary suggested offering a list of qualified foresters who are willing to serve and being proactive. It was also suggested that the board membership continue its tradition of diversity of backgrounds. **Gary** will immediately draft a letter and circulate it through the exec comm. The group will send Gary names of possible appointees ASAP. Another suggestion was to promote legislation to move the licensing board from the Dept. of Financial Regulation to the Dept. of Conservation. This may be brought up at our 2007 Fall Business Meeting. Bill suggested sending copies of the letter to our legislators and those representing our list of suggested appointees.

<Spencer left at 10:15 AM>

Bill will submit a request for our April 10 video meeting to be held at the same four locations.

Bob S. motioned to adjourn at 10:28 AM.

Submitted by
Laura Audibert