

**MESAF Executive Committee Meeting**

**February 27, 2009**

**204 Nutting Hall, UMaine Campus, Orono**

Laura compiled these minutes based on memory and notes from Wil and Jake; her meeting notes are missing.

Amended April 3, 2009

Attendance: Jake Metzler, Ken Laustsen, Spencer Meyer, Gary Bahlkow, Wil Mercier, Ron Lemin, Jeremy Leicy, Sue Aygarn and Laura Audibert. On Skype: Bill Livingston and Tony Filauro.

Jake opened the meeting at 9:05 AM with an anti-trust statement. Ken added a few items to the agenda.

**Secretary's Report**

The minutes from the January 23, 2009 meeting we emailed to the group earlier by Laura. Ken had some edits, which he also emailed out. The group unanimously accepted the minutes as edited by Ken.

**Treasurer's Report**

Bill emailed the Treasurer's Report to the group. The checking account balance is \$5,279.94 and the savings account balance is \$4,919.61. Our combined total is \$10,199.55. The Forestry Awareness budget reflects the additional \$1000 MESAF donated to help with school transportation to the Envirothons. From the NESAF account, Bill paid the upfront cost of the ice rink rental for the hockey game. The account will be reimbursed after the event. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

**NESAF Update**

The NESAF excomm has not met since our last MESAF excomm meeting. Nothing to report.

**NESAF Winter Meeting**

The group discussed AV issues, volunteers, packet materials, the final program and details. Everything is shaping up well.

\* **By-law Update and Acceptance – Ken**

This discussion was tabled in the interest of time.

\* **Setting up Paypal/other for credit card payments**

Bill reported that PayPal requires a checking account number, into which the payments are automatically made. This sounded like a good idea to everyone. Bill and Spencer will pursue it further.

\* **2009 Spring Meeting Details**

- June 3 – Joint Meeting
- The agenda is set and Bill is drafting up a flyer for the meeting to put into the NESAF registration packets. MESAF members will pay the break-even registration fee, others will pay higher.

- **Biomass/Diversity Harvesting Tour (Southern/Central Maine)**

There was discussion of a possible tour in southern Maine, which Rob Bryan offered to spearhead. Jake will make the contact on this.

- **GIS Workshop (UMaine Campus)**

Jake asked Wil to take the first cut at a GIS workshop later this spring. The workshop will be focused on serving consultants and will look at free software and available data. He was given Dave Hobbins at UMFK as a resource for this info. Wil needs to get an announcement to Tony by March 22 to be in the next News Quarterly.

\* **Report on Forestry Licensing Board Task Force**

The group approved the continuation of the Licensing Board Task Force and Ken Laustsen agreed to serve as the chair. All other members were automatically reappointed. Ken attended the last board meeting and was asked why he was there. When it was made clear that SAF wanted to be sure the process was working properly, the board pleased.

Ken also reported that the board will now be using SAF CF credit assignments for Maine Forester CEUs. Nory Parr in NH currently assigns the CF credits for NESAF and he is very accessible and timely.

Mark Leathers has recently become a board member.

\* **Report on Harvesting Task Force**

It was reported that Bob Wagner felt that the TF was done once it presented its final report to the MESAF Ex Comm.

\* **Other**

**Biomass Harvesting Guidelines**

Sue represented MESAF on this issue. She circulated the draft guidelines via email prior to the meeting and members were asked to review them. The group felt the guidelines were inadequate and decided not to endorse them as presented. The group motioned and accepted the following response, which Sue will send to Jeff Benjamin:

" While the Maine Society of American Foresters Executive Committee supports the concept of the 'Guidelines for the Retention of Woody Biomass', we do not support the document as currently structured due to incomplete scientific basis and lack of implementation recommendations."

**Committee Reports**

▪ **Forestry Awareness Program – Sue**

Sue reported that the group was busy trying to find volunteers for upcoming school events this spring, and also the Envirothons. Bill mentioned that he is working with the Lewiston and Auburn teachers on the grant program.

▪ **Communications – Tony**

Tony wanted some spring meeting info to put in the upcoming News Quarterly. Tony mentioned the name of Kevin Miller's replacement at the BDN, Abigail Curtis.

▪ **Student Chapter – Jeremy**

Jeremy reported that the Student Chapter does plan to have a booth at the NESAF meeting and to participate in the Quiz Bowl. The printer for their calendars is up and running again. They will sell some at the NESAF meeting.

▪ **Nominating – Gary**

Gary requested an updated membership list to by the nominating committee. Laura will request an up-to-date list and send it to him. Sue mentioned that she could use one for the FAP as well.

▪ **Tellers, Auditing, Forest Practices**

The last chair of the Forest Practices Task Force was believed to be Jensen Bissell.

Jake reported that he spoke with Dave Field about the Policy Committee. Dave mentioned that it is very hard for the MESAF ExComm to make any policy decisions, since we are a very diverse group and we could not develop anything in a timely fashion. Dave did suggest that we could revamp the Forestry Practices: Goals and Standards document that MESAF developed 20 years ago, to reflect new issues. This would allow us to refer to an existing document for policy guidance.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at ~ 12:15 PM, followed by lunch.

Submitted by

*Laura Audibert*