

**Maine Division Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
April 20, 2012
Buchanan Alumni House, UMaine, Orono**

Attending: Ken Laustsen, Tony Filauro, Bill Livingston, Mallory Bussell, Ron Lemin, Katie Cousins, Kris Hoffman, Wil Mercier. Laura Audibert Skyped in.

Katie opened the meeting at 8:10 AM with a brief anti-trust statement.

Agenda Review

No changes were made.

Minutes of March 9, 2012

Wil motioned to accept the minutes as distributed, Ken 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report

Bill passed out the Treasurer's Report. The primary activity since the last meeting was the receipt of a dues check for \$1442. To date we have received \$1539 in dues. The Student Chapter award was given out last week. Bill wrote the check for \$600 but it has not cleared yet. Our ending balance including the dues and student award activity will be \$7199. The actual balance as of today is \$6357.

From the Forestry Awareness account, Bill sent the \$1500 check to Maine TREE for the Teacher Tours and he has received a thank-you letter. The ending balance in the FAC account is \$1028. The balance for all accounts, once the checks clear will be \$8228.16. We have not requested the advance from NESAF yet for the May 2013 meeting.

Ken motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Wil 2nd. Unanimous approval. Bill also noted that he submitted the Maine SAF IRS form to NESAF.

NESAF Update

The NESAF Executive Committee (EC) met via conference call recently. The Winter Meeting in Amherst went well. The actual attendance and revenue figures are not available yet. Registration was higher than expected, but the sponsorship and exhibitor income was lower.

Jeff Hutchins, the Membership Chair will be promoting phone drives and providing mobile kits for the student chapters to use during the drives next year.

Ken reported that the NESAF dues will be increasing \$4 to a total of \$20. It's the first increase in over 10 years. Changing the dues does not require a bylaw change. Maine's Division dues are \$6 per year. Bill suggested waiting until the budget won't support the Division Manager position before increasing our dues.

The Leadership Academy was successful. There were 17 attendees and 9 were from Maine.

On the conference call there was much discussion about the NY/NE joint meeting. The majority of the EC members voted to go ahead with it. The hotel expenses in Saratoga Springs will be higher. The rough theme relates to the Northern Woodlands report. The program is coming together. The NY folks typically start planning the details in June. The Northeast Pest Council has shown interest in joining the meeting. The meeting dates are January 29—February 1, 2013 in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Ken and Ron also volunteered to help with the joint meeting. Likely the October 2012 News Quarterly will advertise the NY/NE joint meeting and the January 2013 issue will advertise our May 2013 meeting. Wil noted that we should advertise our May 2013 meeting as the MESAF Spring Meeting and the joint meeting as the Winter Meeting.

Tony suggested arranging a bus from Maine to NY. Bill suggested encouraging carpooling instead. Laura mentioned that for MESAF meetings, registrants can check a box on the registration form indicating if they want their contact info (name, town, phone #) listed on the website for carpooling purposes. Ron suggested that Deb can do this on the NESAF website.

Kris wants to be sure there is a good Quiz Bowl team from Maine. Ken noted that he would like to have a “Dirty Boots” Quiz Bowl for dirt foresters at the May 2013 meeting.

The next NESAF EC meeting is in the summer.

May 2013 MESAF Meeting

The current plan is for Wednesday (Day 1) to be a plenary session with one set of concurrent sessions. Thursday will have options for full day indoor workshops or field trips. Thursday evening will have an outdoor BBQ. Friday will be a half day of field trips that folks can attend on their way home.

Ron and Kris checked out both Sugarloaf and Sunday River as potential meeting venues. Sugarloaf had better pricing, but the meeting rooms are not “real” meeting rooms, just ski lodge areas. There are not many places to go off site at Sugarloaf either. Ron passed out the info for both venues.

<Colton Burgess arrived at 8:53 AM>

After comparing the sites and much discussion, the group voted unanimously for Sunday River. Sunday River has buses we can use and more recreation options. **Kris** will circulate the contract with Sunday River before signing it.

The registration cost is estimated to be \$115 - \$120 per person, not including field trips. Each field trip will be priced separately. Attendees must provide their own transportation for the Friday field trips. It was suggested that we could pay to bring in “high power” workshop trainers for the indoor sessions.

For the NY/NESAF meeting, the registration cost is expected to be:
Members - \$130; Students - \$60; Non-members - \$180 and there will also be a late fee.

Committee positions for the May 2013 meeting need to be filled. Current assignments are:
Arrangements Chair = Ron
Program Chair = Wil (he will have a subcommittee helping him)
Registration = Laura
Facilities = Kris
Sponsorship/Exhibitors = Ron (maybe Kurt Zschau too)
Signage = Mary McDonald
Silent Auction = Katie
Posters, if we have them = Katie
Audio-Visual = no one wants to do it. Katie will ask Bob Cousins to do it.

Student Volunteers will be low since the meeting is after finals. Some can help with AV. Bill will look into having a May Term "course" for credit to attend the field trips and volunteer. Colton will talk it over with other students and invite the first-year students.

Wil will contact Brian Roth and Nate Vir to be on the Program subcommittee. Janice Mulherin from NH will be doing a White Mountain NF tour. The Silviculture Working Group is also interested in having a separate field tour at the meeting. Bill could do a pest (Emerald Ash Borer) tour. Ron could do an invasive species tour.

Before the next meeting the contract details and pricing will be firmed up. Vegetable kebabs were suggested as a non-meat BBQ option. More details will be ironed out at our July 20, 2012 meeting. A plenary speaker is still needed. Everyone should try to think of someone and bring ideas to the July 20 meeting.

Board of Licensure of Foresters Update

Ken reported that the next meeting of the Board is Thursday, April 26. The MFS will be there as well to discuss how to change the licensing law based on the resolve. Ken will attend. The original summary Ken put together did not get circulated to the membership as planned. The members should be encouraged to address the meeting as individual foresters. MESAF cannot speak as a group. SAF has a matrix of what each state currently requires and the board has this already. The amended resolve seeks to simplify the requirements to get a license in Maine. It also wants to make it easier for knowledgeable foresters to qualify by experience only and passing the exam.

Katie will re-circulate Ken's letter to the EC and then **Bill** will send it to the membership right away. **Katie** will also draft a brief introductory statement to go with the letter. The board meeting will be held at the Dept. of Professional and Financial Regulation building at 76 Northern Ave. in Gardiner at 9:00 AM on April 26, 2012.

2012 Field Meeting Planning

Kris has her field meeting pretty well nailed down except for the pricing. It will be held on August 24 from 9:00 AM to 4:45 PM. The registration limit will be 40, which includes the speakers. The title will be “**Rehabilitation Silviculture 2012**”. **Kris** will email her draft to Laura soon.

Laura would like to have the mailing include the info for all three field tours. She needs the info in early May so it can be mailed out on May 11.

Katie will contact Jessica to get her meeting information.

Katie reported on Bob’s field tour entitled, “**Fishing for Answers; Downeast Solutions for Fish Passage.**” A bus will leave Orono at 7:00 AM and arrive at Carloe Brook at 9:00 AM. The bus will return to Orono at 5:30 PM. The bus will likely be able to pick up attendees along the way to the tour. Parking permits will be needed for those leaving their vehicle at Nutting. **Katie** will have Bob make a few changes, including the topic of riparian zone management. The registration will be 35 for this tour, including speakers. **Bob** will get all the information to Laura soon.

Other

Golden Forestry Member Certificate Distribution—Ken reported that two 50-year SAF members need to receive their certificates this year. Ken sent a letter to Paul Johnson of Monmouth asking if he would like to receive it at the annual fall meeting in October or at another event. Paul has not responded yet. The other recipient is Max McCormack. Max and national SAF disagree on his qualifying years of membership and Max is not happy. Ron feels Max will accept his certificate at the fall meeting.

2011 MESAF Annual Report—Ken didn’t have a chance to present Maine’s report since the NESAF business meeting ran longer than planned. Ken drafted a report and sent it to Katie and Laura for accuracy then forwarded it to Andy Fast for inclusion in the official NESAF business meeting minutes. **Ken** will circulate it to the Maine EC soon.

NESAF Elections—Wil noted that the deadline for election info is August 1, 2012. The Maine slate of nominations should be finalized at our July 20, 2012 meeting. Wil’s term as Maine Rep. to NESAF will be expiring at the end of the calendar year. He would consider running for Maine Chair-Elect. Sue Aygarn may be interested in the Maine Rep. position. Ron is running for Maine Member-at-Large. **Katie** offered to help reach potential nominees if needed. Bill suggested Rob Lillholm and Jeff Benjamin. The Student Chapter also needs a new faculty advisor. The group suggested Al Kimball or Bob Seymour for the short-term.

2012 Fall Meeting

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at the Wells Conference Center. There has been no news on whether John Malone is interested in participating. Kris was discouraged from pursuing the Plum Creek possibility. **Wil** will draft an email to the membership asking for case studies on new innovations. **Laura** will post the request on the website. Case studies will be due by May 30 and **Kris** will receive the submissions. **Katie** will follow on contacts with Jessica and email the group. Our July 20 meeting will require serious work and discussion on

this program. Wil suggested tracking down some innovations ourselves, in case we don't get any submissions. Ron suggested Bob Wagner's Sugar Maple Release study.

Committee Reports

Forestry Awareness—Katie reported that the Envirothon training on April 16 went well. Katie, Bill, Bob and Sasha attended. There is the PLT workshop for natural resource professionals on May 21 at Goodwill Hinckley. Katie and Kris will be attending. The Children's Days at Leonard's Mills is scheduled for May 30, 31 and June 1. So far Katie is the only volunteer signed up. Others indicated that it was poorly organized in 2011. Wil suggested that if this does not prove to be a good outreach opportunity for MESAF, we should reconsider our involvement. He also suggested a one-day activity so that volunteers only need to commit for one day. **Wil** will likely volunteer for one day this year. Bill suggested having a simple geocaching activity following a compass line. Kris suggested a tree identification lesson followed by a scavenger hunt. Katie signed up for June 1. Wil feels we need 3 people each day. Bill suggested that MESAF just do one day.

Communications—Tony sent out emails to John Holyoke of the BDN and John Richardson of the PPH on March 16 and did not get any responses. He followed up on April 2 and Holyoke still did not respond, but Richardson indicated he was not interested but to try the editor, Ray Kusich.

< Ken left the meeting at 10:48 AM >

Tony sent him an email and has not heard back yet. **Ron** will call or visit John Holyoke. Bill suggested contacting them about our fall meeting on innovations and then they could go in the field to see one of the case studies. **Tony** will follow up with the media reps again for the fall meeting.

Student Chapter—Mallory reported that Jessica had contacted Huber about helping to fix up their Demo Forest for Maine Day, but it didn't work out. The students worked on trails for Maine Bound instead. They are planning for the Student Conclave in the early fall. It will be held in Baxter Park. They are looking to stay at Matagamom Camps. The group wondered if there was any NESAF funding for this. The NY conclave had sponsorships. **Ron** will help to try and get sponsorships. **Wil** will contact Jeff at NESAF to see if there are any funds available. The use of University vans may be an additional expense. If it is an SAF event, they should check into the SAF insurance procedure. Bill questioned Colton if the conclave would be suitable for first-year students. If so, a SAF student member should plan on mentioning this at the Tanglewood Camp outing. They will be sending out their letters for the calendars, but no date has been set yet. The officers for next year are: Chair – Colton Burgess; Vice Chair -- Casey Elmer; Jeremiah Birch – Secretary and Devon Fogerty – Treasurer.

Kris motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 AM, Wil 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Submitted by

Laura Audibert