

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

Attending: Bill Livingston, Katie Cousins, Mallory Bussell, Ken Laustsen, Tony Filauro, Wil Mercier, Kristen Hoffman, Sasha Miller, Ron Lemin. Laura Audibert attended via Skype.

Katie opened the meeting at 10:38 AM with a brief anti-trust statement.

The members introduced themselves and Ron offered to run for MAL in the next election and also to help Ken run the 2013 NE/MESAF meeting.

Agenda Review

Katie added Future Meeting Dates to the "Other" section. Wil added 2013 Election Nominations also.

Kris asked Laura to take Jake Metzler's name off the Officer List. He is not the Nominating Committee Chair.

Bill recommended Jeff Benjamin or Jeremy Wilson to replace Jessica as a MAL next year.

Ron and Ken want to discuss the 2012 Leadership Academy under NESAF.

Minutes of August 31, 2011 Phone Meeting

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

Minutes of July 15, 2011

Wil questioned the figures on page 2 paragraph 3 regarding FAC spending. The \$400 and \$500 expenditures do not add up to the \$960 total. **Laura** will add "roughly" to the figures and redistribute the minutes. Kris motioned to accept the minutes as amended, Wil 2nd, Ken abstained since he was not a voting member at that time. Motioned passed.

Treasurer's Report

Bill passed out the Report and noted that he forgot to change the date in the upper left corner of page 1. It should read 1/20/12.

Bill expects the fall meeting revenue to be less, so the ending account balance will be closer to \$1400. The group discussed meeting attendance and possible reasons for its recent decline. Maybe we should increase our earnings margin on field meetings to offset the decreased revenue from the Fall meeting.

An interim report for the two-year NESAF grant for school field equipment purchase needs to be done, **Bill** will take care of it. **Bill** will also speak to Tish Carr about spending the remainder of the funds. **Bill** will send this info to Sasha.

Kris motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Ken 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Future Executive Committee (EC) Meeting Dates

Bill needed to leave, so this agenda item was moved forward in the agenda. The following meeting dates were set:

Friday, March 9, 2012 at UMaine's Nutting Hall; 9:00 AM

Friday, April 20, 2012, location and time TBD;

Friday, July 20, 2012, location and time TBD;

Friday, September 21, 2012, location and time TBD;

Friday, November 16, 2012, 9:00AM, location TBD.

<Jessica arrived at 11:24 AM>

Tuesday, October 9, 2012 was chosen for the Fall Meeting. **Bill** will check the availability of Wells Conference Center.

<Bill left at 11:33 AM>

NESAF Update

The NESAF Winter Meeting will be held on April 3-6, 2012 in Amherst, Mass. The information will be in the upcoming News Quarterly. Dana Hachigan from NESAF will be sending Katie an email asking if Maine would like to have meeting space available on Friday, April 6 from 7:30 to 9:30 AM. Do we want it?

The group felt it was important that information for our NE/MESAF meeting in the spring of 2013 be available at the 2012 NESAF meeting in Amherst.

Wil's term as Maine Representative to NESAF will expire in 2012. Wil hasn't decided if he will run again. The Secretary position for NESAF is also vacant and needs to be filled for the remainder of the year.

The NY/NE joint meeting is being scheduled for Jan 30 to February 1, 2013 in Saratoga Springs, NY.

NESAF Leadership Academy

Ron and **Ken** will organize the Academy to be held on Friday April 6, 2012 on the last day of the NESAF meeting from 7:00 AM to 12:30 PM. A box lunch will be available. The maximum attendance is 30 people. Each Division can send 4-6 people at a cost of \$30 per person to the division. The balance is paid by a Forester's Fund grant. Ron noted that membership drops off between 5 and 9 years, they are targeting members before that time in hopes to boost retention.

Ron asked for names of potential attendees to receive invitations. So far they have Cassie Vaillancourt, Nathaniel Vir, and Erica Coffman; Sasha and Mallory are also interested.

The agenda for the Academy is on the website and in the News Quarterly. Credits are available. The Myers-Briggs personality test is given and talks from George Frame, and Roger Ddziengleski.

Some of the students at the Student Conclave expressed interest in attending as well.

Board of Licensure of Foresters Update

Ken attended the January 18, 2012 meeting of the Board. He reported that the governor directed the MFS to submit a resolve to the board to streamline forester licensing. The resolve has a LD number and will appear on the docket at some point. The MFS is concerned that the cost and length of internships are barriers to becoming licensed. The MFS feels that an adequate level of education and experience and a short exam on Maine laws are sufficient qualifications to get a license.

The MFS reported that only 25% of the harvests in Maine in 2010 were overseen by a LPF. They want to expand the number of LPFs since some environmental permits will soon require involvement of a LPF. Ken reported that the 25% figure is actually for NIPFs owning less than 100 acres. The actual statewide figure is 69% of harvests are overseen by a LPF.

At the end of the board meeting, the board was not interested in relaxing the licensing requirements, they want to keep the current rigor. The board suggested that the resolve be changed to indicate that the board and the MFS will work to streamline the process of education, experience and internship requirements.

Ken sees an opportunity for Maine SAF to weigh in during the public comment period. Maine SAF should have a voice in our profession and we should be involved. The question was raised as to whether national SAF should weigh in since the Certification Review Board (CRB) exam is used for Maine licensing.

Katie noted that she felt the exam should be more Maine-based and it did not reflect what she does in her job. Sasha related that the time delay for all the steps can be significant (six months). Wil has mixed feelings about the internships, they can be good or bad experiences. Ken noted that the CRB exam is designed to measure competency which is usually gained through experience, not just school work. Ken also noted that most Maine applicants pass the exam. Only one in forty exam takers actually failed. The group also discussed the issues that arise when experienced foresters move into Maine and try to get a license.

Ken offered to be Maine SAF's representative in the licensing board process until a time arises when his service conflicts the national CRB process. Ken has a stronger allegiance to the CF process than to the Maine situation. There are roughly 700 licensed foresters currently on the Maine roster. That number seems to remain steady. **Ken** will keep us informed as the process moves forward. Written testimony may be needed later. The Maine EC would have a hard time representing all the members' views. **Ken** will email Laura a copy of the resolve.

May 2013 MESAF Meeting

A date for the meeting is needed by April for announcement at the 2012 Winter NESAF meeting. Ken suggested some topics to be addressed: Invasives, vernal pools, wind, gps, hut-to-hut, maple sugaring, AMC mgt, wildlife habitat mgt, recreation component, Plum Creek's development proposal, and perhaps offering a golf and/or whitewater rafting excursion. A GIS

workshop was also suggested. The NESAF meetings are typically Wednesday, Thursday and ½ day Friday. A suggested format would be Wednesday afternoon indoors, Thursday field tours and Friday half day field tours to more distant locations. This would amount to two nights lodging.

Ron is the Arrangements Chair, **Ken** is the General Chair. **Wil** and **Katie** offered to help as well. The date, location, theme and title will be set by April. Saddleback was suggested as a possible location. Price quotes on lodging will be needed soon.

2012 Field Meeting Planning

Jessica would like to organize a tour involving Pleasant River Lumber in the Dover area in July. She also suggested touring the Piscataquis County Demonstration Forest and noteworthy landowners such as Mel Ames and Ron Locke.

Kris has been asked to do more field tours on rehab. work in poorly managed stands. She suggested the Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust managed by Roger Greene. This also has a recreation component. She would prefer August for the tour.

Bob was given suggestions on looking at some things Downeast such as salmon habitat mgt, commercial thinning. This tour may be held in late June.

Laura developed a Field Meeting Planning Procedure and Katie distributed it to the group. Any suggestions for improvement to the procedure should be sent to Laura.

2012 Fall Meeting

Katie looked at the list of topic suggestions generated from the Fall 2011 meeting. Some topics were discussed, including how we can reach the public with our message. A tour of the University's Wood Composite Lab may be arranged for the end of the day. The group needs to think of ideas.

2013 Elections

Katie appointed **Ron** as the Nominations Committee Chair and **Wil**, **Ken** and herself as committee members. The group will work on putting together a slate of candidates.

Committee Reports

Forestry Awareness Committee—Sasha reported that she has not yet met with Sue but planned to today. Sasha needs 12-15 people for an event in Skowhegan. There will be a PLT workshop in May for younger foresters to learn how to teach forestry concepts with teachers in the classroom.

It was reported that the Huber Demonstration Forest was vandalized last fall. Perhaps a May Day project could be organized with the Division and the Student Chapter to help fix it up.

On March 16 there will be an Envirothon workshop in Unity.

Communications—Tony reported that he hasn't met with any media reps in a while. He will try to get a group of interested members together to meet with the BDN and PPH people. He

reported that the China Lake Forestry Days encouraged some good interactions among the foresters, teachers and chaperones. For the 2011 Fall meeting, Tony sent out notices to TV channels. Channel 2 and 7 showed up and we were on the 6:00 PM and 11:00 PM news that evening.

Tony asked if the information he presents in the News Quarterly is meeting our needs. Tony agreed to be the Communications Chair for the 2013 NE/MESAF meeting.

Student Chapter—Mallory reported that they are currently selling their fundraising calendars, but they are not selling as well as they had hoped. Tony suggested having the calendars ready for sale in October.

The students are hosting the Student Conclave in the fall. They want to get the info out before summer break. Ron feels that tours are a very important component of the conclaves.

Mallory reported that the mentoring program is not very active. Ron noted that there will be a Commercial Pesticide Applicators course in August.

Jessica noted that there is a new curriculum ready for the fall 2012 semester. The school will also be enforcing professional guidelines for students.

Jessica motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:03 PM. Unanimous approval.

Submitted by

Laura Audibert