

Maine Division - Society of American Foresters
Business Meeting
D.B. Corbett Building, University of Maine
Orono, ME
October 9, 2007

DRAFT October 25, 2007

Gary Bahlkow convened the business meeting at 8:10 on October 9, 2007, on the University of Maine campus. After reading the anti-trust statement, the minutes from the 2006 meeting were presented and approved.

Bill Livingston reported on the revenues and expenses for the fiscal year October 1, 2006 to September 2007. The areas where expenses differed noticeably from the approved budget included net income of \$6,000 from the 2006 fall meeting, no expenses for the SAF leadership academy (not held), \$2,000 contributed to UMaine scholarship funds in memory of John Sinclair (\$500) and Marc Johnson (\$1,500), \$300 awarded to a UMaine student to attend the 2006 NESAF meeting to serve as the first award from the Marc Johnson memorial scholarship, \$265 in support of a student social at UMaine to welcome new students, deposit of \$939 from the UMaine Student Chapter from funds that were donated for an Allagash Bridge Memorial, and \$500 contribution to the Maine Tree Foundation in honor of the 30th anniversary for Project Learning Tree in the state. Highlights for the 2008 budget include (i) budgeting for \$3,000 net earnings from meetings, (ii) budgeting for \$2,000 for the Leadership Academy, (iii) continued budgeting for new items involving student activities including travel to SAF national meeting (\$500), travel to the NESAF meeting (\$300 as part of the Johnson Award), and the fall student social (\$250). The budget report was approved unanimously by the membership.

Gary mentioned that the Executive Committee intends to post a draft of the business meeting minutes on the web site as soon as they were ready so that the membership can read information about the meeting prior to the next fall meeting.

Gary received a suggestion for chartering a bus to bring members from Maine to the NESAF meeting being held in conjunction with the New York chapter in Saratoga Springs next February. Members present indicated an interest, and Laura Audibert said a decision would need to be made by early January on whether to use a bus or not.

The next item for discussion was the format for the spring field meeting. The Executive Committee has discussed the option of organizing multiple, regional field meetings. Disadvantages of this format would be a loss of communication among members from different parts of the state and more work for the Members at Large who organize the meetings.. Advantages include covering more topics and capping the attendance at 30-40 which is better suited to a field meeting. Also, field meetings should minimize travel time during the day and

maximize time at the field sites. The Executive Committee does intend to ask for volunteers at the various locations for the field meetings to help the Members at Large. Laura will send one mailing next winter or spring with the announcement and registration requests for all of the field meetings. There was no objection voiced from the membership at the meeting to these plans.

Ken Laustsen reported on the establishment of the Marc Johnson memorial scholarship at the University of Maine. Marc's intent was to fund a UMaine student to attend the NESAF winter meeting. The fund is established at the University of Maine Foundation, and \$5,000 was needed before earnings from the endowment could be granted to a student. Bill Livingston was told by the Foundation that MESAF's contribution of \$1,500 did bring Marc's memorial fund above the minimum.

Max McCormack requested nominations for SAF fellows that need to be considered by a committee that he chairs for our region. There are 5 people on the committee, and they will select nominations that will be forwarded to the SAF Council for their consideration. The paperwork and needed information are available on the SAF national web site. Max noted that Maine has one of the largest membership numbers in the nation but did not nominate a fellow during the past year.

Spencer Meyer reported on NESAF activities. (i) The "Future Challenges" paper has been submitted to the national office. How the paper will be published will be decided later. (ii) The joint NE/NY meeting will be February 27-29, 2006, in Saratoga Springs, NY; the agenda and program are on the national SAF web site. (iii) The grad student competition at the meeting will involve oral and poster presentations, and the call for participants is out. Information on the competition is available at the NESAF web site or from Jim Harding. (iv) NESAF award nominees need to be submitted by mid-November; see Spencer or the NESAF web site if you want to submit a name. (v) Brad Wymann is retiring as the NESAF newsletter editor next July 1, and he is expecting to have a replacement ready for the responsibilities by that time. (vi) The deadline for submitting a proposal for up to \$2,500 grant is December 7. (vii) The 2009 NESAF winter meeting will be hosted by Maine. (viii) NESAF is investigating the feasibility of organizing its own leadership academy.

Henry Whittemore announced the election results based on 95 votes. Jake Metzler is the chair elect, and the Members at Large are John Lutz, Dave Field, and Dave Maass. Henry thanked all who participated in the elections, and also mentioned the need for further discussions on how to get more candidates to participate in the elections. After becoming Chair of MESAF in January, Henry wants to help facilitate discussions on what's driving land value increases and to look at non-timber values. We always will need timber, but we also need to look at other income streams such as carbon credits, recreation, and wind generators. Biological and financial analyses of these uses are also needed. Henry also wants MESAF to provide leadership in getting foresters to use their expertise to address societal concerns about forest management.

After Gary reviewed the MESAF bylaws, he decided action was needed to get four standing committees active; each should have three members. The first is the Nominations Committee. The goal is to have at least 2 candidates for each elected position. Gary noted that being chair does not take a lot of time; Laura as division manager does much of the needed work. Todd Caldwell volunteered to help Henry and Jake in finding nominees for the elected positions. Additional discussion on nominations included (i) whether the Nominations Committee should submit a slate of candidates for approval, (ii) using on-line voting service provided by the national office in addition to the paper ballots, (iii) keeping email addresses updated at the national office (submit online), and (iv) how single-candidate ballots result in low voting participation.

The Tellers Committee should count the ballots; Steve Coleman, Lee Stover, and Wally Robbins volunteered for that duty. The Auditing Committee reviews the financial records and reports its findings, and Jim Runyan agreed to provide that service. Rene Noel, Mike Dann, Jeremy Boron, and Jonathan Scott volunteered for the Forest Practices Committee.

Ron Lemin asked about a Membership Committee whose chair needs to report to the NESAF winter meeting. Gary responded that the by-laws do not require this committee. Spencer Meyer suggested that the NESAF representative serve as the membership representative to the NESAF winter meeting, and no one objected to that recommendation.

Tony Filauro reported on Communication Committee activities. Gary, Rene, and Tony had a meeting with the Portland Press Harold in May 2007. About 6 weeks later there was an editorial in the paper about the impact of urban sprawl on forest lands. Tony also sent announcements about the meeting to the local press, and WABI TV5 did send a reporter to the meeting. Gary also mentioned that the Bethel Citizen sent a reporter to last spring's meeting and wrote an article afterwards.

Recipients of this year's membership awards include Carl Van Husen receiving NESAF's Golden Membership (50 yr), the 40 yr award to Lee Stover and James May, and the 30 yr award to Claude Godbout, David Griswold, Al Kimball, Marcia McKeague, Robert Spivey, William Sylvester, and John Torunski.

Gary requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Marc Johnson, David Rock, and John Sinclair.

Cliff Foster introduced the "Tell It Like It Is" Award which is given to the member who is not afraid to speak-out and maybe making politically incorrect statements. Last year's recipient, Peter Lammert, decided to give the award to Rene Noel.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 for a break and was reconvened at 9:56.

Katie Manende is chair for the UMaine student chapter, and student members have been visiting first-year classes to invite new member. Three applications have been received and more are expected. A major project for the year is to produce a 2008 calendar for sale. Requests for sponsors has been good, and the calendar should be ready for sale by Thanksgiving. Members can order a calendar by contacting Katie, the office staff in Nutting Hall, or by checking the MESAF web site after Thanksgiving. Later this fall, SAF student members will join members of the Wildlife Society in helping to clean-up the deer pens on the University Forest. In closing, Katie announced to those who hadn't heard that George Houston had established a \$12 million endowment for scholarships in the School of Forest Resources. Gary thanked Katie and expressed his appreciation to the good students in the chapter and remarked on the excellent attendance of students at last winter's NESAF meeting in Vermont.

Gary introduced Sue Aygarn to report on the Forestry Awareness Committee (FAC) and remarked on how the committee has evolved into quite an ambitious effort. Sue stated that the Committee's long term goals are related to the message in Richard Luv's book "Last Child in the Woods" as well as the purpose of a number of grass-roots groups in Maine – get kids outside! Examples of such efforts in the state include Friends of Acadia summit on getting families to visit parks, an effort that has succeeded in Connecticut. Governor Baldacci has also announced a "take it outdoors" initiative for Maine. FAC's goal is to get foresters to schools and get the kids outdoors. What could help in achieving this goal are the new revisions in the Maine Learning Results that make the study of forests very compatible with meeting the new expectations in high school education. Tad Johnston from the Maine Department of Education had informed FAC of federal funds that the DOE was going to make available for funding projects that help teachers improve their teaching and curricula in science and math to better meet the Learning Results. A partnership developed between FAC, Pat Maloney at Project Learning Tree, Bill Livingston at UMaine, Lewiston High School, Auburn High School, Auburn Land Lab, and conservation organizations in the Lewiston/Auburn region in support of a grant to incorporate forest education into high school science curricula. Even though the partnership did not receive a grant last spring, there is still willingness to meet this December and resubmit a proposal to the state in 2008.

The next short term goal for FAC is to get MESAF members involved with the Envirothon competition this spring at the state's high schools. Tish Carr heads Maine's participation in this national program, and she wants to increase the 54 teams at 36 schools to 200 teams. People are needed to give presentations to teams and to sponsor teams. FAC's Forest Education Network of MESAF members will be used to help find people to work with Envirothon teams. Sue also encouraged members to continue visiting schools when requested by teachers. If contacted, you should meet with the teacher prior to visiting the class to talk about what you want to do. Keep the presentation simple; just 5 minutes in the classroom and then go outside. Be sure to bring a completely outfitted cruisers vest as the kids are fascinated by all the pockets and gadgets. To

get involved, Sue encouraged members to sign-up for the Forest Education Network, Envirothon, and for PLT training workshops. She also announced the motto for the committee which is “Grow a tree, grow a mind. Foresters plant the seed. Ask a forester to your school.”

The next discussion involved the status of the Forestry Licensing board in Augusta. Rene reported last spring that the board lacked enough members to form a quorum, and Gary wrote a letter on behalf of MESAF requesting that the governor appoint the needed board members and that MESAF is willing to assist in finding candidates to serve. In addition, Gary requested the formation of a Forester License Task Force. Max McCormack agreed to chair the committee, and other members included Jeremy Boron, Steve Coleman, Doug Denico, and Greg Foster. Committee membership is not fixed, and Max welcomes others who are willing to volunteer their help and input. The primary issue is the lack of a functioning board. Discussions by the task force has included information and assistance from Rene Noel, Ron Lovaglio, Carol Redelsheimer, Don Mansius, Alec Giffen, Mark Beauregard, Steve Holt, and Bill Ostrofsky. Carol Leighton is the primary contact at the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, but couldn't attend the October 9 meeting. She noted that her department needs to deal with 277 appointments to various licensing boards. Max noted that the official name for the license is “Licensed Forester”, not “Licensed Professional Forester”.

Max provided a brief history of the licensing program. It was authorized in 1975, issued 265 licenses in 1976, had 1050 licensed foresters in 1990, and has maintained about 850 licenses in the past few years. The number of intern foresters was 20 in 2000, 30 in 2003, and 13 in 2004.

Current Board members are Arthur Carroll (public member), Mark Beauregard, and Bill Ostrofsky. Bill can no longer participate in board meetings because he works for the state, but he can't be replaced until his term expires this November. Recently appointed members include Tom Rumpf, Steve Pelletier, and Bob Seymour, who was appointed to complete the term of Steve Holt that expires this November. Bob will likely be reappointed for a full term. Mark Beauregard handled the licensing exam on his own last March. The Board is scheduled to meet in November.

The big news from the Professional and Financial Regulation office was an agreement for the state to use SAF's Certified Forester exam with a Maine component. The exam will be administered at the Colby College Testing Center, and scheduling for the exam can be on an individual basis. Unfortunately, the previous arrangement for publishing a newsletter to the licensed foresters is no longer in effect.

Max believes the primary issues now facing the Task Force include (i) should forestry credentials be mandatory, (ii) does Maine's forester licensing still have a purpose, (iii) the need to clarify the procedure for selection of Board members, (iv) the enforcement of applicable rules, keeping licensed foresters informed, and (v) making sure Board positions are filled.

Subsequent discussion included the need to invite members from all aspects of the profession to be on the Board, the need to enforce rules, the Board is going to remain because so much state statutes refers to licensed foresters, the lack of young members on the board who have been through the licensing procedure, concern about dropping “Professional” from the license title, the Board does have a list of professional ethics that it uses for guidance, the Board could be aligned elsewhere in state government as is done with arborists and engineers, the need to get foresters and MESAF involved with Board activities, renewing a license is now done online, and the Board has no authority to act on complaints about foresters who aren’t licensed.

A motion was made to accept this outline of the Task Force findings, and it passed unanimously. A final report will be written by the Task Force and distributed to the membership.

Gary adjourned the meeting at 11:05.

Respectively submitted by:

Bill Livingston.