

New England Society of American Foresters

Executive Committee Meeting

March 15, 2005 [as approved by the EC on June 2, 2005]

Sheraton Hotel, South Portland, ME

Members and guests present:

Tom Degnan	Connecticut State Rep
Paul Dolan	Rhode Island State Rep
George Frame	Vice-Chair
J Peter Howland	New Hampshire State Rep
Laura Kenefic	Forest Science Coordinator
Anne-Marie Kittredge	Massachusetts State Rep
Leo Laferriere	Council Rep
Kenneth M Laustsen	Chair
Ronald C Lemin	Maine State Rep
Edward D O'Leary	Vermont State Rep
Larry Rousseau	Treasurer
Raymond J Toolan	Secretary
Bob Wagner	Maine Division Chair
Bradford Wyman	NESAF News Quarterly Editor

Members not in attendance

Joakim S Hermelin	Canada Rep
Tom O'Shea	Immediate Past-Chair

Meeting is opened by Ken L at 1304 hrs (1:04pm)

1. Standard Items

- **Sign in sheet** (Toolan) - preprinted sign-in sheet is passed around as is a blank sign in sheet for guests
- **Welcome and introductions** are made
- **Antitrust Statement** is covered as is required
- **Add/Adjust agenda:** Leo L wishes to address perceived ills of the Journal of Forestry
- **Corrections/Additions and motion for the January 21, 2005 EC meeting minutes** (Toolan): Minutes are reviewed, no corrections are noted, **motion is made by George F to accept as written with a second from Ed O. No discussion, motion is called and passes unanimously.**
- **Treasurer's Report** (Rousseau): Larry R hands out several information sheets including: Net Worth 12-31-2004; net worth 3-15-2005, Audit report of 3-9-2005 and a Draft Budget Report. Larry R explains some particulars of the items mentioned, answers some questions and corrects one typo at the end of the audit report [the number, in the very last line, \$6,78.02 should read \$6,748.02. **George F makes a motion to accept the Budget Report as written [it had already been gone over at the January 21 EC meeting]. Laura K makes a second. There is no further discussion. The motion is called and passes unanimously.**

2. Standing Committee Reports

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- **Forest Science Technology (Kenefic):** Nothing much to report other than the Proceedings for this Winter Meeting are available. Copies are passed around. Laura K is looking for ideas for future theme based portions of the News Quarterly. Several ideas are put forward including: Northern Forest Heritage Museum (Brad W); Forest Reserves (Anne-Marie K); Invasive Exotics (Raymond T); Urban Forestry (Paul D). The topic for the upcoming issue is Questions on Membership.
- **Membership (Lemin):** There is a session on tomorrow on membership. Ron L will obtain articles for the theme based portion of the next NQ around the topic of membership. Will be studying the results of the Maine grant project of polling members with a membership survey. The delinquent member list is out. Ron L plans to talk with State Membership Chairs. There is some discussion around the subject of getting members to re-up in a timely manner. The possibility of giving a discount for early payment was mentioned and well received. It is mentioned that the structure of the dues amount has been changed with fewer "steps".
- **NESAF Website (O'Shea):** Tom O is not in attendance. Ken L has nothing new to report on the NESAF website issue. It is mentioned that items submitted to Lindsey S are getting onto the web site. Brad W indicates that if you get it to Jim (the web master) it will go on". Laura K reminds Ken L that the Working Groups needs a place on the website. The question is raised about posting jobs on the website. There is a fair bit of discussion around this idea with opinions on both sides although those in favor seem to be in the majority. The issue of if to charge and, if so, to whom and how much is raised. George F suggests we hold onto this idea until we see how the website shapes up. There is a little more discussion on the issue of charging for job listings. It is suggested we consider listing available jobs but not the resumes of job seekers. It was mentioned that if we post job listings on the website that we should have in mentioned in the NQ. There is some mention that National is charging for this service and that we might be seen as cutting into their profit margin if we do it for free. Brad W suggests we commission a small committee to study this issue and to report back to the EC. Ken L mentions that there is a job posting website, forestry.usa.com, and that he will send everyone the URL. It is mentioned that our current webmaster seems to be quite steady. Leo L reminds us that one objective of SAF is to serve our members. Ken L asks for three volunteers to form the committee suggested by Brad W. **Brad W, George F and Tom D leap into the breach and commit to having a report covering the history/background of this issue as well as some recommendations which will be presented at the June EC meeting.**
- **Grants (Degnan):** Tom D indicates he has nothing new to report. He is still working on last year's grants. He still needs to get up to speed on the particulars as he is still rather new at the job. He has checked with the CT contingent to see if there is any interest in applying for a grant. There is some discussion on how much we currently have to fund grants.. Brad W points out that he can put a piece in the NQ on grants. There is quite a bit of discussion on what is appropriate for grants. It is felt a history of successful grants would be useful such as the VT Big Tree Publication project. It is suggested that the State Reps are the best way to get information about successful grants out to their respective state chapters. Ken L plans to discuss the issue of Grants during his Chair Report at the Business Meeting tomorrow.
- **Nominations and Elections (Dolan):** Nothing new to report. He reminds us all that it is never too early to seek viable candidates for various offices. We really need to have more than one qualified candidate for the various positions that come open. Ken L goes over the issue of nominating Fellows. Apparently if NESAF nominates and individual none of the state chapters may nominate anyone. If, however, NESAF does not nominate anyone but allows the nominations to come from the state chapters then each state may nominate a candidate all in the same year. The message heard is quite clear. A nomination for Fellow require the signature of at least 25

98 members. It is noted that the Maine chapter has worked hard to find good candidates for all of
99 the awards this year. It is a matter of putting the time and effort into doing it. Nice job Maine!
100 There is a lesson here.

101 ➤ **Standing Committee Chairs Needed**

- 102 i. Policy: [*this actually occurred after the break*] Peter H volunteered to chair this
103 committee.
104 ii. Awards: Anne-Marie K almost leaps at the opportunity to chair this committee. It
105 seems that her predecessor had prepped her with the idea that the MA State Rep
106 position was synonymous with Awards Chair. Anne-Marie was assured, by the Chair,
107 that this was really not the case but she elected to take on the position anyway.
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109 **3. NESAF News Quarterly** (Wyman): Brad W reports that things are fine although he neglected, until
110 the last minute, to remind the state correspondents that they needed to submit their items. There was a
111 question about the accuracy of the officer listings for the various chapters so Brad W passed around the
112 latest NQ so everyone could check their entries for accuracy.
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114 **4. State Reports (NESAF State Representatives):**

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116 **Connecticut:** Tom D: Not a lot to report since the last EC meeting. The grant money is being used to
117 put together the new display board, which should be ready for Agriculture Day [March 23], which is having a
118 Forestry theme this year. They are also partnering with the Extension Service and State Forestry Division
119 on an Adult Education Center. There will be a demonstration forest on the Goodwin Forest. Tom D describes
120 it as an interesting collaboration. He provides a write-up to Brad W. No meetings are currently scheduled and
121 the state forestry division is under intense scrutiny along with all other state departments since the
122 untimely departure of the Governor. Stumpage had been traded for other services not necessarily
123 associated with the timber sale that provided benefit to the state but this is not permitted under the
124 current situation.
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126 **Vermont:** Ed O: This years Winter Meeting was around the idea of Ethics and featured discussions on
127 possible conflicts for forester/loggers as well as government employees moonlighting. It was a very well
128 attended session. They also sponsored a legislative breakfast to introduce the chapter to the legislators as a
129 good source for information on environmental issues. This year will be the first for the chapter along with
130 the Vermont Woodland Association and the Project Learning Tree will sponsor "A Walk in the Forest". The
131 Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is essentially "on hold" as the Agency of Natural Resources is
132 in the process of a major restructuring.
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134 **Maine:** Ron L: June 9 is the spring meeting, which will be held with the National Turkey
135 Confederation. The NESAF grant for a membership survey project was mentioned. They are staying very
136 active with the U Maine student chapter. Maine chapter is sending two student members, the student chair
137 and one other, to the Leadership Academy. Three people from Maine did the Academy last year. It was very
138 well received by all. They have 30 student members and an active mentoring program between students and
139 SAF members. Their poster contest is still alive and well and is tied in with Project Learning Tree. It is
140 targeted at 6th grade students.
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142 **New Hampshire:** Peter H: They just had their winter meeting. Ken Demaris was given the Forester
143 Award and two students who won scholarships will also receive a one year paid membership in SAF as does
144 the Forester Award recipient. The student chapter had a raffle and raised \$400. The Winter Meeting in
145 2006 is set for April 3 -6 in Nashua at the Sheraton and has the theme "Race For the Resources". They have
146 a good start on the program and Diedre Ramos is the general chair. There was a question as to where the

147 easels would be between meetings. It appears that the will be stored by Dave Kittredge in MA until needed
148 next year. There is some discussion around the easels and foam cores. The cost of the foam cores will come
149 out of this year's meeting proceeds. The Granite State Division wanted to be heard on two issues/questions
150 concerning the Task Force recommendations. The question revolves around the issue of how the new
151 structuring will affect proceeds from meetings like the current Winter Meeting. Comments must be
152 submitted no later than November 9, 2005.

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154 **Rhode Island:** Paul D: They are using their grant money to work on the Champion Tree Project. Their
155 winter meeting is coming up soon. They are working with the Envirothon. This will be the 100th year of state
156 forestry (2006). The state Chief and Deputy Chief are both retiring so there will be some changes.

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158 **Massachusetts:** Anne-Marie K: The old secretary at the Environmental agency is done. There is a new
159 organization with two departments and three divisions. Forestry and Fire have been combined. They are
160 working on a Forest Reserve policy. All state lands are certified (about 500,000 acres). The Woolly Adelgid is
161 a major topic and there will be a meeting around high grading. There are currently job openings, which may
162 be seen on the MA DEM web site.

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164 1434 (2:34pm) break

165 1456 (2:56pm) resume

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167 **5. NESAF Operations Manual (Frame):** George F has nothing to report at this time

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169 [*note: at this point in the meeting Peter H volunteered to chair the Policy Committee*]

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171 **6. SAF Council Report (Laferrriere):** The most recent meeting for Council was apparently last Saturday
172 and they want feedback from the membership. The deadline is November 9 for feedback on the latest
173 restructuring proposals. Leo L pointed out that New England and New York have already responding to the
174 report while most other chapters have done little or nothing yet. The largest concern heard from the
175 membership thus far it that it appears that SAF is in a big "rush to change". This is why the comment period
176 deadline was moved to November 9. Leo L reported that National did make more than it spent this last year,
177 which was only the second time in the last seven years. He feels that under the current leadership the
178 financial situation is being turned around. Leo L mentions that a lot of maintenance on the structure as well
179 as various items likes phones, computers and similar things need attention but have been deferred due to
180 financial crunch. The issue of the Forester Fund is touched on and National still owes the fund \$247,000
181 from it's Operating Fund. "They are working on it". The issue of the actual property owned by SAF was
182 brought up and it was suggested that perhaps this pricey chunk of real estate could be sold and the National
183 office moved to someplace less expensive. There is opposition to this at National. For one thing some feel it
184 is important to keep a presence inside the Beltway. A more pragmatic issue is that SAF cannot dispose of the
185 real estate on the open market due to an arrangement of some sort with another organization. "The land
186 cannot be put on the open market". It is pointed out that it costs \$1500/week to maintain the building. On
187 another note Leo L mentions that the nominations for Field Forester Award are due by May 31. The National
188 Convention is October 19-23 in Fort Worth, TX. There is some discussion about have a National meeting in
189 the New England region in the near future. Leo L goes over some of the topics for the National meeting.
190 Returning to the financial woes of our organization Leo L reasserts his confidence in the current leadership
191 team.

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193 **7. 2005 Budget Revision and Proposed 2006 Budget (Rousseau):** Larry R goes over the various
194 changes we made at the January EC meeting. Points on interest are the increase in the budget to help

195 members defray the cost of being involved. Larry R goes over his very concise Power Point presentation for
196 the Business Meeting tomorrow. Nice job Larry! There is a little discussion on some of the particulars. Ron L
197 makes a motion to accept the Draft Budget as proposed. Tom D provides the second. There is no further
198 discussion. The motion is called and passes unanimously.
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200 **8. 2005 Winter Meeting Status** (Lemin): Ron L reports that we have almost 400 pre-registered. This
201 does not count expected walk-ins. There were a few minor glitches to work out but everything is set. There
202 are 16 exhibitors, \$5000 worth of sponsorships and two College Bowl teams with the possibility of a third.
203 The field trip to a woodlot has been cancelled due to snow conditions and the second field trip is still on. The
204 Awards Luncheon already has over 300 tickets out and is expected to be sold out. There will be Alumni Social
205 with a cash bar although the Maine chapter will be meeting across the street. A continental breakfast is
206 being provided at 7am and the shuttle this year was cancelled as there was virtually no use of it the last time
207 we were here.
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209 **9. 2006 Winter Meeting Announcement** (Howland): Peter H has already covered this item back with
210 the state reports. Ken L did pass out a questionnaire form from Bill Samal, Chair of Green Mountain Division,
211 around where to hold the 2007 meeting in Vermont. Bill S would like to try a site out of Burlington. This has
212 already met with resistance. The questionnaire will go to the full membership.
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214 **10. 2005 NESAF Business Meeting Review** (All): Ken L hands out the agenda for the Business
215 Meeting tomorrow. He goes over some of the details. He brings out the print for the Integrity Award. He
216 asks if we want to purchase more of the prints for future rewards or wait and look for a different one. It is
217 decided to purchase some of the same print. Tom D makes the motion to have NESAF purchase five more of
218 the prints "Above the Storm" at \$175 each. It is seconded by Brad W. The motion is called and passes
219 unanimously.
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221 **11. NESAF review and comments on SAF VOS-TF Report** (All): Ken L, George F and Leo L
222 tackle this thorny issue. There are seven remaining recommendations that Council is seeking input on. These
223 are items 1 to 7. George F declare that "Leo is the man". The recommendations call for going from 11
224 districts to 7 regions. The idea is to balance the number of voting members more or less equitably between
225 the various regions. This is a form of redistricting. There is quite a bit of discussion around this issue. The
226 present district 6 (New York and New England) would be combined with the Allegheny to form the new region
227 5. There is a lot of discussion around the fate of NESAF in this new scheme. There are apparently options
228 including one where NESAF would be disbanded leaving only the state chapters. The question of how the
229 annual meetings will be handled was also raised. It is possible that NESAF would continue unchanged
230 complete with the annual winter meeting just as it is now. Leo L goes over some of the particulars of the
231 organizational scheme. He indicates that the new region 5 would have 2146 voting members based on current
232 numbers. There is a lot of discussion around the possible effects of the proposed changes on membership.
233 The annual National meeting would be replaced by a rotating system where the National would have a
234 meeting one year and the regions would have theirs the next. The logic is that more people might be
235 interested in attending a regional meeting rather than a national meeting. The question is asked again as to
236 what would become of NESAF and the state chapters. The assumption is that the state and multi state
237 societies/chapters would remain unchanged. The HSD would be moved from National to the regions so,
238 instead of one HSD there would be seven HSDs. There was some discussion as to who would be the reps to
239 the regional HSD. Quite a few issues were raised from the concern about members losing their connection as
240 things got too big, differences found around the country, the role of forester licensing/certification and
241 CFEs. More discussion. Someone suggested, concerning NESAF, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". There was a
242 concern about losing our identity. There was a question around governance and the feeling that more stress

243 would be placed on the state societies is NESAF was disbanded. More discussion. Leo L made the comment,
244 which was appreciated by more than a few; "it's fine the way it is". There is more discussion. If multi-state
245 societies are working well they should be left alone. The issue of replacing the national HSD with regional
246 HSDs is revisited. The issue of student participation is raised more than once. Under the new structure each
247 multi-state would send one non-voting student member to the regional HSD. It is felt that the students
248 really do need to be involved in the organization and the process. Leo L asks the question: "what should we
249 address?" Brad W indicated that the regions would probably need some sort of paid staff. Ken L goes over
250 the chapters that have paid staff including NESAF. SAF is not in favor of paid staff at the regions as a
251 matter of what it might cost them to support this staff person. The issue of student enrollment in forestry
252 is mentioned. "Enrollment is down...students feel it (*forestry*) is too limiting". Ed O asks about the current
253 job market. How many people are employed as foresters? "Membership may be declining because we don't
254 need as many foresters". There is some discussion around why only about 1/3 of foresters are SAF members.
255 The issue of the Journal of Forestry is raised. There is a feeling that the Journal and its lack of relevance
256 to the average member might be a factor in the declining membership. "What do I get for my money?" Leo L
257 asks if we might consider doing away with the Journal of Forestry. We could backfill the information void
258 with the "Forestry Source" which most feel is more relevant. There is also a suggestion that SAF might
259 merge with similar organizations that have common goals and interests. Ken L and Leo L both feel that we
260 need a lot more input on this entire issue.

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262 **12. Adjourn:** *George F moves that we adjourn, Ron L seconds. The motion is called and passes unanimously.*

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264 The meeting ends at 1708 hours (5:08pm)

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266 Respectfully submitted: Raymond J Toolan, Secretary