New England Society of American Foresters

Executive Committee (EC) Meeting

December 6, 2006

At the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Concord, NH

Members present:

- Paul Dolan, Rhode Island State Representative
- George Frame, Vice-Chair
- J Peter Howland, New Hampshire State Representative; Policy Committee Chair
- Mariann Johnston, Website Editor
- Laura Kenefic, Forest Science Coordinator
- Anne Marie Kittredge, Secretary, Massachusetts State Representative, Awards Chair
- Leo Laferriere, Council Representative
- Ken Laustsen, Chair
- Ron Lemin Jr., Maine State Representative
- Spencer Meyer, Maine State Representative (for the 2007-2009 term)
- Ed O’Leary, Vermont State Representative
- Larry Rousseau, Treasurer
- Randy Stone, Massachusetts State Representative (for the 2007-9 term)
- Brad Wyman, NESAF News Quarterly Editor

Guests: None

Members not present:

- Tom Degnan, Connecticut State Representative
- Tom O’Shea, Immediate Past Chair

Meeting opened by Chair Ken L. at 0935

1. Standard items:
   - **Sign in sheet (Kittredge) – verify contact information**: The standard sign-in sheet, a national sign-in sheet and a modified agenda were circulated.
   - **Welcome**: Ken L. welcomed all. Present members introduced themselves to new members, Randy Stone and Spencer Meyer.
   - **Antitrust statement**: The routine antitrust statement was presented.
   - **Add/Adjust agenda**: No additions were suggested to the modified agenda
   - **Corrections/Additions for the September 20, 2006 meeting minutes (Kittredge)**: No new corrections were suggested. Motion from Paul D. to accept the meeting minutes; second from Pete H. Motion passed with one abstention.
Minutes Approved 1/23/07

Treasurer’s report (Rousseau): Larry R. distributed the NESAF accounts’ balance as of 12/06/06 and itemized a few updates. NESAF grants funds available = $440.06. Closed one Key Bank account and opened another. Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report from George F.; Second from Ron L. Motion passed unanimously.

i. Reimbursement of $320.39 to MESAF for completion of Forestry Awareness Project funded by SAF Foresters Fund was discussed. Larry reported that no check has been received for this from the National Office.

ii. Year-end Stipends were discussed and distributed. These minutes reflect that Mariann Johnston will receive a $599 stipend at the end of each year (including the end of 2006). While this was the EC’s intent during previous discussions, this was not clear in the EC minutes and motion from June 2006 EC Minutes (lines 60-61).

2. NESAF History Project (Thompson): Charlie Thompson could not attend the EC meeting due to a car accident. Ken received a Fax from Charlie T. and reports that the project is moving forward and will document the last 30 plus years of the state society and will follow the 1st 50 year summaries that exist. This project is behind schedule and will not be ready for the Winter Meeting as projected earlier. Brad has information for the appendices and some gaps in information that he will share with Charlie. Charlie’s FAX suggests 3 items: (1) small committee formation with responsibilities for layout, publicity and a few other narrow responsibilities. Brad W. made a motion to create this committee and Larry R. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (2) The EC will identify 3-5 volunteers to serve on this committee. The following EC members volunteered to serve: Paul Dolan, Ed O’Leary, Ken Laustsen, Brad Wyman, Charlie Thompson, [Chris Modisette was volunteered by Paul D.]. It was noted that Karen Bennett recently documented the NH history through 2002. It should be easier to finish the last few years of NH. (3) Ken L. will write a letter to the National Office (and copy Roger) about this project.

3. Standing Committee reports:

Nominations and Election (Dolan): The results of this fall’s election follows: Vice Chair: Ron Lemin, Eastern Canada Representative: N/A, MA State Representative: Randy Stone, ME State Representative: Spencer Meyer, VT State Representative: Ed O’Leary. Chris Modisette and Paul Dolan prepared the election materials. NH-TOA collated the mailing. Paul D. thanked George F. for the assistance. The EC thanked Paul D. for shepherding the election process. Ken discussed the close nature of the National elections where all referendum articles passed.

Policy (Howland):

i. Action on 3 NESAF Policy Positions (expiring 12/2/2006): Pete H. brought recommendations to the EC relative to the need to review, revise, renew or terminate these 3 NESAF Policy Positions including: (1) Wilderness Designation in New England –was discussed again in much detail. There was some concern that this was most point due to the recent Congressional action. George F. moved that Pete H. continue to edit the Wilderness Policy for subsequent EC meetings by re-orienting the policy statement toward emphasis of the process that should be followed in the future. Second from Ed O. and unanimously approved. …… (2) Local Regulation of Forest Practices – Brad moved that the EC renew this position statement with no changes except for the expiration date. Anne Marie K. seconded the motion which passed unanimously. (3) Total minimum Daily Loads (TMDL) will be allowed to expire for now.

ii. Development of a new “Global Climate Change” Policy Position: Brad W. noted that no National Policy statement exists on climate change. Perhaps NESAF should develop one.
Minutes Approved 1/23/07

Discussion continued relative to progress in NH and ME relative to carbon coalitions and the need for carbon reductions. Forests should be linked to these statements. The benefits of white papers versus position statements were discussed and because a process exists for position statements, the EC favored this form of statement; however the creation of a white paper could help the profession in the long run. Brad W. will work with Pete H. on a policy statement and Ken L. will assist with this draft before the next meeting. Sustainable forestry, sequestration, climate change will be the focus. Brad W. Pete H. and Ken L. will invite the new forest science coordinator to participate.

Membership (Lemin): Ron L. reviewed the National summary of membership trends. NESAF membership numbers are down 25 members for the year. SAF does recruit new members --however the retention of new members is poor.

i. Discussion of proposed SAF changes: The National Office is considering 3 proposed new membership categories as strategies to increase and maintain members. A good discussion of the proposed new rates and categories followed. The State societies are still discussing the proposed changes in categories. Vermont already discussed the proposal and can live with the changes. Ken is still looking for feedback so that NESAF can come back with a response for National office by March. Ron requested a statement from each other state society before the NESAF EC January meeting (not NH or Yankee). Ken participated in one of the 3 National Conference calls relative to membership value and he sent a bulleted summary E-mail to the EC.

Forest Science Coordinator (Kenefic): Laura's resignation as Forest Science Coordinator will become effective 12/31/06. New candidate names were discussed again. A great deal of discussion and genuine disagreement continued about the possibility of offering a stipend to the new Forest Science Coordinator. Anne Marie K. made a motion that the EC provide $250 per year to the Forest Science Coordinator stipend because these duties exceed those of many other EC members excepting of course those EC members who already receive a stipend for the same reasons. Ed O. seconded the motion. The vote was split. 8 voted for the motion and 4 voted against the motion with 1 abstention. The motion carried. Ken L. holds that list of names and agreed to make some contacts.

Working Groups: The working groups are integrated into the technical sessions and the working group business meetings are scheduled at the 2007 winter meeting. The Posters will be handled locally again this year. The new Web Site has all working group information and this is a success. Poster chairs and working group chairs will continue to contact Laura K. Laura K. will forward all correspondence received after her term ends to George F., unless a new Forest Science Coordinator is in place.

The NQ themes are on track with many new ideas generated at this EC meeting. The next (January) issue theme will be “Urban Forestry”.

NESAF Website (Johnston): The new website is very much approved by the EC. The state representative will receive a reminder (from Mariann) to add new information to the NESAF Web Site. The winter meeting agenda has been posted. Additional links and information can be added as they become available. Brad W. will bury a random SAF member number from last year’s attendees list into the website and this person might get a free Winter Meeting registration. The “calendar idea” has resurfaced with a new version which is available for $29.99. Brad W. moved to purchase this software and Paul D. seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. Mariann J. will remove the bio-sketch information for the elections and replace it with the election results. Likewise the Officers Page will change in January.
Minutes Approved 1/23/07

i. Affiliate Website Links: Anne Marie K. has a NESAF list of organizations that she will E-mail to Mariann. Mariann will use this list as a starter-list for links to other natural resource organizations.

Grants (Degnan): Currently, there are limited funds exist for grants ($440.0). Tom has not received and does not expect any grant proposals or inquiries in the near future.

Awards (Kittredge):

i. Nominations for all award categories have been solicited through the NQ, website and for the Integrity in Conservation Award by direct mail to conservation organizations. One nomination has been received to date. Ken L. reminds the EC that Brad W. has recently been selected as a fellow (1 of 30 nationally) and the EC congratulates Brad.

4. Budget (Rousseau): Draft 1 of the Budget was distributed. Larry will add the Forest Science Coordinator stipend to the budget as well as the Web Site Administrator stipend. Dues are down $500 so the income is down a corresponding $500. The EC reviewed the operations budget to look for changes. The EC will leave the Leadership Academy line item in the budget for 2008 and zero it out for 2007 (there will be no national leadership academy in 2007). Brad will check on next years anticipated printing costs. The grants $440 will roll over to next year. The EC will increase the travel budget to HSD from $4000 to $4500

5. NESAF Operational Manual (Frame) George F. continues to work on the Manual. George will try to resend the manual to the EC soon. If he runs into difficulty, George will e-mail it to Mariann J. and she will create a hidden link for the EC to use to download the manual from the Web Site.

6. 2007 Winter Meeting (O'Leary): The most recent agenda was available for the EC to review. Committee leaders are making progress. Russ Reay - General Chair; Ed O'Leary - Facility Chair; Mark Twery - Program Chair; Bob Burt - Finance Chair; Leo Laferriere - Public Information Chair; Barb Burns - Entertainment Chair. Theme: “Cycles of Forestry” The 2007 Winter Meeting is scheduled for March 21-23, 2007 at Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT. The Program Committee met on Sept 29th and December 5th at the site. The final meeting of the entire committees is December 13, 2006. Everything is proceeding well.

NESAF/CF Exhibit: Ken will exhibit at the Winter Meeting. He will present the CF program and the NESAF Web Site in an interactive live format

2008 Joint NE/NY Meeting - status: this project is still moving forward. No location has been determined yet, however the Saratoga Springs area is a prime location for February. Discussions still continue relative to the overall desirable length of the meeting.

7. NESAF News Quarterly (Wyman): Brad W. requests that Tim Hawley return the Award recipient information to Brad for printing well in advance of the Winter Meeting and Anne Marie K. and Randy Stone assure Brad that these items will be delivered to Brad (from Tim Hawley) on schedule.

8. State Reports (NESAF State Representatives):

MA - The MA Chapter of SAF turned their USDA FS FIG Grant over to DCR/Bureau of Forest Fire Control & Forestry due to legal & procedural difficulties. DCR will implement this project with the MA Chapter SAF and other partners.

In conjunction with NESAF, MA SAF Website plans are now underway.

A MA Forest Forum met during November 2006.

Two revisions to M.G.L. Chapter 132 will be presented at public meetings and include (1) removal of a clause that recognizes documented completion of the SAF CFE or the SAF CF program as sufficient evidence
for the MA Forester License CFE requirement and renewal and (2) addition of a section that will preclude
those foresters who fail to renew or who fail to meet the continuing education requirements of the MA
Foresters License from applying for a new license for a period of 24 months.

RI - Paul D: A new program “Partners though time” represents a new art exhibit with vendors as part of the
100th anniversary grant. The Champion Trees Project (partially funded by a NESAF grant) developed a
computer access program as well as a publication and general project upgrade, and field checks. Tree council
co-sponsored this project. RI SAF partnered with ISA who will meet in RI. A storm response workshop was
held in late September. More than 200 attended the Walk in the Forest. A Website that functions based on
GPS locations, with photos and a summary of pest threats by city town and year in is progress.

NH - Peter H: NH newsletter will go into mail soon and to the website. A soils workshop was held 3, 5 & 6
October 2006. NH held a November logging workshop for foresters. Feb 9 = Annual Granite State Meeting.
NH has finalized a job description for the policy position. NH Will continue to sponsor students and still is
looking to recruit a new Treasurer and other positions. The Winter Meeting will be in Waterville Valley on
February 9th. The NH EC discussed Tree Farm program issues and current use and Tree Farm separation.

CT - Tom Degnan was not present however Tom delivered an E-mail to Ken L. relative to the following items.
A September meeting focused on Connecticut’s Forest Practice Act. The CT Forest Research Forum on
September 28th reviewed the current research going on in CT. and was well attended. This meeting was
sponsored by a grant from NESAF. The CT Forest Forum held November 14th meeting called “Working
Toward Solutions: How to Sustain CT’s Woodlands”.

VT - Ed O: One of two per year legislative breakfasts will be held 2/2007. A new Chair and Vice Chair will
take their places soon. The Governor’s Forum on Primary Forest Products Industry will meet on 12/13/06. the
Green Mountain was specifically not invited. The EC discussed this issue in detail. A summer 2007 joint
meeting is being planned in coordination with The Wildlife Society.

ME - Maine’s Winter Meeting was held October 10th, more than 200 attended and focused on conservation
easements, wood supply agreements and a technology session (GPS in machines to make harvests more
efficient). The ME EC will meet 12/07/06 and this will be the last meeting before new officers take their
places in 2007. The Maine Chapter has a full slate of officers including student participation.

9. SAF Council Report: (Laferriere): Some of the items addressed at Council’s December meeting:
   Membership, Marketing and Public Relations: In January, SAF will begin to conduct focus groups
   which will be essential to building an all-member survey. The information will guide how we use current
   resources and programs. Proposals for changes regarding membership categories should be addressed with
   the membership very soon - Council will have that on the March meeting agenda.
   Working Groups: White Papers: Development of these papers is a relatively new action for SAF.
   There was concern that policy/position statements were being included, and that, in so doing, the position
   statement development process was being bypassed. White papers are intended to be informative as to
   facts, but not as to position. More will be forthcoming regarding this issue.
   Finance & Budget: At 10/31 we are $76,000 over revenue projected by our budget and $67,500
   under projected budgeted expenses. This is good news; however Convention expenses are still coming in. We
   approved a $3.3 million budget, with intended net operating revenue of $79,000.
   Included in the budget is $30,000 for Foresters’ Fund grants. However, no funds were budgeted for
   the Leadership Academy because this function has resulted in a $15-20,000 loss to SAF each year. It takes
   80 – 90 participants to break even, and attendance remains below that level. Reports from participants are
Minutes Approved 1/23/07

good and the program is a real success except financially. Presently, the thinking is to offer it in 2008, but
more needs to be done regarding how to achieve this success in a more financially viable manner.

We adopted guidelines for management and distribution of funds from The Mollie Beattie Endowment
Fund for Diversity. Established at SAF by her friends and colleagues, the purpose of the Fund is to enhance
diversity in the natural resource professions by encouraging young people – especially women and minorities -
to enter and become active in these professions. Also, it is meant to encourage a welcoming and supportive
atmosphere within SAF for those who wish to participate in the profession.

Name Change: Following up on the recent article in The Forestry Source, a presentation was made in
support of this proposal. While the article referenced the American Society of Forestry, the presenters
felt the Society of American Forestry was more appropriate. Subsequent discussion indicated that there
are strong feelings on both sides – change/no change - and that more feedback was needed from the
membership, perhaps in part through the above-referenced focus groups. Council took no action, but
encouraged more research on the subject.

Unit Assessment: An activities analysis questionnaire will soon be sent to all chapter, division, and
state society chairs. This is done to help SAF identify the extent and nature of local unit activities.

Fellow Nominations: Council “raised the bar” a bit regarding qualification. Instructions and other
documentation state “The goal of the Society is to recognize approximately five percent of its members with
this honor.” This is a goal, not a fixed number, and has caused much discussion regarding its appropriateness
and applicability. Nationally, the number of Fellows exceeds five percent of the membership. With the goal
in mind, but not viewed as specific limit, a Council committee proposed that nomination instructions be
changed to read “The District Fellows Committee shall forward all nomination packets it recommends as best
qualified, from among those candidates it finds qualified, to the respective Council member.” The motion
passed, with my vote being the sole opposition. I and others have a problem with the five percent goal
becoming a significant limit, and with passage of this motion it has become just that. Now the nominating
committee must select the best of those qualified, the implication being that qualification is only the
beginning of some kind of competition. My sense is a nominee is either qualified or not, and if qualified
should be elected. If member-wide limits are desired, and those limits are being exceeded, then raise the
standards for qualification but do not pit qualified members against one another.

Ethics Committee Process Standards: I have been advocating for stronger controls, guidelines and
oversight regarding how ethics charges are processed. In response, Council has changed the Bylaws. More is
needed and I will continue to work with the Ethics Committee to develop process standards for consideration
and approval by Council.

10. Chair Potpourri (Laustsen):

1995 Commemorative Tree Planting: The (elusive) plaque has been located and will be placed near
the Tree that was planted on the Common in Portland, ME following the 1995 Portland, ME National Meeting.

Leadership Academy in New England: Instead of occurring west of the Mississippi, Ken L. began a
discussion at the last EC relative to the question of why the Leadership Academy couldn’t occur closer to the
northeast. NESAF is second in line for the 2008 Academy or the 2009 Academy. The EC discussed whether
or not NESAF should pursue a New England leadership academy or should NESAF host the National
leadership academy? The EC thought that New England should consider hosting the National academy next
year and perhaps the EC through George F. could pursue a NE Leadership Academy in 2007.

HSD Meeting: George F. and Ken L. attended the HSD meeting which was held just before this
year’s convention and George F. and Ken L appreciated the support of the EC. A great deal of business was
completed and the following items were discussed:
Minutes Approved 1/23/07

- Presentation on a proposal for several membership related changes, HSD recommended a delay in implementing until members could be surveyed.
- Presentation on the Certified Forester program.
- Multiple success stories were presented.
- An action item on the transfer of nursery stock was approved and recommended to Council.
- Approved a revised charter that makes the chair elect position a 2-year term, 1 year as chair-elect and the following year as HSD chair in order to have better continuity of leadership and reduced the need to campaign every year for 4 candidates to fill 2 positions.

2007 Meeting Dates: 1/23/2007 - Concord, NH (9:30-3:30);
3/20/2007 at Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT (1PM-?);
6/19/2007 Groton, VT (9:30-3:30);
9/12/2007 Chepachet, RI (9:30-3:30)
12/12/2007 Concord, NH (9:30-3:30)

“Future Challenges for Foresters” - White Paper status: EC members should review with state representatives at local chapter meetings in an attempt to hone the White Paper down to fewer bullets.

The Alleghany Society thanks NESAF for donations to the silent Auction which yielded $14,000.

Calendar: The NESAF EC will next meet on 1/23/2007 at 9:30am at the SPNHF Office in Concord, NH.

Motion to adjourn from Larry R.; Second from George F.; Called and passed unanimously at 1530 hrs.