New England Society of American Foresters (NESAF)

Executive Committee (EC) Meeting

Tuesday June 19, 2007

At Seyon Ranch State Park, Groton VT

Members present:

Tom Degnan  Connecticut State Representative; Grants Chair
Paul Dolan  Rhode Island State Representative; Nomination Chair
George Frame  Chair
James Harding  Forest Science Coordinator
J Peter Howland  New Hampshire State Representative; Policy Committee Chair
Mariann Johnston  Website Administrator
Ken Laustsen  Immediate Past Chair
Spencer Meyer  Maine State Representative
Ed O'Leary  Vermont State Representative
Larry Rousseau  Treasurer
Randy Stone  Massachusetts State Representative; Awards Chair
Brad Wyman  NESAF News Quarterly Editor

Guests: None

Members not present:

Roger Dzienieleski  Council Representative
Don Floyd  Canadian Representative
Anne Marie Kittredge  Secretary
Ron Lemin Jr.  Vice-Chair; Membership Chair

Please update the following contact information:

Tom Degnan
E-mail = TDegnan@BurnsMCD.com

Paul Dolan
E-mail = paul.dolan@dem.ri.gov

Peter Howland
Change from Voice to Cell (Mobile) 603-455-6389

Roger Dzienieleski
E-mail = rdzienieleski@finchpaper.com

ADD
Don Floyd, Canadian Representative
Professor and Chair
Canadian Institute for Forest policy and Communication
Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management
University of New Brunswick
Meeting opened by NESAF Chair, George Frame at 9:40 AM

1. Standard items:
   - **Sign in sheet (Laustsen) – verify contact information**: The standard sign-in sheet was circulated.
   - **Welcome**: George F. welcomed all EC members.
   - **Antitrust statement**: The antitrust statement was presented and distributed.
   - **Add/Adjust agenda**: No additions were suggested to the adjusted agenda.

**Corrections/Additions for the March 20, 2007 meeting minutes (Laustsen):**

Previous corrections from Ken L. and Ron L. have been incorporated into the draft minutes. No new corrections were suggested. A motion was heard from Larry R to accept the meeting minutes; a second to the motion was heard Brad W. The question was called and passed unanimously.

**Treasurer’s report and budget (Rousseau):** Larry R. distributed the NESAF Accounts Balance as of 6/19/07 and he noted that there are total assets of $69,303.56. In review of the budget, income to date is $30,313.97 and expenses $13,039.48. Income to NESAF from the annual winter meeting was $8,246.63. A motion was heard to approve the Treasurer’s Report from Brad W.; a second to the motion was heard Ed O. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Electronic Ballots for all NESAF elections – George Frame provided an update on this discussion from the previous meeting. NESAF will not be included in the fall 2007 option for electronic elections, as we were a little late in committing due to perceived technical difficulties. The SAF electronic ballot is a one-shot deal, all elections for the entire state society (state society, divisions, and chapters) have to be on the same ballot, and currently Granite State Division (GSD) elections are in February, so it was not feasible this year. SAF will provide a ballot log, which will be sent to a NESAF audit committee for review and the inclusion of a perceived small % of paper ballots, before finalizing and announcing state society election results. For now, the next deadline to participate will be April 1, 2008. All local units need to be aware that all nominations for elected offices will need to be submitted to SAF by October 1st for their preparation and e-mailing of a ballot by mid-October. Before NESAF can take advantage of electronic ballot, GSD will need to change their by-laws regarding the nomination and election process. In the process of transitioning to the electronic ballot, SAF will be shifting from a September 1 to a mid-October ballot distribution.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Standing Committee reports:**

- **Review of 2007 NESAF Winter Meeting** – Lake Morey Inn would love to have us back in 4 years.
- Comment on the need for some addl. info on other restaurant options to be provided in the registration packet. It is noted that there were a very high % of positive comments on the location, meals, camaraderie, night activities, and the science.
Nominations and Election (Dolan): The terms for the RI, NH and CT state representative will expire at year-end. The NESAF secretary and treasurer terms will also expire. NESAF seeks nominations for these positions before the election this fall. The EC members will begin to solicit new names and submit them to Paul D. Names and bios needed! NHTOA will do the postcard ballot preparation, labeling, and mailing. Paul D. needs to supply NHTOA, preferably with labels of valid voting members for ballot mailing.

Policy (Howland): National is now providing a weekly policy update. GSD is developing a working forest/conservation easement policy position, perceived as a easy one to develop and intention is to put to GSD members for approval before year-end.

See Roger D. comments in his attached council report on SAF policy developments and please let Pete know of any other issues are out there?

Membership (Lemin):

i. Focus groups and surveys: (GF and KML) Several EC members provided Roger D with a full suite of names for focus group membership sectors. The NESAF/NYSAF list was very well received by National.

ii. Membership – the various changes have not been resolved by council, though consensus is building, hopefully a conference call will finalize status this summer. The number of membership categories and requirements are the major unresolved issue, while other changes are moving forward. A question was raised whether using the distributed monthly national membership list can we highlight new members, transfers, reinstates? That listing does have a series of codes identifying member changes that occurred in the past month. Brad W. commented that he included new member info in the quarterly for awhile and got no response, so he dropped it for other news.

Forest Science Coordinator (Harding): General Comments: Jim H. discussed the themes for the NQ and working group (WG) changes. Merv Stevens has stepped down as a WG chair and there is a need some other chairs, Jim is working on names and making requests. January NQ theme will be 10 years after the Ice Storm (1998).

Jim needs to get the 50 poster easels out of his office, into storage, and then transported to Saratoga Springs, NY. Discussion continued on how to resolve with the suggestion of renting a storage unit and should the FSC decide where and how to store? Tom D. made a motion to allow Jim to rent at his discretion a suitable storage unit and store the easels, Paul D. seconds the motion. The motion was called and passed. In a follow-up discussion, Gerry Milne raised the issue, through George F, suggesting that NESAF trash its wooden versions and buy compact foldable metal tripods (@ $50 per)? Gerry Milne prefers buying new metal easels for NE/NY meeting. No action taken on this idea, there was discussion as to whether NESAF could tag-team with Forest Pest Council or others on purchase and use, transfer and storage.

NESAF Website (Johnston):

i. Affiliate Website Links – this is still a work in progress. Essentially Mariann J is waiting until NESAF resolves website format, see next item, before finishing and inserting the links.

ii. Results of design change and maintenance contract research – a lot less work this year, so far Jim has consumed $350 in hourly fees, compared to annual stipend of $500. There was only one response to the RFP to take over existing website and translate it to a Database version,
particulars of the quote were $3,200 for the conversion, then $16.50/month or $180 per year for
continued website hosting and maintenance, plus other quarterly fee quoted. Mariann wondered
whether to resend the proposal to try and get more quotes? Spencer M. offered to help with a
couple of additional contacts and the EC proposed to continue research and find new sources for
contract contacts. Mariann wants both the links for website calendar and job postings to have
administrator oversight, while allowing public access in offering new events and jobs for posting.

iii. Vermont Invasive Plant Listing - have info to post, would NESAF like to post and make accessible
to NE? Members suggested some better locations might be the New England Wildflower Society
or New England Invasive Plant Society.

Grants (Degnan): The NESAF grants fund has about $2,511.21 in available funds. Tom is in receipt
of a potential grant ($750) from CT. However, CT will be revising and preparing a grant for submission in
12/07 for 2008. Tom e-mailed all state reps with info on grant availability, example, and timelines for this
year.

Discussion continued on the need to revise Operations Manual or Grant specific materials (Outline, Form) to
have conforming dates, submission formats (electronic signatures), or paper vs. electronic version.

Spencer M. made a motion that the deadline for grant submissions starting in 2008 will be before or at the
December meeting date of the NESAF EC meeting, Peter H. seconded, motion called and approved
unanimously.

Grant Investment Sub-committee - Larry R, Tom D, and Julie Evans to serve and review investment
policy options and especially retention of the $25,000 base principal. It was noted that the membership
would need vote on any proposed changes. Ken L. will e-mail 3 documents (history narrative, grant $’s earned
and spent, annual meeting income history) to the sub-committee members. The EC raised some other points
for this group to review and respond to: Can we add to the principal using meeting income? Are there other
risk/return options to consider? Can we go below $25,000 on a critical big $ grant, with a plan to reinvest
and get back to $25,000 in a certain number of years?

Awards (Stone): George Frame read a letter received from 2007 Integrity winners requesting
NESAF reconsider their decision of awarding a single award to multiple winners. Lots of discussion and
points of view, including: Should NESAF offer a certificate/plaque/mini-print of award for all winners with
the actual framed print being hung in a general/central location? Are there still more prints available from
artist? Ed O’L. makes motion for NESAF to reimburse one of the Integrity Award winners for his personal
purchase of a print and framing, and then prepare and award two more prints, so that all four winners are
equally recognized, Peter H. seconds the motion. There is continued discussion regarding the motion. The
range in additional cost would be $1,000 to $1,400. Motion is called and passes, with Ken L. abstaining. Ken
L. will proceed to contact and make reimbursement arrangement for the awardees’ out-of-pocket costs and
will initiate the process of getting 2 prints in inventory framed, matted, name-plated, and delivered to the
two other awardees.

2. 2008 Joint NE/NY Meeting – status (Milne): NESAF has filled all of our chairman positions, NYSAF
has yet to fill one, and we are getting a little anxious. George F. will to talk to Jamie Savage and Roger D.
and get a feel for the NY situation.

3. NESAF News Quarterly (Wyman): Brad has advertised the need for a new NQ editor in the past issue
of the NQ, and is awaiting the first response. Ken L. suggested that Jim Hornbeck, recent editor of the
Northern Journal of Applied Forestry, might be a viable candidate for a personal contact. Brad’s desire is to co-edit/publish at least one issue. Postage rate will be going up for quarterly mailings, unknown impact on expenses until receipts for June issue are paid. Brad also recommends a new look at newsletter publishing software, at the least a new version of MS Publisher to be supplied to the new editor.

4. State Reports (NESAF State Representatives):

MA – Randy Stone: Yankee meeting is tomorrow with woods operation and mill visit by host Cowls Lumber. Major revision if forest cutting practices act is in contemplation with additional requirements on stand exams, quantitative analysis. All 2007 Golden Awards have been presented to respective MA members.

RI – Paul D: Sponsored envirothon; 2 walks in the woods, 3 people on payroll updating big tree register; same chapter officers for 2007, and offered Forestry wood expo flyers for distribution.

NH – Peter H: There have been appeals of 3 timber sales on White Mountain Forest, reducing volume from 24 MMBF to 3 MMBF. GSD looking at fuels for schools program to match the ongoing VT process; will need new legislation to promote the program. New laws - concentration yards need to be registered and in order to sell logs logger has to have a written contract; tried to edit current land use law on valuation. There is a scheduled upcoming workshop at the Bartlett Forest. GSD newsletter is available online. Annual Black-Fly in south and Mud Season in north were big successes in attendance and content.

CT – Tom Degnan: CT spring meeting was held, about 20 attendees, a family affair on Saturday at Mystic Seaport. CT has new BMPs and color publication. Fred Borman is retiring shortly. UCONN 6th Forestry User’s forum is scheduled for November.

VT – Ed O: A new Vice chair has stepped up, Steve Machinist. A successful summer meeting was held on September 27th with Wildlife Society. VT FWS provides a 1-day workshop on technical sessions that other groups are co-sponsoring on.

ME – Spencer M.: The MESAF May 24th spring meeting, field tour between foresters and loggers, how to manage the land together. Deer management and DWA are a hot topic, new task force formed by Governor. The fall meeting will be on ethics and resolution. LPF is a continuing issue, no quorum of board members, and MESAF has a task force to stay in focus. MESAF is looking at a bus to Saratoga Springs for NE/NY meeting in 2/2008. Forestry Awareness committee is very active and has submitted a grant for $450,000 to Dept. of Education. Spencer also commented on a recent large donation of timberland to UME Green Endowment. The endowment uses these investments to make funds available to forestry undergraduate programs.

5. SAF Council Report: (Dziengeleski): See attached documents from Roger regarding a Council Update after the June meeting; details on SAF Liability Insurance; and a preliminary proposal for a Center for Evidence Based Natural Resource Management.

6. Chair Potpourri (Frame):

a. HSD Conveners - recent conference call was cancelled, so plan on a major update in September.

b. Golden Award presentations - ME presentation is still pending, scheduled to be done at the fall meeting in October.
c. Future Challenges for Foresters Final Report - include in minutes to EC (actually sent in a separate e-mail on 6/21/07); NESAF should consider submitting as success story to HSD meeting in October 2007.

d. Fellows mentoring proposal by Merv Stevens - postponed until the next meeting

7. Other items for the good of the order: The NESAF EC warmly thanked JessieMae and Adam, innkeepers at Seyon Ranch State Park, for their hospitality, superb food, and a stunning location for a meeting. Let the record show that no fish were caught.

Calendar: The NESAF EC will next meet on 9/12/2007 at Chepachet RI (9:30AM). Paul D. will supply directions for distribution to attendees.

A motion to adjourn was heard from Larry Rousseau and a seconded by Spencer Meyer. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth M. Laustsen, Secretary pro temp