New England Society of American Foresters (NESAF)

Executive Committee (EC) Meeting

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

Location: DEM RI Office, Chepachet, RI

Members present:

Paul Dolan  Rhode Island State Representative; Nomination Chair
Don Floyd  Canadian Representative
George Frame  Chair
James Harding  Forest Science Coordinator
J Peter Howland  New Hampshire State Representative; Policy Committee Chair
Mariann Johnston  Website Administrator
Anne Marie Kittredge  Secretary
Ken Laustsen  Immediate Past Chair
Ron Lemin Jr.  Vice-Chair; Membership 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:

Jerry Milne  NY/NESAF Winter Meeting Chair

Members not present:

Tom Degnan  Connecticut State Representative; Grants Chair
Roger Dziengeleski  Council Representative

Meeting opened by NESAF Chair, George Frame at 9:25 AM

A. Standard items:

Sign in sheet (Kittredge) – verify contact information: The standard sign-in sheet was circulated.
Welcome: George F. welcomed all EC members. All EC members introduced themselves to Don Floyd, the NESAF Canadian representative. Remark: Don F. will address EC relative to his position as JOF editor later in the meeting agenda.
Antitrust statement: The antitrust statement was presented.
Add/Adjust agenda: Add Don Floyd to the state reports section of the agenda.
Corrections/Additions for the June 19, 2007 EC meeting minutes (Kittredge): Previous corrections from Anne Marie K. have been incorporated into the draft minutes. No new corrections were suggested. A motion was heard from Brad W. to accept the meeting minutes; a second to the motion was heard from Larry R. The question was called and passed unanimously.
Treasurer’s Report (Rousseau): Larry R. distributed the NESAF Accounts Balance as of 9/12/07 and noted total assets of $65,071.19. In review of the budget, income to date is $31,988.89; expenses to date are $13,031.60. The additional expense used to pay for individual copies of the Integrity Award for each of the recipients is itemized within this expense worksheet. NESAF exceeded the EC general operations expense budget by $465. A motion was heard from Paul D. to approve the Treasurer’s Report; a second to the motion was heard from Brad W. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

The budget was also presented at this point and not later in the meeting. It was noted that $3,080 is currently available for NESAF grant applications and that a $91 dollars expense item was added to the expenses for easel storage. ($@65/month). The easel issues (storage, maintenance & transportation) were discussed here and later in the agenda during the discussion of Old Business (item 2) and within the discussion of New Business - Standing Committees - (FSC) notes.

A motion was heard from Ron L. to increase the Executive Committee General Operations budget line item from the current $3,500 to $5,000; a second to the motion was heard from Ed O’Leary. Following a brief discussion, the question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was heard from Brad W. to approve the Budget worksheet as presented and amended; a second to the motion was heard from Spencer M. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Old Business:

1. Status of the Future Challenges White Paper (Laustsen): The final report was reviewed by Merv G. with recent changes from Merv G. and Anne Marie K. The White Paper was posted on the NESAF website during early August 2007. The White Paper was distributed to the New York SAF. Roger D., NESAF’s Council Representative, received a copy; a Forestry Source article and a News Quarterly article will appear soon. The EC agrees that it is time to encourage chapters and divisions to adopt and implement one or more pieces of the action plan. Ken L. is looking for feedback from each of the state divisions. It was suggested that a success story may be submitted to National SAF. It was suggested that George F. add an item to the December EC meeting agenda. Each State Representative could make an effort to make this subject a part of each state report. Each State Representative will describe how that state will try to implement one or more of the action items. [Jerry Milne joined the group at this point.]

2. Additional information on Easels (Frame & Harding): During the Winter Meeting in Fairlee, VT, it was suggested that NESAF investigate the costs that would be associated with the purchase of some more modern easels for future use at NESAF Winter Meetings. The result of this review indicates that $1,100 would pay for 30 easels from U.S. Marker Board Company. NESAF currently owns (and stores) 60 wooden easels. Twenty (20) wooden easels were used for the poster session during the 2007 NESAF Winter Meeting. NESAF has agreed to loan some of the wooden easels to NYSAF for use during the 2008 NESAF/NYSAF Winter Meeting. Following the 2008 Winter Meeting, the Maine Division will locate a storage facility for the wooden easels. Transportation difficulties, maintenance of the easels and inadequate storage space within at least some of the state divisions’ sites characterize the easel issues. Spencer M. will order one of the modern easels and he will bring it to the December EC meeting so that the EC can inspect one easel and make a more informed decision. The EC discussed the possibility that 1) each of the states could contribute to the easel fund or 2) NESAF could add this item to the 2008 budget.
C. NEW BUSINESS:

1. NE/NY Winter Meeting Update (Jerry Milne): The date and location of the meeting was summarized. The hotel will charge the government room rate ($105/night). The conference registration is expected to be about $125/person. Relative to the program and speakers, the following speakers have been invited: William Schlesinger, keynote speaker - forest climate and change; Mike Mortimor, SAF Policy Chair - finding common ground -theme. Other topics, NE greenhouse gas initiative, climate change, carbon sequestration, graduate student presentations; land protections tools; business meetings for both NYSAF and NESAF; forester health, OSHA, CR monitoring; awards banquet(s); biomass markets; watershed management issues. Tours include Finch Paper, a Saratoga tree nursery, a state forest plantation and others. The scheduling of the hockey game location remains an issue. A ski trip is being organized. Quiz bowl will be wed pm. Alumni socials on Thursday pm. 1-5 Tuesday EC meeting room. Registration will occur on-line through the National office. The EC discussed the need for registration to be available to non-members and to those who are unable to register electronically. Walk-in registrations will be not encouraged. The EC congratulated Jerry M. on a full and interesting program. Jim H. discussed the opportunity for graduate student oral presentation as part of the call for papers and posters. The EC discussed this new item and thanked Jim H. for his efforts.

2. Standing Committee reports:

   Nominations and Election (Dolan): The term(s) for the RI, NH and CT state representatives to NESAF 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 still need to solicit new names and submit them to Paul D. ASAP. Names and bios needed NOW!!!!!! Several member names were discussed.

   Policy (Howland): No action items are pending. GSD recently finished developing a working forest/conservation easement policy position statement.

   Membership (Lemin): Ron L. distributed the NESAF membership purge list. 74 members were purged this year. Last year 80 NESAF members were purged. 77% of these (purged) members are 1-10 year members. There were 1,031 NESAF members before this year’s purge. Ron L. plans to organize a meeting of state representatives to discuss membership issues during the Winter Meeting. A discussion followed relative to NESAF’s interest in re-inventing the leadership academy in New England as one way to try to stimulate and retain some of our newest members. EC members think this is a good idea and that one option involves including a leadership academy in association with the Winter Meeting. In the past, NESAF included the cost of National Leadership Academy attendance in the budget; in the future, the EC could consider the option of including the costs of training new NESAF members through this program.

   Forest Science Coordinator (Harding): Jim H. discussed the themes for the NQ. Jim H. has received 3 articles on old growth that are nearly ready to go to Brad W. for this upcoming issue of the NQ. The January NQ theme will likely concentrate on 10 years after the Ice Storm (1998). Jim H. expressed concerned about some of the WGs and the continuing need to find at least one or more WG chairs. The EC agrees that this is a continuing issue and not related to Jim’s tenure as FSC. In the past, the WG design was based on the need to anticipate need to convey new science, skills and technology to members. Only New England maintains WGs. The current Winter Meeting program functions quite well without contributions from most of the WGs; perhaps WGs are redundant. This discussion will continue. Jim H. moved the 50 poster easels out of his office and into storage. The easels will be transported to Saratoga Springs, NY.

   NESAF Website (Johnston): Mariann J. reports that the need for her website duties have been decreasing lately. Jim’s O’s turn-around time for getting items posted on the website have been getting longer (a week) - which may become an issue in the future and may relate to the need to act on the new website format described by the recent RFP.
i. **New Maintenance Contract RFP** - Five (5) proposals were received. Four (4) of the proposals represent the required management systems. The RFP sub-committee has not yet reviewed the proposals. Mariann J. described a possible prioritization of the proposals. 2nd choice: First Step Internet $4,680 (this company has experience with the Inland Empire SAF) and 1st choice: Webfodder $4,745 [plus yearly fees]. The other two proposal companies were less focused on NESAF's needs. Once a company is chosen, the next steps include consultation, testing, and training session(s). The implementation process will require 6-8 weeks and this proposed implementation period falls within the Website Administrator's term (thru December 2007). There was discussion of the timing of new website features that may coincide (conflict) with the need for NESAF members to register on-line for the Winter Meeting and to vote on-line. The current NESAF budget does not cover the costs associated with this contract within a single budget year.

The EC discussed the possibility of spreading this payment over 2 budget years. Mariann J. described the past use of the Website Administrator's time commitments. In the past, the Website Administrator's time involved the implementation of the current NESAF website; recently, less of a time commitment was required for this task. Mariann L. suggested that the Website Administrator's stipend could be committed to the new RFP contract in the future. This suggestion is based on the assumption that the NESAF Website Administrator's workload remains low. The list-serve opportunity available through the new system would encourage member use of the NESAF Website. A motion was heard from Don F. to authorize further exploration by the website sub-committee relative to the 2 RFP proposals. A discussion followed and included the following items.

The website sub-committee should develop a recommendation and bring it to the 12/12/07 NESAF EC meeting. Authorization for this expenditure by e-mail may be needed in order to pay for this item in a timely way. The EC will consider dividing this item over a 2-year budget cycle (which will cost a little more): The EC hopes to commit this year's funds in December 2007. The EC will allocate the remaining payment to the next (2008) budget year. Recognizing that 50/50 payment split will require amending the NESAF. Ken L. seconded this motion. A discussion followed and focused on the projected time frame; NESAF may not want to launch a new system before March 2008. The EC agrees that it is desirable to pay for the first installment of this proposed project in December 2007. The next step will take 6-8 weeks and NESAF will not launch a new website until March (>6-8 weeks due to holidays). The launch of the newly revised website will represent an opportunity for a “good news announcement” during the next Winter Meeting and the spring NQ. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

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**Grants (Degnan):** Tom D. was not present. E-mail from Tom D. reports no new grant applications for available funds have been received. VT is working on one application. Tom D. received a potential grant ($750) from CT. CT will be revising and preparing a grant application for submission by December 2007. Tom e-mailed all state representatives relative to information on grant availability, a sample grant application, and the timelines.

**Grants Investment Sub-committee** - Larry R, Tom D, and Julie Evans will review the investment policy options and especially the current policy relative to the $25,000 principal. The EC raised some other
Awards (Stone): The request for award nominations appeared in the recent NQ. **Randy S.** will submit another full page to **Brad W.**  **Randy S.** will call nominators from past award cycles to confirm that the previously filed nominations are still valid.

i. **Resolution of the Integrity Award situation (Laustsen):** This item has been resolved (relative to group awards).

Budget (Rousseau): This item was discussed earlier in the EC meeting (see Treasurer's Report).

NESAF News Quarterly (Wyman): **Brad W.** advertised the need for a new NQ editor in the past issue of the NQ; **Brad is still awaiting responses.** **Brad W. continues to review the NESAF membership list as a source of names and in an effort to try to solicit an application from a candidate who may be interested in the NQ editor position.** **Brad W. notes that Kim Lowell's contributions to the NQ were always appreciated in the past. A Canadian correspondent would be welcome (300-360 word articles) and Don F. will work on this suggestion.**

State Reports (NESAF State Representatives):

**MA – Randy Stone:** About 100 foresters attended the Yankee Division meeting on 6/20/07 in Amherst that included a woods operation and mill tour hosted by W.D. Cowl's Lumber with emphasis on forest management for early seral habitat. On August 1, a US/Russia delegation tour took place in Massachusetts relative to interest in the green certification process. **Randy will send a summary of this to meeting to Brad W. for inclusion in the next NQ. Major revisions of the Massachusetts Forest Cutting Practices Act are being considered including additional requirements may include stand exams and additional quantitative analysis.**

**RI – Paul D:** New chapter officers were elected at the recent RI meeting; the "Way of the Woods" trailer will appear at the Wood and Energy Expo on October 13 (will replace the "Walk in the Woods" program.) The Champion Tree program continues to expand. **Paul D. will submit a NQ article to B W. that describes how RI has used NESAF grant dollars in the past.**

**NH – Peter H:** Three (3) timber sales on White Mountain Forest have been appealed, thus reducing harvest volume from 24 MMBF to 3 MMBF. **The GSD newsletter is available online. The Granite State members created an op-ed piece about the loss of revenues to towns due to timber sale losses. The Annual Tree Farm meeting will take place on September 22. The October 4th workshop at the Bartlett Experiment Station celebrates its 75th anniversary. The GSD's scheduled annual meeting will occur on 15 February 2008.**

**CT – Tom Degnan:** **Tom was not present. Larry R. presented the following:** UCONN's 6th Forestry User's Forum is scheduled for November 2007; this year's National Envirothon recipient is from Connecticut; **Larry R. will write an article about this for the NQ and send it to Brad; a new manual was recently published and distributed relative to the management of grasslands.**

**VT – Ed O:** A new Vice Chair for GMD, **Scott Machinist, has been elected.** The summer meeting is scheduled for September 28th in cooperation with The Wildlife Society (CWD and Moose impacts). A piece of 2006
legislation created a committee to fund the Vermont Fish & Wildlife agency and recommended enhanced
funding. The Green Mountain SAF suggested that enhanced funding for all natural resource agencies be
considered. That funding statement is posted on the GMD website. Ray Toolan or Ed O. will write a piece
about this development for the NQ and send it to Brad ASAP. The GMD Website was updated recently by
Ghost Writers Communications. The year 2009 represents the 100th anniversary of the first VT State
Forest and VT State Forester. The GMD would like to republish the “Trees of Vermont” by northern
woodlands as part of the celebration of this event. A new full-time position “conservation educator
cooridinator” for VT forests, parks and recreation was recently posted. As a result of a recent job posting
and search for candidates, Nancy Patch was recently been hired as the new Franklin/Grand Isle County
Forester.

ME - Spencer M.: The MESAF fall meeting theme will focus on ethics and resolution (and especially business
models). Registration for members = $25; registration for non-members =$75s. The LPF issue may be
resolved relative to board members. MESAF created a task force and 3 names have been recommended to
the Board. MESAF is considering paying for a bus to transport MESAF members to Saratoga Springs for
the NE/NY meeting in 2008. The Forestry Awareness Committee is active and working on developing grant
applications. MESAF discussed the NH Guide to Forestry in NE - MESAF was not aware of this program or
the purpose of this project and so didn’t know how to react. (This guide was apparently developed for
landowners.) MESAF distributed SAF bumper stickers to members.

Canada - Don F.; Don presented economic data from the four Atlantic provinces that included the following;
>10,000 job losses. IPM shut down recently. Some mergers may occur soon and this may lead to more mill
shut downs. NB currently has 60 sawmills, 28 of which run at capacity. The near parity in the CA/US dollar is
becoming an issue. An historic restructuring of the forest products industry will occur soon. For example,
the province of Ontario will revisit license and tenure agreements for operators; other sweeping changes will
occur throughout Canada. Minimal spruce budworm populations currently exist, however it is predicted that
these populations will increase during the next 10-15 years. Resistance to pesticide applications continues to
be an issue in Nova Scotia. Recent invasive insect population issues have lead to quarantines.

12:55 pm: EC break for lunch. EC resumed at 1:30pm.

Don F. suggested that some may believe that the JOF may have lost some of its former identity. Don F. has
been an editor for 3 years and during this time The Forestry Source may have taken some of the JOF letter
content. Forest Science may include some of the former JOF content. Some believe that the JOF may not
be as relevant today to its readers. Important questions include: What should its role be and how do we get
it to go there? Should the content be more applied? Does the JOF currently contain too much GIS and too
much policy? Don F. is looking for feed back from the EC on how to make this a better publication. Has the
JOF become too academic? Comments from the EC included a consensus that the most relevant information
may be found within the various regional journals. The NJOF is popular. The new editor may have influenced
some of the recent changes in the JOF. The single issue/single theme available in the past wasn’t popular.
Many readers enjoyed the letters from the society at large that were previously printed in the JOF. These
can help make the membership at large feel more engaged. The former JOF practice included a peer
reviewed section and a non-peer reviewed section. All thoughts and suggestions are welcome to make the
journal more relevant to members.

i. **Status of National Awards and Fellow nominations - Region VI:** Two Fellow nominations were recently forwarded from Max McCormick to Roger D. John O’Brien was recently awarded the (National) Regional Field Forester award this year.

**Chair Potpourri (Frame):**

i. **HSD and National Convention** - George F. serves on a committee with other representatives from around the country and finds that this is an effective system of communications. Mike Guergan no longer has an executive assistant. Mike G. will re-arrange those duties as a result. It is possible that Mike may be able to provide more support to state societies. Electronic voting will occur this year. Members and state societies need to alter their calendar to incorporate this potential for electronic voting within the identical calendar sequence nation-wide and to meet electronic deadlines. State societies do not need to file IRS statements. The national office handles this item. The gross income for each state societies needs to <$25,000 in order to maintain 5013c status. This may be a future issue for NESAF and will need to be addressed in the future. National SAF insurance policy (liability) is somewhat limited; state societies that count on SAF insurance, may want to reconsider their options. The SAF Council recently agreed to some limited membership category changes and fee schedules. These changes still do not address the technician issue. The organization name change issue was discussed; many strong opinions were expressed. No resolution by achieved by Council. The most recent National SAF Strategic Plan can be found on-line. The proposal for “the Center for Evidenced Based Natural Resource Management” moved to the level of pilot project status. SAF funding and development options will be discussed at HSD. Ron L. and George F. look forward to the Portland Oregon HSD meeting.

ii. **Other items for the good of the order:** Ed O. suggests the book "No Child Left Inside" by Richard Louv to groups that want to address natural resource connectedness.

Ken L. sits on a task force that is reviewing the possibility of changing the 2-year forestry program format from a recognition system to accreditation based system. Discussion surrounded whether or not this option re-opens the traditional technician question/issue.

A motion to adjourn was heard from Ken L. A second was heard from Ron L. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Marie Kittredge, NESAF Secretary

Calendar: The NESAF EC will next meet on 12/12/2007 at the SPNHF Office in Concord NH (9:30AM).