New England Society of American Foresters (NESAF)
Executive Committee (EC) Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Location: SPNF Office, Concord NH

Members present:
- Tom Degnan Connecticut State Representative; Grants Chair
- Paul Dolan Rhode Island State Representative; Nomination Chair
- Roger Dziengeleski Council 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:
- Joseph P. Barsky (2008 newly elected) Connecticut State Representative
- Merv Stevens NESAF Fellow

Members not present:
- Don Floyd Canadian Representative

Meeting opened by NESAF Chair, George Frame at 9:35 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.
- Antitrust statement: The antitrust statement was presented.
- Add/Adjust agenda: Under item (7) add new 2008 meetings; under item B (Old Business) add the History Project; and under item B. (Old business) discuss the easels.

Corrections/Additions for the September 12, 2007 EC meeting minutes (Kittredge): Previous corrections from Ken L. have been incorporated into the draft minutes. No new corrections were suggested.
- A motion was heard from Ken L. to accept the meeting minutes; a second to the motion was heard from Jim H. The question was called and passed unanimously.
(Tom D. joined EC at this point.)

**Treasurer's Report (Rousseau):** Larry R. distributed the NESAF Net Worth Balance as of 12/12/07 and Budget Report as of 12/12/07. Larry noted the increase in EC operating fund, the increased award expense for duplicating integrity award (3 times) and website expenses (includes redesign); total assets of $56,586.18. In review of the budget, income to date is $32,322.63; expenses to date are $29,007.87. A motion was heard from Brad W. to approve the Treasurer’s Report; a second to the motion was heard from Spencer M. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

**B. Old Business:**

**NE/NY Winter Meeting Update:** Jerry Milne (through Larry R.) reported that Winter Meeting is still on track (2/27-29). The NYSAF newsletter is out with meeting information and so far 21 members have registered online. Jim H. is in charge of the NESAF graduate student research and has received no student submissions yet and is hoping to get the word out. This is a new program for NESAF and students may need a little encouragement.

Paul D. is working on the auction and will be looking for items. A discussion continued about whether or not the proceeds will go to NESAF or to the foresters' fund.

**Easels (Spencer M.):** NESAF is currently paying $65/month to store the easels. Spencer M. brought a $42 version of a more modern easel to the EC meeting that is both sturdy and compact. In larger volumes NESAF can purchase these for ~$21 each. Maybe a tote bin could be used to store and carry the new easels. An advantage exists if NESAF could order these all at once by saving shipping and reducing the cost per easel. Maybe NESAF should order 60 easels because NESAF sometimes uses more than 50 at a time. A motion was heard by Brad W. to modify the 2008 budget and buy 60 easels in time to use for the February 2008 Winter Meeting. A second was heard by Randy S. Jim H. will locate a school and will donate the current wooden easels. Spencer M. will order the easels in January 2008. The Motion passed unanimously. The value of this purchase is about $2,600.

**The NESAF history project (Ken L.):** Earlier this year Charlie Thompson held a conference call on the status of this centennial project that is focused on updating NESAF’s history. The participants in this conference call believe that each of the state chairs may be the ones responsible for writing the individual state portion of the project. There are 2 documents that need to be updated. One is a chronology of New England events. The other is a narrative of each state’s progress through time. Max McCormack (through e-mail) let the EC know that he believes that NESAF needs to work on this and accomplish this project more quickly before NESAF loses the pool of contributors. The EC shares Max’s frustration with the progress on this important project. George Stevens, Nancy Gordon, others (?) are possible contact to get this project moving. Ron L. will ask if Max M. is willing to work on this project for the state of Maine. Candidates for NH (Bofinger or Bennett) were suggested. Ken L. suggested that he could take over one of the documents – the NESAF one. The former RI chief (Tom Dupree) may be one candidate to assist with the project for Connecticut. “A Half Century of Forestry” (the latter of the 2 documents). EC members will find a contact to take over their state’s compilation before next meeting (January 2008). Will this be accomplished under one editor? George F. will contact Charlie T. and let him know that the EC has a new plan.
C. NEW BUSINESS:

1) Fellow Information (Stevens): What does a Fellow need to accomplish relative to this honor in order to contribute to this organization? Is there a need? Fellows have been exploring this concept (at the Fairlee VT winter meeting). The discussion included ideas about how to organize Fellows to the benefit to SAF and NESAF? These 10 fellows came up with a list including ideas about how to work with students, young foresters and others. Merv S. and others have contacted all Fellows from New England and are hoping to organize the following: 1) A Fellow/Student breakfast financed by Fellows. They anticipate 10 Fellows and 20 students will attend (2/28/08 7-8 am). During this breakfast it is hoped that Fellows can help Students better understand what Fellows did in the past; it is hoped that these relationships may spin off into a mentoring program. 2) A program that develops Fellow role models and mentors to young foresters. 3) A program designed to contact those who drop out of SAF and explore what Fellows could do with this declining membership trend. Pete Hannah will organize Fellows in Maine and Hans Bergey will organize fellows in Rhode Island. A strong interest exists at the national level in this kind of a model Fellow program. Other ideas that were discussed by the EC include: - could Fellows play a key role with the History Project? Could Fellows help endorse and implement the Future Foresters Challenges Project (the white paper)? The NESAF EC endorsed these Fellows project ideas. A copy of that breakfast invitation to students could go to Caitlin Cusack (at Yale) so that she can advertise this to NESAF student chapters directly. Perhaps this breakfast idea could be expanded from just students to include young members. The EC respects and supports this Fellows’ effort and thanks Merv S. Merv and the Fellows group may report back to NESAF regularly.

(11:00 AM. The EC took a brief break at this point.)

2) Standing Committee reports:

Nominations and Election (Dolan): Members of the EC brought forward critical letters from Laura Kenefic, Max McCormick and others relative to the 2007 nomination and election outcome. The EC discussed this issue at great length. Currently the nominating committee recruits nominations each year. This year no nominations were received for the Secretary or Treasurer positions and several other positions were uncontested. The ballots were mailed and received by members during mid-November. The term(s) for the RI, NH and CT state representatives to NESAF were filled for the new term by Paul Dolan, Peter Howland and Joseph Barsky (Congratulations!). The NESAF Secretary and Treasurer terms will expire at the end of the 2007: no new candidates have been found however Larry R. has agreed to fill the Treasurer duties until a replacement comes forward. 7.8% of the NESAF members voted in the fall 2007 ballot. It was suggested that a new nominating committee be re-developed that will work to fill all positions (For example, the NQ Editor will soon retire). NESAF needs to diligently engage young members and who can then move into a variety of leadership roles. This "lack of volunteer" issue is not specific to SAF. Other organizations face a similar dilemma. One new component of the website will establish a direct e-mail communication with members and may help the EC to reach more people and new faces. EC members could write a small piece describing the satisfaction that EC members get out of NESAF activities. The process of adding more structure to the nominating committee's request for nominations may improve the results. It was suggested that one person per state may become responsible for picking 5 other people to make calls for nominations. Members may be more likely to respond and become an active EC member if the call comes from someone that they know. The next election will be electronic and NESAF will need the candidate names before the September electronic election. It was discussed that additional member activities might help young members become more involved. (The EC discussed the role that the national leadership academy may play in this question. The Academy may be run next year however a location that fits the protocol has not been located). The EC discussed the possibility that a NESAF forester fund grant could be used to help develop a NESAF
leadership academy. Ron L. will submit this application next month. Ken L. will work on this with Ron. Ron L. and Ken L. are also willing to begin the process of establishing a leadership academy for 2008 and will need “in-kind” contributions from NESAF. Ron and Ken will have more details for the EC to review at the January EC meeting. Should the SAF hold both a national and a regional leadership academy? Maybe both are important; however there is a better chance that members can afford to attend a local meeting. A discussion of electronic voting process followed including the need to update NESAF’s bylaws to conform to electronic voting.

Policy (Howland): No NESAF action items are pending. The Green Mountain Division was recently asked to submit legislations to support funding for all natural resource agencies in Vermont. It is possible that the NESAF EC will be asked to review and support the Green Mountain’s position.

The EC took a break for lunch (12:00) and resumed the EC meeting at 12:40 pm.

Membership (Lemin): Ron L. reported that Mike Goergen at HSD summarized membership issues. NESAF loses 2% of its members per year. Retention is our biggest challenge to membership. Student membership is up 1.7%. Retaining students after their University experience is the bigger challenge. Membership change rates have been approved. Membership surveys reveal that members believe that SAF has not aligned itself with the real needs of its members and that SAF maintains a traditional narrow definition of forestry. More research managers, wildlife biologists etc join - a different type of professional is joining our work force. A schism exists in council relative to the definitions of sustaining members - if the definition of "forester" changes, it is believed that a high proportion of traditional members will leave SAF. There appears to be a real line in the sand relative to this issue.

Forest Science Coordinator (Harding): Jim H. discussed the themes for the NQ. The January NQ theme will focus on 10 years after the Ice Storm (1998). The EC reviewed other future themes for the NQ including but not limited to: forest land ownership patterns, beech bark disease, managing landscapes, technology transfer, guest columns, how SAF interacts with other professional. The first theme that was developed for the NQ was forest pests - it was suggested that this theme could appear in the NQ as an annual topic. Substantial change in the forest industry has occurred relative to markets; this topic could be developed into a theme. Other potential themes that were suggested included urban forests and the interface between foresters and arborists, forest history, emerging carbon markets, membership, and ecosystem services. Jim H. discussed his progress with Working Groups. Jim has not been able to fill one working group position. WGs will not play a role at the winter meeting. After the 2008 winter meeting, the EC could talk in more detail about the role of WGs in NESAF.

NESAF Website (Johnston):

i) New Website Details - Mariann J. worked with the website developer and subcommittee. The new look has been designed and the EC reviewed a hard copy. The EC discussed the possibility of using the same color bar and adding some new photos. A library of digital pictures would be ideal. To generate a digital library for this purpose, maybe the EC should try a photo contest. A trial website will be ready soon. The EC discussed who should be able to go into the site in order to chapter updates. Mariann reminded the EC that one 3-4 hour training session will be available for the state representatives. Each state representative should develop a list of people who will want to be able to access the website to make changes. The NQ editor should also be trained. Mariann J. was commended for her work on behalf of her subcommittee. In the final version of the website, the EC will probably drop the photo credit option (on the photo on the front page). Once the website has a collection of photos, it will not need those photos from contributors who require
photo credits. The EC looks forward to this newly revised NESAF website and anticipates that the new website will be so efficient and functional that each individual state chapter will want to cooperate. Mariann J. reminded the EC that E-mail lists represent an additional feature of this new website. Each chapter and division should have their own lists to facilitate efficient communication without the "spam issue". The maintenance of the e-mail lists represents one difficult issue.

ii) The Transition from one Website to a New Website - Mariann J. reports that the existing website is still functional. 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.

Grants (Degnan):

i) Distribution of Grant Requests - Tom D. received and distributed 4 complete grant applications representing requests for as much as $14,000 from CT, VT (2) and NH. The EC has $3,080 to distribute. One way that the EC could approach this task is to review each request for the required components; an EC ranking from 1 to 4 sometimes works well but in this case a ranking will not help the EC to determine the level of funding that will be approved for each request. In the past, the EC divided the $3,080 evenly between requests. These electronic copies are not signed - original signature sheets exist. The EC discussed the required involvement of the local chapter or division. EC voting members will review these requests to determine whether or not each request meets NESAF criteria (or not); the EC will then prioritize and decide upon the appropriate funding level. Questions from the EC can be forwarded directly to Tom Degnan. The EC will discuss these applications again during the January 2008 EC meeting.

ii) Discussion of NESAF-only funding of projects: the need to substantiate other in-kind was reviewed.

Awards (Stone): The request for award nominations appeared in the recent NQ twice with conflicting due dates. Randy distributed the nominations packages to the state representatives and asks representatives to rank these nominations and send the results of the ranking to Randy S. before the end of December 2007. Anne Marie K. will look up June 2007 minutes relative to using the $ and price of award relative to number of awardees as a criterion for ranking. FYI NESAF EC: Anne Marie K. copied the following highlighted text from the approved June 2007 NESAF EC minutes. 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 OL. 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-plate, and delivered to the two other awardees.

3) 2007, 2008, and 2009 Budget (Rousseau): Larry R. distributed the Draft Budget Report 2006-2009. Larry reviewed the 2007 year to date expenses including notes on the integrity award, website enhancement, a line item for winter meeting expenses (for easels). The EC will need to add an accountant’s (line item) fee for a Form 1099 for NESAF’s excess gross income (> $25,000). The EC will review the budget and discuss in more detail during the January 2008 EC meeting. Income: dues continue to decline so the line item has been
reduced to reflect anticipated income; the web master line item has been eliminated as suggested during 
past EC meetings.

4) NESAF News Quarterly (Wyman): Brad W. continues to advertise the need for a new NQ editor 
within issues of the NQ; Brad W. is still awaiting responses. Brad W. continues to review the NESAF 
membership list as a source of names. Brad directly solicited an application from ~40 potential candidates 
for the NQ editor position. About half of the potential candidates responded (negatively). This needs to be 
addressed before Brad’s final NQ issue (June).

5) State Reports (NESAF State Representatives):

MA - Randy Stone: No recent state activity. DCR commissioner works to secure projects funds for park 
facilities and for hiring new positions including 7 new forester positions this year.

RI - Paul D: The “Way of the Woods” trailer appeared at the Wood and Energy Expo on October 13 (and 
replaces the “Walk in the Woods” program.) The Champion Tree program continues to expand. The
Envirothon efforts continue. Presently working on an arbor fair (tree planting, etc)

NH - Peter H: The Annual Tree Farm meeting was a success on September 22. The October 4th workshop at 
the Bartlett Experiment Station celebrated its’ 75th anniversary. The GSD’s annual meeting is scheduled for 
15 February in Waterville, NH and will focus on 2008 market conditions. The NH Executive Committee 
worked on new a by-law change for voting deadlines. Student sponsorship continues in this 3rd year. Pete 
reports that volunteerism issues occur in NH as well as NESAF and elsewhere. The GSD is working on a 
guidebook with a NESAF grant that is progressing well.

CT - Tom Degnan: Connecticut State Forester, Don Smith retires this year and this position has already been 
posted. A November 9, 2007 reading at Bushnell focused on conversations between Gifford Pinchot and 
Teddy Roosevelt. Conservation forum and research forum, policy and science (forest regulations) has a good 
representation from the forestry community. Two new members have joined the CTSAF Executive 
Committee. Tom Degnan congratulated and introduced J.P Barsky the new CT representative to the NESAF 
EC. A winter meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2008 in Haddam (11 am-4pm) and will focus on the forest 
practice act ethics code vs. the SAF code of ethics with guest presenter, Lloyd Irland. The Yankee Division 
meeting will be scheduled for late February or early March.

VT - Ed O: The Green Mountain Division’s summer meeting was held on September 28th in 
cooperation with The Wildlife Society. It focused on CWD and Moose impacts, and was quite successful with 
about 70 foresters in attendance. The year 2009 represents the 100th anniversary of the first VT State 
Forest and the first VT State Forester. The GMD would like to republic the “Trees of Vermont” in 
partnership with Northern Woodlands Magazine, as part of the celebration of this event. A new full-time 
position “Conservation Educator Coordinator” for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation 
was recently appointed and her name is Rebecca Gies. GMD is developing an award program for students. 
Carbon is the topic of the upcoming GMD winter meeting to take place on February 1, 2008 in Montpelier. 
The GMD submitted comments relative to the proposed re-organization of the Vermont Agency of natural 
Resources, through a public comment process. A legislative summer study committee looked at Vermont’s 
Use Value Appraisal program (current use) and legislation may be proposed in the upcoming session that could 
alter the UVA program.
ME - Spencer M.: The MESAF fall meeting theme focused on landowner change. MESAF is still planning to schedule one bus to transport MESAF members (and others?) to Saratoga Springs for the NE/NY meeting in 2008. Interested members should contact Spencer Meyer. Max McCormick suggests a by-law review/change relative to the date for electronic elections. Ken L. is looking into this. Carl Van Husen received his Golden Membership Award. The Maine Licensure Board now functions well. The Board recently administered an exam and accepted the SAF CF exam with an added Maine component.

Laura Kenefic and Max McCormick’s E-mail comments regarding the nomination and election process and outcome were recognized by the EC and are summarized under that topic in these minutes. Max M.’s comments relative to the History Project were discussed under that topic and are summarized elsewhere in these minutes.

Ron L. shared several E-mails with the EC about Wilfred Creighton, “the father of scientific forestry in Nova Scotia” who recently celebrated his 100th birthday! Chapter 3 of Jim Lotz’s book *Green Horizons, The forests and Foresters of Nova Scotia* focuses on Wilfred who recalls: ....it seems only yesterday that I was a young radical forester eager for change and impatient because change could not come faster...”

Canada - Don Floyd: (not present).

6) SAF Council Report: (Dziegeneski): (This agenda item was covered before the state reports). Roger D. distributed a summary of Notes of December 2007 Council meeting. Council approved the 2008 budget that projects $3.245 million in revenue and anticipates a $3.195 million expense budget ($50,000 in the black). Dues represent 60% of the revenues. New staff members were summarized by Roger D. A gap still occurs in membership and marketing. Insurances costs (riders) are still being studied. In the recent electronic election, 35% of the ballots were returned compared to nearly identical (34%) from paper ballots. The concept of group certification has been discussed for foresters (as a member service); this project may increase the amount of wood products that move into the market place and could financially benefit private landowners. The volunteerism dilemma will be brought up again at the March meeting. National award nominations are due soon; Roger encourages NESAF to provide one or more nominations. Fellow nominations need to be received by Max M. by March 17th (this is new deadline).

i) Current Issues – The sale of the SAF property has been resolved. SAF will do well a result of this change. Through the process Roger D. and Leo Laferriere pushed hard to move this agreement to completion. Roger D. will continue to stay involved with the process relative to the relocation process. Details and finalized closings will take at least a year.

ii) Fellow nominations - Region VI: Two Fellow nominations were recently forwarded from Max McCormick to Roger D. and as a result the Fellow nominations for David Kittredge and Bill Bentley have been confirmed. Dave K. and Bill B. will be recognized at Reno Convention.

7) Chair Potpourri (Frame): George F. and the EC expressed gratitude to Anne Marie K., NESAF’s Secretary and to Larry R. NESAF’s Treasurer. Both terms expire at the end of 2007; however, Larry R. has agreed to temporarily continue to serve as Treasurer until a replacement is found.

i) HSD and National Convention – Ron Lemin and George F. attended 1.5 days of HSD. Some items got moved forward on the HSD agenda including success stories. HSD delegates were kept informed by Craig relative to the issues by the Convener System. Ken Jolly will be the next HSF Chair. Membership issues and electronic balloting were discussed by staff. NESAF was recognized for its outstanding project relative to the NESAF white paper. Ron L. and George F. recognized and thanked NESAF for financial support that continues to enable officers to travel to HSD and attend the national conference.

8) Other items for the good of the order:
Brad W. reminded the EC members that he needs page 2 updates (new officer and committee) for NQ ASAP from each of the state representatives.

A motion to adjourn was heard from Brad W. A second was heard from Spencer M. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Marie Kittredge, NESAF Secretary

Calendar: The NESAF EC will next meet on 1/24/2008 at 9:30AM in Concord NH.

January 24, 2008: Concord, NH: 9:30 A.M.
February 26, 2008: Saratoga, NY: 1:00 P.M.
June 12, 2008: Portland, ME: 9:30 A.M.
September 15, 16, 17, 18 OR 19, 2008 [The actual date and location are TBD].
Suggestions include: Moose Locker Bean Lodge (?) or Seyon Ranch (?).
December 10, 2008: Concord, NH: 9:30 A.M.