

New England Society of American Foresters (NESAF)

Executive Committee (EC) Meeting

Thursday, January 24, 2008

Location: SPNHF Office, Concord NH

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Members present:

9 Joseph P. Barsky Connecticut State Representative

10 Paul Dolan Rhode Island State Representative; Nomination Chair

11 Andrew Fast Secretary (Appointment pending)

12 George Frame Chair

13 James Harding Forest Science Coordinator

14 J Peter Howland New Hampshire State Representative; Policy Committee Chair

Mariann Johnston Website Administrator
 Ken Laustsen Immediate Past Chair

17 Ron Lemin Jr. Vice-Chair; Membership Chair
 18 Ed O'Leary Vermont State Representative
 19 Larry Rousseau Treasurer (Appointment pending)

20 Randy Stone Massachusetts State Representative; Awards Chair

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22 Guests:

23 None

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Members not present:

26 Roger Dziengeleski Council Representative
 27 Don Floyd Canadian Representative
 28 Spencer Meyer Maine State Representative
 29 Bradford Wyman NESAF News Quarterly Editor

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Meeting opened by NESAF Chair, George Frame at 9:27 AM

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A. Standard items:

Sign in sheet (Fast) - verify contact information: The standard sign-in sheet was circulated.

Welcome: George F. welcomed all EC members, introduced Andy F., whose appointment as Secretary is pending, and all members present introduced themselves.

Antitrust statement: The antitrust statement was presented.

Add/Adjust agenda: Under item B (Old Business) add update on the History Project and bylaw changes needed for electronic balloting.

Corrections/Additions for the December 12, 2007 EC meeting minutes (Fast): Previous corrections from Ken L. have been incorporated into the draft minutes. Edits from the floor were incorporated and a motion was heard from Ken L. to accept the meeting minutes as edited; a second to the motion was heard from Ron L. The question was called and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Rousseau): Larry R. distributed the NESAF Net Worth Report as of 12/31/07 and Budget Report as if 1/24/08. In review of the budget, income to date is \$32,391.57; expenses to date are \$31,915.19; and total assets are \$57,204.04. Larry R. reported that the new easels are paid for (\$2,500) and are currently in the possession of Spencer M. The old wooden easels will come out of storage and be redistributed by Jim H.

Ken L. asked about arrangements for audits. After discussion about chapter/division v. NESAF responsibility of reporting to IRS, Larry R. informed the EC that there is \$1,000 in the budget to hire a CPA. Ron L. suggested that a single CPA should represent all divisions. After continued discussion, George F. offered to check with the Forest Society to glean insight from their experience and process.

B. Old Business:

NE/NY Winter Meeting Update: George F. received an email from Jerry Milne reporting that 183 members have registered with more "flooding in." Paul D. is in charge of the raffle and should be contacted if you have something to donate. John Clarke (clarkeforest@msn.com) should be contacted if you want an exhibitors table. Lack of sponsorship is a concern and could be a reflection of markets. Brad W. has the banner and will bring it to the meeting. Ron L. expressed the need for a sponsorship chair. George F. expressed that there will be a tight schedule for meetings. Ron L. informed the EC that the bus going to the meeting from Maine will stop along the way if there is participation from other states.

Jim H. is in charge of the NESAF graduate student research presentations. There are presently 8-9 student oral presentations scheduled for the meeting, which is on pace for the target 9-12. Jim H. relayed confusion among graduate students about what presentations (oral, poster, etc.) were available to them. Many posters have been submitted and the cutoff for poster submissions is at the end of the month (January).

The NESAF history project (Ken L.): George F and Ken L. have both been in contact with Charlie Thompson. He is embarrassed to be so far behind in the project. He will get accumulated materials including .pdfs and digital material to Randy S. <u>Each state representative is responsible for identifying and bringing the names of potential author(s) who will work to produce the state summaries of changes in forestry over the last 40 years by next meeting.</u>

EC State Representatives relayed their progress: Ed O'L. expressed challenges associated with the short timeline of the project (3-6 months) and suggested a year might be a more appropriate. There was general agreement with the analysis and Ken L. offered to orchestrate the project over the revised timeline. Ed O'L to send Ken L. Vermont author (David Stevens) contact information. Ken L. endorsed Max MacCormick to be author of Maine's article but Max M. is unable, and will provide Ken L. with a list of suitable replacements. JP B. is pulling together a number of authors in Connecticut and will assume an editorial role. Paul D. has identified three individuals from R.I. Randy S. has identified 4 potential options in MA.

Ken L. conferred that old issues of *News Quarterly* are being used to provide fodder for the NESAF portion of the history publication.

Bylaw Changes: Ken L. contacted Louise Murgia from National SAF to incorporate language they developed during a similar process. Ken L. reviewed proposed changes, which included replacing three

paragraphs in the elections section to accommodate electronic balloting and slight changes to the nomination process. Ken L. also noted there is a standard minimum set of bylaws no matter where you are in the organization (division, national, etc.). George F. articulated the details of the online voting process and a need for awareness that there is only one opportunity to log in to vote. If the computer is disconnected or no vote is cast during that login period, the opportunity is missed.

There was discussion about the timing and process to get bylaws changed. Each EC State Representative should send a copy of their bylaws to Ken L. If voting changes to electronic ballots, there still requires paper ballots for members who may not have email addresses and other problems. Ken L. suggested that these mailing costs should be reflected in the budget. In terms of timing and cost, George F. suggested it is better to wait longer and make sure that there is a single vote incorporating all bylaw changes rather than multiple mailings, changes, and votes. Ken L. suggested a mailing in April/May, results can be tabulated and in June changes can be approved to NESAF. The only thing that needs to be brought up at the winter meeting is the process. George F. suggested ballots should consist of a NESAF page and a separate page for each state, potentially color coded to avoid voting confusion for membership (e.g. Maine members get a Maine paper ballot and NESAF paper ballot mailed to them). Ken L. affirmed that he would make the ballots.

The costs of mailing and bulk mailing permits were discussed. George F. offered to look into volunteer help from the Forest Society in order to cut costs.

There was continued discussion between Ed O'L., Ken L., Ron L., and George F. about which quarterly mailing to send the ballot out in and the specifics of electronic voting.

George F. reminded everyone that the nominating committee needs to be actively recruiting replacements at the chapter/division level. Ron L. identified upcoming vacant positions with NESAF include three state reps, and the Vice chair. Everything (bios, etc.) needs to be in to National by September 1^{st} .

C. NEW BUSINESS:

1) 2007, 2008 and proposed 2009 budgets: Larry R. handed out the Budget sheets. The NESAF fund CD generated \$1,100 in interest. Next changeover is in March and should generate approximately \$550. Larry R. reviewed the draft budget. Income increased from News Quarterly advertisements and interest on savings. Expenses were driven up by awards, EC exceeded the \$5,000 cap, easel storage, and 50% of the website upgrade cost. In the revised 2008 budget, administrative assistant line dropped by \$1000 since we have incurred no billed time in this category. The only expense was the annual contribution and elections dropped by \$250 with the expectation of going electronic. Larry R. added \$1000 to general operations for the 2008 and 2009 budget for general tax preparation.

Ken L. and George F questioned the reduction in election expenses and after discussion, <u>Larry R. is going to raise the election expenses to \$1500</u>. There was additional discussion about expenses without change.

George F. raised concerns about going to membership with the largest deficit ever. Discussion followed about the net worth of NESAF and Larry R. related trends of decreasing dues and increasing revenue from meetings. George F. and Ed O'L. articulated that expenses are being reinvested into the organization to make it more effective.

There was discussion about the regional leadership academy and costs associated with it. Ken L. expressed that it may require a \$0-5000 commitment and asked that a footnote be made to propose this at the winter meeting. NESAF will be responsible for coordination, but chapters and divisions will be responsible financially for getting members there. If money is received from the Forester's Fund then NESAF will not be required to contribute additional money. Nonetheless, an \$1,000 addition was suggested by Ken L. as a contingency, which later was raised to \$3,400 by Larry R. Ken L. suggested we may want to retain the option of using interest from 2008 to fund the leadership academy. Ken L. will bring it up again at the business session of the annual meeting if more is known, Larry R. will place on asterisk by the line item and it will be discussed further at the annual meeting. Randy S. inquired into the frequency of the leadership academy. Ron L. and Ken L. informed everyone it is approximately 25 individuals every other year. A motion was heard from Ken L. to approve the Treasurer's Report; a second to the motion was heard from Pete H. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

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

2) Standing Committee reports:

Grants (JP): Distribution of Grant Requests - Ed O'L. distributed the "NESAF grant request proposal outline" during the break and brought it to the attention of George F. when the meeting resumed. George F. asked the EC to consider whether all 4 submitted grants were valid clarifying that non-SAF hierarchy requests would be considered invalid. Ed O'L. confirmed the validity of the two grants from Vermont. Ken L. questioned whether the NH grant request was a work in progress since an advisory group in New Hampshire began a similar project that was never completed. There was continued discussion about the similarities (content, audience, geographic scope, etc.) between the proposed work and an existing Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry publication, "Northeastern Forest Regeneration Handbook." Gorge F. suggested Granite State EC should determine if it is filling a need and Mariann J. recommended a copy be provided to Granite State EC. Pete H. will discuss it with Granite State EC.

The grant requests were summarized. George F. suggested everyone rank their favorite projects and the EC can vote in the afternoon whether they wish to support individual projects with more/less money or provide equal financial support for all of them.

Awards (Stone): Randy 5. informed the EC that the results of the voting are in and orders for awards have been placed. 3 agencies were recipients of the Integrity Award. Discussion followed about benefits of plaques v. print awards, availability of plaques, and awarding individuals the award v. the agencies. There was continued discussion how to recognize the individuals. Ron L. suggested all individuals be invited onstage to receive the award for their organization. Ken L. suggested that letters should be sent inviting individuals, letting them know they have been noted for their work, and we would like them to be recipients on behalf of their respective organizations. A motion was heard from Paul D. to purchase two more prints and give them to the principal agencies, with individuals invited to receive the award on behalf of the agencies; a second to the motion was heard from Ed O'L. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously. George F. encouraged the EC to revisit what Integrity Awards should look like at the June EC meeting. The awards budget line item was revisited and raised from \$1,500 to \$2,000. Ken L. will call about availability of two more prints.

Randy 5. received the 50 year service awards, but needs to order the pins (5 of them). Ken L. offered to order them. National SAF congratulatory letters will likely be mailed to the chair. They will go to awardees, but not fellows.

Nominations and Election (Dolan): Paul D. expressed a need for additional volunteers to fill positions. JP B. suggested highlighting leadership opportunities at the academy for newly elected officers as a draw. Ron L. inquired about bylaws for previous chairs being elected again. Ken L. read the bylaw and language specifies that certain positions will be ineligible for reelection to that office. Discussion ensued about a bylaw change to allow officers to re-serve in positions after a certain amount of time. No action taken.

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

Revisit Grants (Degnan): George F. reopened discussion about grants after lunch. A motion was heard from Ed O'L. to accept all grant proposals as valid and acceptable to NESAF; a second to the motion was heard from James H. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously. Ed O'L. asked for the results of the grant rankings. Ken L. tallied the results which follow (fewest points = top ranking): NH grant received 18 points, Vermont (calendar project) received 21 points, Vermont (PLT collaboration) received 22 points, and the Connecticut grant received 35 points. A motion was heard from Ken L. to award \$1000 to each of the four grant applications. Mariann J. wanted to ensure the NH project is not redundant. The motion was amended. A motion was heard from Ken L. to award \$1,000 to each of the three grants. The NH award pending a review of the "Northeastern Forest Regeneration Handbook"; a second to the motion was heard from Pete Howland. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Policy (Howland): Pete H. has nothing new to report.

Membership (Lemin): Ron L. reported that he would like state representatives to make themselves available to discuss membership over breakfast at the annual meeting. If a state representative is not available the state chair or vice chair should come in their stead.

Forest Science Coordinator (Harding): Jim H. reported the new News Quarterly covers impacts of the ice storm after 10 years. He is happy with the author contributions. Next theme in the April issue is Forest Carbon. Writers have been found and are proceeding. A discussion on working group chairs is an alternative discussion for the business meeting. Jim H. will make a pitch to membership asking what their desires are for working groups and if members will function as chairs. Raising the issue at the business meeting will function as a mechanism to get more feedback than has been received at previous meetings.

Mariann J. requested that Jim H. clarify to membership that signing on for National SAF working groups is not the same as NESAF. Jim H. reported that he has not considered subject matter for the News Quarterly after the April issue. Ron L. relayed two ideas that Spencer M. suggested: 1) Spruce budworm a retrospective and likely resurgence. 2) The current state of the small woodland owner.

NESAF Website (Johnston): Mariann J. reported on that she is still in the process of working with Jim Oehler to keep the old website updated while working to get the new website up and running. The new website is designed but needs content. The new test site should be up in a couple weeks and the EC can begin testing it. There is a backlog of material to put on the old website. There was discussion on whether to keep Jim O. updating the old site. Larry R. informed everyone that there is money in the budget if we wish to continue working with Jim O. A motion was heard from Ron L. to pay the necessary money to get the last stages of the old website fully updated and functional for the next month (through mid-Feb.); a second to the motion was heard from Ken L. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Fellow Information: Ron L. informed the EC that Max M. informed him the fellowship committee wants packages for fellow nominations by mid-March rather than the end of March as stated in *News Quarterly*. There was discussion about procuring a list of contenders. A number of potential individuals were suggested. George F. suggested the EC get a list of 3-4 names to bring to Max M.

NESAF News Quarterly: Brad W. is News Editor for New Quarterly through June. Ed O'L, suggested informing membership there may be changes to the News Quarterly schedule, or no News Quarterly if no replacement is found. Ed O'L. recommended Brad W. speak with Gary Salmon about taking the office back. Randy S. offered a semi-annual News Quarterly schedule as a consideration.

State Reports (NESAF State Representatives):

MA - Randy S: Mike Flemming who up to December 2007 is presently filling in as Chair. The Treasurer's position is vacant. Gov. Patrick is proposing an 8.3% increase for Massachusetts DCR. Randy received a notice that there is a short window for the Partnership Matching Funds Program. The State will match any private grant proposal that reaches out to civic groups, institutions, or organizations that help make open space available. The State will provide a 2-1 match for proposals over \$25,000. Randy will meet with Mike Flemming prior to the NESAF annual meeting to work on the state report.

CT - JP B: The winter meeting was Jan. 8 and focused on forestry ethics; specifically, the Connecticut forest practice act ethics code vs. the SAF code of ethics. State regulations will be adopted that require foresters to pass a test in ethics. There were three speakers, a study guide was presented, and comparisons were drawn between foresters and other professions with ethics codes. The focus was primarily related to the business side of forestry in CT.

VT - Ed O'L: The Green Mountain Division has not met. There has been no new activity besides getting ready for the Green Mountain Division winter meeting. The State Forester is in the hospital as well as a county forester.

ME: Ron L. read a summary provided by Spencer M:

1. nominating committee is getting started early

 Spencer is going to communicate NESAF online election process to MESAF nominating committee (Todd Caldwell and Gary Bahlkow) to get process started early

2. Membership

 a. 12 new students signed up for SAF through MESAF in 2007
3. NESAF and New England forestry history projects

 a. Documents were described to MESAF

 b. MESAF officially endorsed Max McCormack to lead the writing of the Maine section of the New England forestry history update

 c. Max was asked to serve by Ken Laustsen but Max declined the offer. He did offer to read through MESAF membership to suggest someone and to act as minor contributor and reviewer.

 d. In a conversation outside of MESAF meeting, Tony Filauro's name came up as someone who might be interested in helping edit or compile one or both projects. Tony has not been approached about it.

 e. MESAF offered to put up some operating costs for Maine component of history projects, if needed.

- 4. NY/NESAF Winter Meeting Fellows breakfast has been advertised to MESAF and in halls at UM and to student chapter of MESAF
 - 5. MESAF still wants to keep their own website but understands new NESAF site will have link to MESAF page. Spencer encouraged MESAF to at least consider using the list-serve features of new NESAF site, when available.
 - 6. MESAF has organized bus with several stops (flyer attached). Cost is \$75 per person, regardless of starting point and there is no cost for students (grad or undergrad).
 - 7. NESAF 2009 Winter Meeting (I presume Ken will say a few words about this).
 - 8. MESAF is having 3 field meetings this spring and summer instead of the traditional 1 field tour. The workshops will focus on 1) conservation easements Katahdin Timberlands Telos-Debsconeag easement, 2) biomass silviculture changing practices due to biofuel market with possible pellet tour and 3)nature-based tourism tour of opportunities and tourism infrastructure in Bigelow/western Maine regions.
 - 9. Maine PLT and MESAF Forestry Awareness Committee
 - a. Working together again to seek funding through Dept. of Energy grant supporting forest-related education
 - b. Involved with promoting Envirothon and getting foresters to act as judges and school liaisons
 - 10. Suggestion was made that MESAF develop brochure about forestry and SAF in Maine as communications material. Possibly would also develop poster or something to place in prominent place for tourists to see. Committee thought that was responsibility of Maine Forest Service, but that SAF might play a role.

NH - Peter H: Peter H. reported the EC is looking at ways to invest money at a higher yield. The winter meeting is on Feb. 15th and the theme is markets and how do we move into the future. There will also be voting on bylaw changes at the meeting. Student sponsorship is in its 3rd year of more sponsors than students. At the winter meeting, sponsors can meet with students. NH lost two of its foresters, Ethan Howard and Ken Sutherland. Membership retention to top of list at the next EC meeting.

RI - Paul D: The RI chapter met last week. The Tree Farm meeting is coming up and The Envirothon efforts continue. RISAF is Partnering with tree council to have an arbor fair (planting programs etc.). They are looking at developing a webpage which will connect buyers with products (sawmills, etc.) in an effort to retain local markets. They are also trying to reissue a "foresters that care for the land program" and working to develop materials to hand out at careers day supporting forestry careers.

Canada - Don Floyd: (not present).

SAF Council Report (Roger D.): Roger D was not in attendance but his Councilor report from the News Quarterly was reviewed. In it he reported on: 1) sale of SAF campus. 2) Preliminary membership survey results and 3) group forester certification. Roger makes himself very available by phone or email so if you have any questions you should email him.

Chair Potpourri (Frame): George F. received a letter from Ray Toolan. Ray has been active in the Green Mountain Division and on the NESAF EC. Ray applied to the SAF Certified Forester Program and was denied because of too few silvicultural credits in his education despite a long forestry career. Ken L. asked whether he appealed or asked to take the written exam? Paul D. shared a similar experience. He appealed with the support of many foresters in RI and it came to a satisfactory result. Ken L. confirmed that

becoming an SAF Certified Forester is an issue that comes up for a number of technicians with 2 years degrees. Ken L. will contact Ray to see how we can help clear up the issue.

Leadership Academy: Ken L. circulated a proposal from NYSAF and NESAF requesting \$1,500 from the Forester's Fund for the regional leadership academy. The only change Ken L. made was adding Roger D. to the list on page 2. Ron L. added outside sponsors to the list, and clarified that outside sponsors who pay for themselves need to be on the list (shows in kind support). The leadership academy would be a one day conference with approximately 25 attendees who have joined SAF in the last 1-9 years. Each state would be responsible for looking at their own chapter/division and selecting candidates to go. Ron L. will send out 50+ letters and the first 25 that send the letters back would be admitted. Outside applicants would not be denied, but NESAF hopes to have attendees primarily from NE and NY. George F. requested that Ken L. contact NY to ensure their interest in being part of the proposal. A motion was heard from Larry R. to accept the Forester's Fund Grant from Maine after New York acquiesces; a second to the motion was heard from Ed O'L. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously. George F signed the revised Foresters Fund proposal so it could be submitted before the Feb. 15 deadline.

Other items for the good of the order: George F. expressed an interest in taking steps to implement recommendations of the Future of Foresters in the Northeast white paper. George F. requested that State representatives speak with local units, determine what should be done and revisit on the June meeting agenda. Ken L. mentioned that the report will serve as the theme for the 2009 Maine Annual Winter Meeting. Discussion on Hotel logistics and pricing for the 2009 winter meeting followed; possible dates are the first or third week in March. Ken L. started an organizational chart/sign up sheet for the Winter Meeting Planning Committee and discussion of costs of proceedings followed (proceedings cd v. bound book). Jim H. offered to be responsible for the proceedings. Ken L. responded that there is someone else he would like to ask, but he may come back to Jim H. at a later date. JP B. expressed a desire to see the proceedings be in a format that is easily searchable or compatible with products such as Endnote.

Ken L. related that The Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society and NE Pest Council would like to join NESAF and he is waiting to hear back from the International Society of Arboriculture. Randy S. inquired about adding the Society of Wetland Scientists. George F. felt they may have a different focus.

Ron L. revisited Fellow information and informed the EC that there are currently 37in NESAF. The fellows' names were read.

Larry R. inquired whether NESAF should contribute to the memorial fund of the NY forester who was killed. Based on discussions with Larry Burner in regards to another similar occurrence NESAF can inform membership but it is most appropriate for individuals to make donations if they wish.

Ken L. informed everyone that the June meeting will likely be at the Audubon Society in Falmouth, ME.

Some potential themes and content for the NESAF 2009 Annual Winter Meeting are:

"Who's eating your lunch? - Professional collaboration or cannibalism"
 Engage and interact with our companion professional organizations (SWOAM, ACF, TWS, NEFPC, and ISA) by giving them carte blanche to tailor the program from their perspective of telling attending foresters how they need to change to stay relevant.

2. "The Times They are A-Changing"

369	Use the Future Challenges for Foresters White Paper as a basis and use companion organizations
370	(SWOAM, ACF, TWS, NEFPC, ISA) to be active partners in program planning, direction, and
371	content to serve all of us in meeting future professional needs
372	3. "Bi, Bi, Bio – diversity, mass, or products: Can New England become the Saudi Arabia of Wood?"
373	Use the expertise and research coming out of the UME Forest Biobased Research initiative
374	(FBRI), Vermont's BERC, TWS, and others to take a broad scale look at what additional or new
375	biomass removals mean to natural resource management in terms of soil productivity, wildlife
376	habitat, diversity benchmarks, sustainability, social acceptance, landowner engagement.
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378	A motion to adjourn was heard from Ken L. A second was heard from Jim H. The question was called and the
379	motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.
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381	Respectfully submitted,
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383	Andrew Fast, NESAF Secretary
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385	Calendar: The NESAF EC will next meet on 2/26/2008 at 1PM in Saratoga NY.
386	February 26, 2008: Saratoga, NY: 1:00 P.M.
387	June 12, 2008: Portland, ME: 9:30 A.M.
388	September 15, 16, 17, 18 <u>OR</u> 19, 2008 [The actual date and location are TBD].
389	Suggestions include: Moose Locker Bean Lodge (?) or Seyon Ranch (?).
390	December 10, 2008: Concord, NH: 9:30 A.M.