

Approved Minutes 9-16-2011



New England Society of American Foresters (NESAF) Executive Committee (EC) Meeting Friday, September 16, 2011

Location: Seyon Lodge State Park, Groton, VT

Members present:

Deborah Boyer	Website Administrator
Paul Dolan	Rhode Island State Representative; Nomination Chair
Andrew Fast	Secretary
Dana Hachigian	Massachusetts State Representative; Awards Chair
Jeffrey Hutchins	Membership Chair
Margaret Machinist	Co-Editor of NESAF News Quarterly
Wilfred Mercier	Maine State Representative
Roger Monthey	Forest Science Coordinator
Ed O'Leary	Chair
Russell Reay	Treasurer
William Samal Jr.	Vermont State Representative
Kurt Zschau	Vice-Chair
Jonathon Wood	Policy Chair

Guests:

Members not present:

George Frame	Council Representative Region VI
Don Floyd	Canadian Representative
Mel Harder	Connecticut State Representative; Grants Chair
J Peter Howland	New Hampshire State Representative
Ron Lemin Jr.	Immediate Past-Chair
Scott Machinist	Co-Editor of NESAF News Quarterly

Meeting opened by NESAF Chair, Ed O'L. at 9:35am

A. Standard items:

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

Welcome: Ed O'L. welcomed the EC and shared an email from Mel H. who was not in attendance. **Ed O'L. will send Mel H. a card from the EC.**

Antitrust statement: The antitrust statement was presented. Ed O'L. can provide a copy of the antitrust statement to members of the EC upon their request.

Add/Adjust agenda: SAF dues changes, elections, and NESAF's December meeting date were added to the agenda.

Approved Minutes 9-16-2011

Corrections/Additions for the June 22, 2011 EC meeting minutes (Fast): Draft minutes were circulated. A motion was heard from Bill S. to accept the meeting minutes as presented; a second to the motion was heard from Paul D. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

The Executive Committee introduced themselves to Jonathon Wood,

(Deb B. joined the EC at 9:43am)

Treasurer's Report (Reay): Russell reviewed the Budget Report and Net Worth Report as of September 16, 2011. Column G of the budget report should not include "proposed" in the title. It is approved.

Under expenses, policy line items of \$500 and \$800 are corrected from the last budget report. Under the income/expense by category page, notes have been added to clarify line items. Approximately \$17,000 was generated from the winter meeting. It is split with the GMD. Under income, general operations account total is approximately \$800 over what was anticipated.

Russell R. has been in touch with National to get a check reissued. The check was supposedly sent in March and never arrived. It was reissued in July and successfully deposited. Russell R. reviewed income lines. Dues income is slightly down to date, although Russell R. expects more to come in.

Under expenses, division dues are down by approximately \$1,000. National meeting travel will go up. General operations will be capped at \$3,500 as agreed upon at the March meeting. The Policy chair expense is not identified as a stipend yet. \$300 is allocated for a stipend for the rest of the year. A separate Policy Chair stipend line for \$599 should be created in the 2012 budget. Maggie M. asked if the stipend is \$500 or \$599. Deb said that promotional material said there would be a stipend but did not quantify an amount. Russell R. will put in a \$599 stipend.

Russell R. relayed a story about a Yankee Grant Project. It is Russell R.'s philosophy that if a local unit is applying for a NESAF grant and working with a local partner, NESAF should send grant money to the local unit (the applicant) and they can reimburse a local partner as they see fit. The NESAF Treasurer should not be sending grant money to a non-SAF entity.

Russell R. expects to receive some additional advertising revenue from the *News Quarterly* shortly. He has not received anything to date.

The net worth report was reviewed. Russell R. could not find a better return than our current .7% for a CD.

Maggie M. mentioned that the *News Quarterly* line was reduce for 2012. **Russell R. will double check the News Quarterly line for 2012.**

Jeff H. mentioned that the membership line numbers do not look correct. Peter G. sent an email suggesting \$800 for membership services and \$1800 for the membership drive. **Russell R. will double check the membership lines** (Peter G.'s email was correct and Russell R. has made the corrections). A motion was heard from Paul D. acknowledging that the EC is in receipt of the Treasurer's Report; a second to the motion was heard from Jonathon W. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Old Business:

2011 Winter Meeting Final Update (Zschau): Kurt Z. is still finalizing things. He needs to meet with Bill VanDoren from Yankee Division. Dan Kilborn and Kurt Z. need to make suggested changes to the winter meeting planner as well.

NY-NE Joint Winter Meeting (Lemin): Ron L. was not present to give an update on the NY-NE joint winter meeting. Ed O'L. referred EC members to line 111 of the June 22, 2011 minutes. Will M. informed the EC that Maine SAF had questions about how sponsorship would be addressed for the joint meeting and Maine field meeting (e.g. would a sponsor pay and be represented at both meetings? How would proceeds be split,

Approved Minutes 9-16-2011

etc.). Kurt Z. noted sponsorship proceeds would be incorporated with all other proceeds and split according to NESAF, NYSAF, and MESAF's agreed upon terms. Paul D. strongly encouraged NESAF to have the agreement clearly spelled out. Last joint meeting it took a long time for NYSAF to get NESAF the money and there were many conversations about how the money should be split. Will M. should speak to Ron L. about these issues.

Winter Meeting Planner (O'Leary): At the end of each winter meeting the hosting unit should debrief and make additions/changes to the planner. If anyone has suggestions or insights, they should let the hosting unit know. The winter meeting planner should be a living document.

(Roger M. joined the EC at 10:27am.)

By-laws, Web Administrator (O'Leary): Ed O'L. shared correspondence between Ken Laustsen and himself from September 12, 2011. Ken L.. has offered his help and Ed O'L. thinks we should take him up on his willingness to assist.

Paul D. proposed that the EC accept Ken L.'s proposed changes to revised NESAF Bylaw Article 8. Bill S. suggested that the EC has authority to adopt the website administrator as a voting member until the winter meeting when membership can vote on the matter. Ed O'L. will work with Ken L. to move forward on the process so membership can vote by the winter meeting. Jonathon W. asked if there was a vacancy for a voting member. Deb B. could temporarily occupy this position. A motion was heard from Bill S. that the Executive Committee appoint Deb Boyer as website administrator with full voting rights and have membership vote on the interim changes at the next winter business meeting; a second to the motion was heard from Maggie M. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously. Paul D. suggested EC members review bylaws to see what other changes need to be made.

Maggie M. informed the EC that the bylaws are on the website Deb B. detailed the location and password. Deb B. should put the winter meeting planner on the website.

C. NEW BUSINESS:

Standing Committee reports:

Policy (Wood): Jonathon W. provided the EC with a memo detailing a proposed course of action for the policy committee moving forward. He provided some attachments in support of the discussion as well. Jonathon W. proposes to keep the existing bylaws if possible rather than change them. He is going to try and implement recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Policy and Process; this would include developing ad hoc committees around certain issues. However, Jonathon W. proposed keeping a standing policy committee that is comprised of each state representative. The representatives will identify others as appropriate to form ad hoc committees on a topic-by-topic basis. State reps are a logical conduit between NESAF and state policy issues that come up. They would not have to be active members of an ad hoc committee that is developed, but they would have to be informed enough to monitor the progress and actions of the ad hoc committee that they are involved with. When NESAF EC meetings are conducted, the standing policy committee will be present (represented by the state representatives). No bylaw changes will be required.

A motion was heard from Jonathon W. to keep the existing standing policy committee structure and have the committee members comprised of NESAF's state representatives; a second to the motion was heard from Bill S. There was discussion. State representatives would be obligated to participate at the state level in policy discussion. The level of involvement may differ from issue to issue. State representatives can delegate responsibility to experts in each state, but they will need to track progress so they can be informed when reporting back to the EC.

Approved Minutes 9-16-2011

Jonathon W. will support states, state representatives and ad hoc committees in addition to ensuring there is consistency with National SAF. His job as chair will be to facilitate a conversation that encourages participation and a fair representation of membership's opinions.

Jeff H. pointed out that the membership committee is structured the same way and is effective. Ed O'L. suggested that no bylaw changes are required to move forward with Jonathon W.'s proposal. State representatives can speak with anyone they wish and ad hoc committees do not need to be comprised of SAF members only. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

(The EC took a break for lunch at 10:57am and resumed at 11:12pm)

Membership (Hutchins): National SAF is still having trouble generating membership reports. Jeff H. has been in touch with Chris Whited and they hope it will be resolved soon. Jeff H. has an updated membership roster but there is no updated information on membership trends. The last report is from February 2011. There are 1018 members currently, some of which have not renewed their membership for this year.

All except \$184 of the membership drive Forester's Fund grant has been spent. Jeff H. has been working on the upcoming student conclave recently. Now he is planning on focusing on the membership drive. Peter Greeno sent 817 mailings earlier in the year and Jeff H. will follow up on those through phone-a-thons. State representatives should find local volunteers to assist Jeff H. in their respective states. Jeff H. should send Bill S. a roster for Vermont. There was continued discussion about the operational issues SAF is experiencing related to membership. Anecdotally, it took Jonathon Wood 6 months to become a member. In theory, the new database system should help once it is fully functional. Kurt Z. suggested NESAF reach out to National and see if there is any support the EC or local units can provide. Ed O'L. will speak to George F. about these issues and bringing them up at the HSD meeting. Deb B. should forward emails she has received from members to Ed O'L.

Currently, Jeff H. has to spend an inordinate amount of effort sorting and sifting through information on excel spreadsheets to follow up with lapsed or former members. Once National's database is functional, there will be much greater efficiencies.

Russell R. emphasized that SAF needs to give fundamentally better service and should make that a priority in addition to expanding membership. It does not help to try and expand membership if the service is lacking. Ed O'L. added that SAF needs to recognize they have a problem with customer service and membership will be sensitive to paying higher dues if they are not experiencing better service from National. Ed O'L. will articulate this conversation to George F. to see what can be done.

Jeff H. informed the EC that the student conclave is coming up this weekend at Paul Smith's College. The Paul Smith's student chapter has done a great job. Jeff H. provided a schedule of events and reviewed the schedule. The student conclave is a good opportunity for chapters to learn from each other and build on each others successes and failures. No students from UVM or UNH are attending but students from other states including Maine, and Massachusetts are participating. Bill S. suggested contacting Jim Harding to get more Vermont participation. Jeff H. has been inviting students from both SAF accredited and non accredited schools.

Jeff H. got an insurance certificate for the event which was an ordeal. He had to have participants sign a waiver and pay a \$300 premium to the insurance company. Jeff H. paid out of pocket. Jeff H. should send Russell R. the insurance bill and Russell R. should reimburse him.

The next student conclave will be at UMaine next year. Jeff H. should take pictures of the event at Paul Smith's and send them to Maggie M. for the News Quarterly.

Forest Science Coordinator (Monthey): Roger M. is currently working on the forestry licensure theme. Sandy Clark from the Forest Service is assisting with editing and is a tremendous help. The following

Approved Minutes 9-16-2011

issue will focus on the International Year of the Forest. Maggie M. reminded the EC that the International Year of the Forest *News Quarterly* will be distributed in January 2012. Roger M. is considering non-forest products for a theme, which could include articles on mushrooms and traditional ecological knowledge. Forest policy (carbon, energy, etc.) could be another theme, perhaps in the spring issue (March 22 deadline).

NESAF Website (Boyer): Deb B. has made some changes to the website based on EC suggestions. She reviewed additional changes and updates she plans to make. Deb B. plans to send out a mass email in the next few weeks which will include a reminder about the *News Quarterly*.

Deb B. looked into EC options for a December conference call. Deb B. will send out an email providing more detail. In short, there are a couple different options with levels of service associated with each. There is an 8 line option and a 25 line options. EC members could congregate in groups to take advantage of the 8 line option. Deb B. thinks it is somewhere around 4 cents per minute per line. Bill S. thought conference calls would be ineffective because of the length of the EC meetings and the attention required. He suggested meeting in Concord, NH (a central location) instead. Deb B. thought a single conference call might make sense in the winter to reduce travel costs and minimize hazardous winter travel. National provides this service but they charge chapters. Ed O'L. will explore how the State of Vermont does their conference calls. Ed O'L. suggested one option is having an abbreviated meeting where all documents are reviewed by EC members beforehand.

Skype is another option but it can be "choppy." Will M. has had mixed results using it and has found that there is pretty consistent time lost every meeting addressing technical glitches. State representatives should go home to their state and figure out what video conferencing facilities are available in their state.

(The EC broke for lunch at 12:05pm and resumed at 12:37 pm.)

Grants (Harder): Mel H. was not present.

Awards (Hachigian): Dana H. reviewed activities she will undertake for the awards banquet. State representatives should speak to their local units for candidates. Maggie M. will put a note in the News Quarterly. Deb B. will post to the website. Local units can nominate someone through an email. Dana H. contacted Ken Laustsen who informed her that there is one Integrity Award print left. She was contacted by Leo Laferriere who emphasized any replacement award (new print, etc.) should reflect the intent of the award. Dana H. circulated a picture of what Leo Laferriere thinks could be a replacement print. Russell R. emphasized that the award should be given for its intended principals. It should not be given for the sake of giving an award.

Jonathon W. encouraged the EC to have an award available if there is a suitable winner. Kurt Z. favored a duck stamp print although there may be licensing issues. Kurt Z. will explore the option of using the annual duck stamp print. Paul D. felt the award should be consistent and recognizable.

There was discussion about different options, commissioning work v. existing prints. A number of artists names came up including Inge Seaboyer, Amy Cobb, Gene Matras, as well as the individual who does line drawings for *Northern Woodlands*.

Ed O'L. felt the recognition associated with the award is as important as the physical award itself. Dana H. will do some homework and invite Leo Laferriere to help make a final decision. Ed O'L. will supply Dana H. with some laser etching vendors' names such as Maple Landmark in Middlebury, Vermont.

Nominations and Election (Dolan): NESAF has candidates for all vacant positions except Secretary. Ballots will go out to each state, Paul D. usually does not tell the winners they were voted in until December.

Approved Minutes 9-16-2011

However, this year Paul D. will notify Ed O'L. as soon as the tally is complete so winners can be contacted. Dana H. noted that the first meeting newly elected EC members will participate in is a conference call. Ed O'L. agreed that it is not ideal, but there is another meeting in shortly thereafter. Notification to Ed O'L. will likely come in mid - October.

SAF Council Report (Frame): George F. was not present. Jonathon W. asked for an update on issues at SAF. SAF is considering changing the criteria for membership, (i.e. broadening it so a Bachelor's in Forestry is not required); they are discussing a new dues structure and raising the possibility of changing the name of the organization so it is more inclusive of other natural resource professionals, such as "Society of American Foresters and Natural Resource Professionals"

One question is if SAF is more inclusive, how does it deliver value or additional services to those other fields? One opportunity is providing programs and professional credits. Ed O'L. referred EC members to the 6/22/11 EC minutes's Council Report for more information. Ed O'L. will follow up with George F. to get an update on the status of the discussion. The EC should be ready to get an email from Ed O'L. with George F.'s response. The EC may follow up with a conference call if necessary. If individuals cannot participate in the conference call Ed O'L. will set up a second call to accommodate those people.

Jonathon W. commented that he supports affiliation but not membership of diverse natural resources fields because broader membership waters down the specific perspective of a forester from a policy standpoint. Dana H. agreed and said that foresters should sell themselves as "one stop shopping," professionals knowledgeable in many different natural resources fields. Forestry programs are starting to reflect this through interdisciplinary emphasis and there was discussion about whether the forestry field is starting to change. Deb B. pointed out that there may be opportunities to include membership from non accredited schools, e.g. wildlife majors that have a minor forestry degree. SAF and the US Forest Service do not necessarily have the same criteria for what is adequate education and experience to qualify a forester for employment. Bill S. pointed out that SAF could expand membership and there are always opportunities for individuals to differentiate themselves by becoming certified foresters.

A number of EC members shared concerns about the lack of recognition for two-year forestry programs and lack of consideration and respect given to these individuals who in some cases have exceptional careers, knowledge and recognition among peers. Russell R. does not want to see the name of the organization change. Instead, he would like to see a public and institutional change in understanding of what a forester does.

Kurt Z. asked if there was any merit to SAF being responsible for forestry licensure nationally. That is what SAF is trying to do. Jonathon W. pointed out that not many 112 year old organizations change their name.

NESAF News Quarterly (Machinist): The next *News Quarterly* deadline is September 22. It will be the first electronic copy distributed to membership. Maggie M. is recording who is opting into the paper copy. She will coordinate with Jeff H. and Deb B. to ensure individuals are not being overlooked. The *News Quarterly* will be distributed as a link in an email. Maggie M. will not be making two different versions of the *News Quarterly*. The same version will be printed and sent electronically. Maggie M. will put in a blurb about awards and grants in the next News Quarterly.

State Reports (NESAF State Representatives):

MA - Massachusetts will be present and supporting the Eastern States Exposition for the second year. They will be in a booth with the Massachusetts Wood Producers Associations, Massachusetts Licensed Foresters and Massachusetts Landowners. They expect $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million people to go through the building. The Massachusetts Chapter will be going defunct and they hope to continue on through Yankee. They cannot get a

Approved Minutes 9-16-2011

replacement for Chris Prior. An EAB purple box trapping program is underway (no EAB yet). The Forest Visioning process continues.

RI - Paul D: The Envirothon team from Rhode Island did very well in National. They came in 3rd or 4th in most forestry topics and 10th overall. Rhode Island has conducted some twilight tours and administering the Tree Farm program. Rhode Island has also developed some state tree posters, which was sent to every school and library in the state. It is a great educational opportunity conducted with the National Association of State Foresters.

VT - Bill S.: The summer meeting is scheduled for October 14th on the GMNF. They are considering doing something jointly with NYSAF. Ed O'L. has the contact information for NY's leadership and will forward it to Bill S. GMD's finances are strong so the summer meeting will be free and the winter meeting will be subsidized for members. They are considering providing one time funding for a grant project and/or a contribution to the Jim Wilkerson Scholarship Award. There are a number of authors willing to contribute to the quarterly and the Vermont website. GMD is looking for a new policy chair and the biomass working group is working hard. Student involvement is somewhat marginal at UVM and stronger at Green Mountain College thanks to Jim Harding. The website has been updated. GMD has questions about internet search optimization for Vermont's forests. Deb B. will speak to Bill S. about improving searches on Vermont forests.

ME - Will M.: MESAF's has been focusing the last couple months on a few programs related to rehabilitation forestry. They are planning a fall meeting on international forestry. Dan Simonds stepped down and Katie Cousins, has assumed the Chair's role. Ken Laustsen has stepped into the Vice-Chair position and will be running formally at the next election. The forestry awareness committee continues to be active including support for Envirothon,

NH - Peter H.: Peter H. was not present.

CT - Mel H.: Mel H. was not present

#

Canada - Don Floyd: Don Floyd was not present.

Chair Potpourri (O'Leary): Ed O'L.. referred EC members to the email he forwarded about organic maple sugaring. Maggie M. questioned whether it would be worthwhile for an impartial third person to write a article on the two different sides.

The next EC meeting will be moved to December 14th. It will be either a conference call or at the Conservation Center in Concord. Ed O'L. will select dates for next year's EC meeting and send them out by email.

Russell R. sought feedback on the EC's accounting. Issues were raised about the accounting system. Ed O'L. suggested Russell R. bring the financials to an accountant and asked the accountant to put them in an appropriate format.

A motion was heard from Jonathon W. to authorize Russell R. to contact a CPA to help him sort through the books, not to exceed \$500; a second to the motion was heard from Paul D. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Other items for the good of the order: Non.

Calendar: The NESAF EC will next meet on Wednesday, December 14, 2011.

Approved Minutes 9-16-2011

A motion to adjourn was heard from Bill S. A second was heard from Maggie M. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Fast, Secretary