

Maine Division - Society of American Foresters  
Business Meeting  
Nutting Hall, University of Maine  
Orono, ME  
October 13, 2009

Jake Metzler convened the business meeting at 8:10 am and provided an Anti Trust statement. The first order of business was consideration of the previous year's business meeting minutes which were accepted unanimously without discussion.

Bill Livingston presented the treasure's report of the previous year's finances and the proposed budget for the 2010 fiscal year. Major differences between the 2009 approved budget and the actual finances were \$5,265 net earnings from the fall 08 meeting instead of \$3,000; \$6,079 net earnings from the NESAF March 09 meeting; -\$474 net loss from the spring meetings; \$3,115 in reimbursement for hotel deposit expenses for the NESAF March meeting; an extra \$1,000 in support of the Envirothon through the Forestry Awareness Committee; and an ending balance of \$14,131.51. The new 2010 proposed budget was similar to the 2009 proposed budget with an expectation of \$2,000 in dues, \$3,000 in net earnings from the meetings, and \$2,000 in transfer to the Forestry Awareness Committee. The proposed ending balance is \$9,942.51. A motion was made to approve the budget and it was seconded. Sue Aygarn made requests to revise the proposed budget. The first was to increase the proposed contributions from \$1,500 to \$2,500 to Maine Envirothon for helping with their school recruiting and support of field days. The second request was to contribute \$2,000 to the Maine Tree Foundation in support of their summer Teacher Tour program. The requests were accepted so that a total of \$5,000 would be transferred to the Forestry Awareness Committee, and the proposed budget for 2010 had a new ending balance of \$7,942.51. Peter Triandafillou commented that the unused money for non-profit organizations should not exceed a 6 month budget. Because NESAF is the reporting organization for the MESAF funds, it's uncertain how whether our positive balance is within the non-profit guideline or not. Jake Metzler commented that increasing the budget for the FAC is a good suggestion for the extra funds. One suggestion was to reduce the membership dues for the Maine Division which is currently \$10. Livingston commented that the dues revenues currently are just enough to cover the Division Manager's stipend which is the purpose of the dues. Spencer Meyer did recognize that the executive committee should do a better job in planning for the use of the funds in the budget. Sue Aygarn noted that with today's economy, the Envirothon and Maine Teachers Tour are in need of finding additional funds when compared to most years. The amended budget was approved with no dissenting vote.

Carol Redelsheimer announced that she is a candidate for the district 6 position on the SAF national council. The council will work on SAF's mission and strategic plan, and Carol wants to emphasize support for the professional foresters and strengthen SAF policies with forester core values.

Spencer Meyer announced that the SAF national office has purchased “live meeting” software that can be used for regional needs; it can handle up to 24 connections on a conference call. There is not charge for use of the service, but each person will need to pay for the long distance phone charge to connect to the service.

Nominations of SAF Fellow are needed.

Ron asked how many members present did not get an email for SAF voting, and only 2 had a problem.

Jake Metzler reported that the MESAF hosting of the March NESAF meeting in Portland was a success. Over 400 people attended, and he thanked all the MESAF members who made the extra efforts in hosting the meeting. He also commented on the success of the spring field meeting format, with one on Forest Health on Schoodic Point and a second on GIS in Orono. Most likely there will be another GIS workshop in 2010.

Jake mentioned that the Forestry Practices Goals and Standards document for MESAF was developed during 1982-89 and needs updating, and he expects that the Executive Committee will develop a plan on how to proceed.

Tony Filauro has been taking care of MESAF communications with local papers and the NESAF Quarterly.

Spencer mentioned that NESAF and its divisions have a total balance of about \$43,000 that will be reported to the IRS. He also noted that a regional Leadership Academy was held at the March NESAF meeting at which 13 members attended. The next Leadership Academy is scheduled for 2011.

Ron Lemin reported that at the SAF national office, the contract for the VP for accounting was not renewed, and that national dues have not increased in 10 yr and will not increase this year. Any increase in the future will occur only if there is a clear increase in the service to members.

The next NESAF meeting is March 9-11, 2010, in Nashua, NH. Registration should start in December or after the speakers are confirmed. Three field trips and a “digital” poster session are planned.

Candidates for MESAF offices were found but are unopposed. There is a glitch on the online voting in that the site will only allow the selection of 1 person for the Member at Large positions; 3 should be selected. However, with only 3 candidates, this is not a problem for the current year.

NESAF has initiated an online survey that will get membership input for developing NESAF policies. Peter Greeno developed the survey for NESAF. Any NESAF policy statement cannot

conflict with any national SAF policy. There is a 26% return rate or 21% of the NESAF membership have responded to the survey.

NESAF membership is currently at 955, and it has purchase software to keep track of 2000 potential members, including 600 former NESAF members.

Kelsey Troy is the chair of the UMaine student chapter and reported that Jake Hicks is the vice-chair and Cassie Vaillancourt is the treasurer. The chapter has been helping with the Envirothon field day, new student open houses on campus, and with the China Schools Forestry Days. There will be a calendar for 2010, and a t-shirt is being designed for the School of Forest Resources.

Sue Aygarn reported that the Forestry Awareness Committee sponsored a Project Learning Tree workshop for foresters. The Forest Education Network was successful in finding foresters to help with forest education events at schools. The FAC supported additional forest education efforts by helping to sponsor Envirothon Field Days, making a donation to Maine Tree Foundation / Project Learning Tree, and helping with a Department of Education grant to help develop forest related lessons in high school math and science classes. Sue provided more details on the increased contributions to the Teacher Tour program. About \$650 is needed to pay the expenses for each teacher who attends, so that the MESAF contribution will help another 3 teachers attend the tours. Also, each Project Learning Tree workshops at a school brings together teachers, a forester, and a community member. With the forester being present, the workshops can put education into the proper forestry context. Pat Maloney at PLT also sponsors the FIG program where schools establish a permanent plot in a forest, collect data over time, and then enter the data online – foresters are needed for this program as well. PLT was successful in getting a grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund that should help 10 new schools join the school forest network, increasing the need for foresters to help with PLT programs. FAC provided funding for Envirothon Field days at which 120 students participated in 2008 and 150 in 2009. Envirothon teams at high schools can use foresters to help prepare for the competitions. Forest Field Days are becoming more popular, and these K-12 events can use 5 to 30 professionals to help students rotate through activities. Field days during the past year included events at Gorham, Bangor Christian, Leonard's Mill, Belfast, and China.

Membership Awards during the past year include 30 year awards for Mark Beauregard, Steve Swatling, Bob Wagner, Arthur Young; 40 year awards for Vite Vitale and Jean-Claude Mercier; 50 year awards for Clif Foster and Peter Hannah, and 60 year award for Fred Knight.

Ron Lemin as chair of NESAF is a member of the national SAF's House of State Delegates, and the HSD gives out "Success" awards at each national convention. This year MESAF received the award in honor of the efforts put towards the Poster Contest and Forestry Awareness Committee. Carol Redelsheimer, Laura Audibert, Ken Laustsen, Sue Aygarn, and Bill

Livingston help to put together the award nomination for an effort that affected 33,000 students over the past 18 years. Past chairs for the Poster Contest include Laura Audibert, Carol Redelsheimer, Beth Postlewaite, Lynn Wilson, Patty Cormier and Sue Aygarn.

The business meeting was adjourned at 9:32 am.

Minutes respectively submitted by Bill Livingston