

MESAF Executive Committee Meeting
November 21, 2005

UMaine campus, Buchanan Alumni House, Large Board Room

Attendance: Steve Coleman, Bill Livingston, Bob Wagner, Dick Scott, Jim Runyan, Mark Leathers, Kenny Fergusson, Bob Seymour, Laura Audibert, Wilfred Mercier, Marc Johnson, Gary Bahlkow, Ron Lemin.

The meeting began at 9:04 AM with introductions around the table and an anti-trust statement by Bob Wagner.

The agenda was reviewed and there were no changes.

The minutes from the September 12, 2005 meeting were reviewed and no changes were made. Bob S. motioned to accept as written, Dick 2nd. Unanimously accepted.

It was clarified that only the 2005 Exec.Comm. members could officially vote at the meeting, but the opinions of the new 2006 folks were welcome and appreciated.

Business Items

✳ **Treasurer's Report**

Bill passed out the report. The Fall meeting netted \$4,950.78. Bill budgets a net of \$1000 from our meetings and the surplus can be used for extra projects or donations. The total in all accounts is \$18, 281.96, which includes the Forestry Awareness account. Our undedicated balance is \$14,603.78. Some upcoming expenses in 2006 total \$6500. The estimated balance at the end of FY2006 is ~\$9000.

The group discussed the non-member meeting income vs. membership dues. Bob S. motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, Dick 2nd, all approved.

✳ **Bylaw Revision Progress**

Kenny has our bylaws in digital form, but that is the extent of the progress. Kenny suggested that the chair-elect and the chair revise the current bylaws, then in the future the chair can review annually. Bob S. suggested that the ideal would be to have an Operating Manual for the Division.

As an Action Item, Past-chair **Bob Wagner** will make the division bylaws a bound document and the incoming executive committee members will review it.

The **next Executive Committee meeting** is scheduled for **Thursday, January 12, 2006** at the **Buchanan Alumni House from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.**

The planning for the Operating Manual will be done at the Jan. 12 meeting.

Laura passed out the current Division Manager contract for the group's information. **Bob S., Bob W.** and **Gary** will work on revising the contract with **Laura** before the Jan. 12 meeting.

✳ **Chandler LPF Survey Project Closeout**

Bob C. is working on finishing the paperwork to complete the grant project for the next NESAF Exec. Meeting on Dec. 7.

An **Action Item** is to get Bob C.'s survey report on the MESAF website.

The group felt it was important to keep the young forestry graduates active and to keep Bob's report alive. Networking is a key asset of SAF membership.

✱ **NESAF Grant Needs**

The deadline is approaching. Bill suggested getting another grant to sponsor a member for the Leadership Academy. Ron will get the original grant and Bob W. will sign and send. We will use NESAF money for one person and MESAF money for a second person.

✱ **Fall 2005 Meeting Review**

Bob W. complimented the group on a successful meeting. The convenience of the Corbett Business building was discussed and its future use will be taken on a case by case basis.

Follow-Up Charge of Fall Meeting

- ♦ Silviculture vs. harvesting terminology to describe what is actually going on;
- ♦ No shared sense of what's going on—obligation to society;
- ♦ Definitions on MFS Landowner Reports are not accurate;
- ♦ Intent may not equal outcome;
- ♦ Does this issue need attention or not? If so, clarification for Task Force;
- ♦ Annual harvest acres doubled in 15 years, harvest volume stayed ~ same;
- ♦ Research, education communities have concern for future of forest;
- ♦ Lots of variables;
- ♦ Old farms regenerated and being cut now for first time;
- ♦ Our mission is to be informative, not judgmental;
- ♦ Important data sources = FPA reports, FIA data
- ♦ Not enough info for us to make proper assessment of “what's going on”
- ♦ Special committee to define what data/info is needed to determine direction in the future—work with Ken L.
- ♦ **Motion: Get task force together to—(Objective Statement):**
“Develop a MESAF task force to work with MFS to define the information needs to assess the long-term impacts of harvesting trends on the future of Maine's forest.”
- ♦ Gary's point on assessing past clearcuts and what they look like now, can be done following this;
- ♦ Dick made the observation that there is increased access due to more harvested acres and this has contributed to more development and forested acres taken out of production;
- ♦ Bill suggested that the paper state that “partial cutting” is not simple to define and it has many characteristics;
- ♦ Kenny suggested a preamble to determine what will ultimately come out of the process;
- ♦ Steve motioned to accept the Objective Statement for the task force, Bill 2nd, all voted in favor, none opposed. All three new 2006 members are also OK with it.
- ♦ The Task Force (TF) will answer to the Exec.Comm.
- ♦ Bill suggested maybe looking into funds to pay for any data crunching;
- ♦ The TF members will be MESAF members and they can consult with other professionals;
- ♦ Members so far = Bob S., Mark L., Bob W., Ken L., Kenny F. and maybe Steve Sader. Bob S. will get the first meeting going.
- ♦ The Objective Statement will not be put on the MESAF website, but will be reported at the 2006 Spring Meeting.

✱ **Spring 2006 Meeting Ideas**

It was decided to plan the details at the January 2006 Exec. Comm. Meeting. The meeting will be in the Bingham area.

✱ **Forestry Awareness Committee Update**

Bob W. reported on the November 7, 2005 meeting organized by the committee. He passed out Sue's Meeting Summary. Bob W. said that MESAF should help with the list of foresters that are willing to teach. It was also suggested that MESAF provide funds to purchase activity materials and

help with field trip bus costs for schools. We should also provide a list of Outdoor Classrooms throughout the state.

Bob W. reported that the educator group would like to meet periodically in the future.

Bob W. commended Sue for doing a great job with this. Pat Maloney was very helpful as well.

Bob W. suggested that we get more foresters to go through the PLT training. **Bob W.** will help Sue with this project in the future.

✳ **Communications Committee**

Bill mentioned that Dean Wiersma, Maine TREE and MFS hired a communications group to get more forestry stories in the news.

✳ **Student Chapter Report**

Wil Mercier listed the chapters various activities:

- ♦ They formed a subcommittee to work on the Policy Project. They are currently gathering resources;
- ♦ They are developing a website for the student chapter, but are waiting for the new college server to be operational;
- ♦ The calendar fundraising project is nearing completion;
- ♦ The students are working on a FERP inventory project;
- ♦ The Wildlife Society asked them for help with data collections and GIS to for their study on the Marsh Island's deer populations;
- ♦ The noon-time seminar program is partially successful, they are looking for improvement in the spring. The students are having a hard time to find speakers. **Laura** will post a request for speakers on the MESAF website and/or email members with a plea for participation.

✳ **Awards**

Distinguished Service—**Bob S.** will write a support letter for Dave Field who is retiring in 2006.
Integrity in Conservation—**Ken L.** is working on a nomination for this award.

Ernest Gould Technology Transfer—**Ron** and **Steve** will work on nomination letters for Sue Aygarn for her work with the Forestry Awareness Program.

James W. Toumey—NESAF award—no nominations yet.

Austin Cary Practicing Forester—**Bob S.** will write nomination letter for George Ritz of BPL.

Molly Beattie—Bob Chandler's name was suggested.

✳ **Cliff Foster letter and award**

Bob S. will contact Cliff to find out his intent and the process he has in mind for awarding the plaque. **Bob S.** will report at the January Exec.Comm. meeting.

✳ **Miscellaneous**

The group thanked Bob W. for his work this past year and also to Steve and Dick. Bob thanked Kenny for his service as well.

✳ **Adjourn**

Ron motioned to adjourn at 12:40 PM, Bob S. 2nd. Approved.

Submitted by

Laura Audibert