

**MESAF Executive Committee Meeting**  
**January 12, 2006**

UMaine campus, Buchanan Alumni House, Large Board Room

Attendance: Bill Livingston, Bob Seymour, Bob Wagner, Wilfred Mercier, Jake Metzler, Gary Bahlkow, Ken Laustsen, Sue Aygarn, Tony Filauro, Mandy Farrar, Laura Audibert, Jim Runyan (arrived at 10:08 AM).

Bob Seymour opened the meeting at 9:10 AM with an anti-trust statement.

Bob mentioned that elected Member-at-Large, Mark Leathers has been transferred to Wisconsin and will not be able to serve on the Executive Committee. Bob invited Jake Metzler to serve the balance of Mark's term, since Jake received the next highest number of votes in the recent election.

Introductions were made around the table.

The agenda was reviewed by the group and no changes were made.

### **Minutes from Last Executive Meeting**

The minutes from the November 21, 2005 meeting were reviewed and no changes made. Jake motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Mandy 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bill passed out the Treasurer's Report. The Fall Meeting netted ~\$4000 above the budgeted amount of \$1000. Based on this, Bill estimates that our ending balance will be \$4000 higher than planned. We currently have assets totaling \$18,355. Jake motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Mandy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimously approved.

### **Business Items**

#### **Bylaw Revision Process**

Kenny F. has a digital copy, **Bob S.** will get it from him to begin work. The group agreed to keep them generic to minimize changes. Laura suggested that the Division Manager position be mentioned in the bylaws, but not described.

The original document and the proposed revisions will be put on the website as soon as they are ready, so members can view them in advance of the vote. Ken mentioned that National must approve the proposed changes before our members vote. Their turnaround time with them is roughly one week. The vote to amend the bylaws will be put on our election ballot in the fall. **Bob S.** will have a draft ready by the Spring Meeting on June 8, 2006.

#### **Division Manager Contract**

The duties will be revised to include management of the website. Gary suggested that a lawyer look into the insurance requirements to protect the Division from liability. Ken mentioned that the Southeast SAF society has a similar position and we could check their requirements. **Ken** will start by asking National, and **Jim** will ask GP's legal counsel for a review. **Laura** will email them the contract ASAP. Gary also mentioned his concern that the Division Manager be strictly an independent contractor, not an employee of SAF. He feels the current position requirements give the impression of an employee, not a contractor. This will be looked into as well.

#### **Leadership Academy**

This year's Academy will be held for one week in early June in Nebraska City, Nebraska. NESAF currently pays the registration for one person from each state. In recent years, Maine is the only state that has sent people. Ron proposed to NESAF that any unused funds be given to the states which are sending people. A decision has not yet been made on this. Ken suggested encouraging Ron to push the issue. Ron has submitted a grant proposal that NESAF underwrite all the expenses for one person to attend the Academy. This proposal was accepted, but only ~\$2500 in funds exists for all NESAF grants. Bill suggested setting aside \$2000 for 2007 for the Academy expenses and \$2000 for the Forestry Awareness Program.

The Academy is designed for new officers. We will sponsor one regular member and one student member. Plan A is to have **Jake** attend, he will consider it and reply soon. If he can't, Plan B is to have **the group** will give Bob S. a list of members who may want to attend. **Bob S.** will contact the prospective attendees. Wil will mention this at the next student meeting and interested students will fill out an application. (*who will decide which student will attend?*) Bill motioned to sponsor one regular member and one student member, with applications due by March 1, Bob W. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimously approved.

### **Chandler Membership Report**

**Bob W.** will tweak the final document and send it as a PDF file to Laura for posting on the website. Ken mentioned that NESAF accepted Bob's report. **Ken** will send Bob W. the "final" report. Bob W. motioned to create a small ad hoc task force to review the report and propose actions to take. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimously approved. Members on the TF will be Bob W., Ken, Ron, and Tony. The **TF** will bring any recommendations to the next Exec.Comm. meeting on March 21, 2006.

### **Cliff Foster "Tell It Like It Is" Award**

Bob S. spoke with Cliff. Cliff has had it a long time and would like to pass it on. The exec.comm. could vote on a recipient and present the award at the Fall Meeting. Bob S.'s idea is to make it fun. **Bob S.** will talk to Peter Lammert and propose a process at the next exec.comm. meeting on March 21.

### **Grants**

Two are active, the Forestry Awareness one and the Policy Initiative one. Ron's Leadership Academy one is pending.

### **Award Nominations**

Bob S. submitted a nominee for the Austin Cary Award. Ron submitted a nominee for the Distinguished Service Award and Ken submitted nominees for the Young Forester and Integrity in Conservation Award. The nominations closed on December 31, 2005. Ken mentioned that the Fellow nomination process is changing. There will be a nominating committee at the NESAF level. Other details are unclear. The process is not likely to be fixed by the nomination deadline of May 31, 2006.

### **Crisis in Forester Licensing**

Carol Redelsheimer and Bill Ostrofsky were invited to speak at our meeting. Bill was unable to attend. Carol had been on the Licensing Board since ~1995 and was chair until 2003. She is now off the Board. She is Co-chair of National SAF's CF program. SAF's position statement on forester credentialing was updated in 2004 and is available on the national website. The CF program is designed to raise awareness about the forestry profession and to encourage continuing education for foresters.

When the Licensing Board was revising some processes a few years ago, SAF was not involved and did not offer any comments. The Board is made up of 5 licensees and one public member. Currently only 3 members have actually been appointed and 4 is need for a quorum.

Carol has noticed that in recent years the amount of red tape and bureaucracy has increased dramatically and board members are allowed to make fewer and fewer decisions. Many board appointments are being held up in other fields as well. Carol is concerned about the trend in the lack of forester input in the licensing process and with the way choices for board appointees are made. She is concerned that appointees are being hand-picked by the bureaucracy based on qualifications unrelated to forestry. Board members should be representative of the licensees. The current board policy is that appointees may not be State employees or officers in groups. Jake mentioned that the lack of board meetings is holding up new applicants. Mandy echoed that it is discouraging for young foresters.

Bob S. suggested creating a watch dog group to attend board meetings. Tony suggested that we should make inquiries to the board on policies, the delays in appointments and on the requirements for board membership.

Carol mentioned that the board asked about the CF exam process and if they could use it instead of the current process. She also mentioned that the exam itself needs "help" and it is difficult to change and prepare due to red tape.

Carol does not feel that SAF members are being harmed necessarily, but we should be concerned about the credibility of the process. We should pay attention to what is going on. A suggestion was made for us to write to the Commissioner of the Board of Financial Regulation to inquire about the board vacancies and the delays in the licensing application process. Bob W. motioned to pursue a formal request to the commissioner to come to one of our exec.comm. meetings to explain the current functioning of the board. Mandy 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved. **Bob S.** will write a draft letter and send it to the exec.comm. for comments by January 26.

#### **2006 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule**

The following meeting dates were decided:

**Tuesday, March 21, 2006 at 9:30 AM**

**Tuesday, June 20, 2006**

**Thursday, September 14, 2006**

Meetings needed beyond September will be decided later.

#### **Hurricane Relief Effort**

Carol asked whether the group had decided what to do with the \$180 collected at the Fall Meeting. Bill still has the money. Student SAF will send us a check from their calendar sales, which should be ~\$500.

Carol has been in touch with the SAF student chapter advisor at Mississippi State Univ. He mentioned that 14 students and their families had been affected, some lost everything. Jim motioned that we make a total contribution of \$1000, to include the \$180 already collected. Bob S. 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved. The donation will be specified for help with books, tuition and academic supplies. Between MESAF and the student chapter, we will send \$1500. **Tony** will write an article about our donation for the Forestry Source. **Laura** will get Tony the details for the article.

#### **Spring Meeting Date**

The date for the Spring Meeting is **Thursday, June 8, 2006**. It may include an overnight session on either before or after the field tour to discuss results of the harvest practices task force. The location, exact topic and other details will be worked out by **Jake, Jim** and **Mandy** in the near future.

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### **⚙️ Fall Meeting Date**

The date for the Fall Meeting is **Tuesday, October 10, 2006**. It will be held in the Corbett Business Building. This location is preferred, since we pay no rental fee. The topic and agenda will be determined later in the spring.

### **⚙️ Harvest Practices Task Force**

Bob S. contacted the Maine Forest Service and they will provide data, but they do not want to be the task force (TF). Bob S. suggested a dichotomous key to unambiguously describe current harvest practices. Bob S. proposed asking all MESAF members with advanced degrees in silviculture, forest biometry, or remote sensing to meet and brainstorm a process. He estimated ~50 would be invited. A smaller group would then be formed to do the actual work. Other members interested in coming would not be excluded. Tony suggested putting the objectives up ahead of time. Bob S. would structure the agenda. Bob W. suggested developing a draft first, then sending it to the big group. Bob S. suggested using descriptive terms, not prescriptive terms. The group agreed that the issue is very complex. The terms exist, but we don't use them properly. There is concern that the classification process may be too complicated to be useful. Bob S and Bob W will assemble a small group to develop such a draft by March 21. ExComm meeting.

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(Laura, and Mandy left at this point, 1:50 PM. Jake left at ~1:00 PM, Bill continued with the minutes).

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Submitted by

*Laura Audibert*

### **Field Tours**

Discussion continued on possible field tours for the spring. One idea was to arrange visits to stands that demonstrate a full range of partial cuts, including extreme examples, and have a forester explain the background and intent for the cuts. After the field visits, interested people could remain for a second day to describe and classify what they saw.

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### **Forestry Awareness Program**

Sue Aygarn reported on the Forest Education Meeting that occurred last November. The MESAF sponsored event involved representatives from various organization dealing with Forest Education in K-12. Action items resulting from the meeting include:

1. Organizing a task force with representatives from the Forestry faculty, Cooperative Education, College of Education, and Maine Forest Service. The group will request a meeting with a representative from the Maine State Department of Education to discuss strategies for incorporating forest education into the school curricula such that it would help teacher's meet DOE expectations. Bill Livingston has agreed to organize the talk force and have it meet prior to March.

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2. Write a position statement on why forests are important to education. Bob Wagner and Sue will work on this.

3. Request that the Maine Forest Service develop a web page that lists forest education programs in the state.

4. MESAF will develop a list of volunteers who are willing to help with forest education and provide a means for people to contact a volunteer through our web site. Spencer Meyer will be asked to help develop this service.

5. Develop a list of volunteers to help with PLT. Sue and Tony will help with this.

A suggestion was made for the FAP to provide more operating funds for PLT workshops, PLT teacher tours, and for teachers in implement PLT activities at their schools.

There will be a PLT workshop at UMaine for students and foresters on January 27.

### **Policy Committee**

The SAF student chapter has finished scanning MESAF documents dealing with policy and positions. Nothing new has been decided on how to spend the remaining funds of the grant.

### **Communications**

On December 5, 2005, Tony Filauro and Spencer Meyer met with Kevin Miller, the new environmental writer with the Bangor Daily News. Kevin was informed about SAF and previous position statements, and there was a good two-way discussion. Kevin's supervisor, Rick Levasson, joined the discussions an hour later. A MESAF contact list was left with both reporters.

Tony recommended that SAF purchase advertisement in the Forest Products Supplement in the Bangor Daily News. He will check on the costs.

It was recommended that a brief article MESAF member's efforts to provide some funds for Katrina Relief be mentioned in the Forestry Source. Arrangements are being made to send funds to help affected students who attend Mississippi State University.

### **Student Chapter**

Wilfred Mercier reported that the calendar project has just about completed with about 100 sold. Funds earned from the sales will go to the Katrina Relief fund. The students will likely sell calendars again for next year.

Noon time lectures will continue this spring, and volunteers are needed. Dick Hale will be giving a talk, and Sue Aygarn will give a talk on summer employment opportunities. Another possible topic is the licensing procedure.

There are about 15 students who are active and another 5-10 who participate part of the time.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

**Deleted:** (Forgot to notice at what time we ended, probably about 1 hour after Laura left.)

**Bill Livingston**