

**MESAF Executive Committee Meeting
February 6, 2007
UMaine campus, 204 Nutting Hall**

Attendance: Gary Bahlkow, Ron Lemin, Bob Seymour, Jake Metzler, Bill Livingston, Tony Filastro, Henry Whittemore, Rene Noel, Sue Aygarn, Laura Audibert, Jim Runyan (arrived at 10:03 AM), Katie Manende (arrived at 10:57 AM).

Gary started the meeting at 9:45 AM with his gavel and a brief anti-trust statement.

The agenda was reviewed and 2007 Meetings were placed ahead of 2007 Initiatives.

Minutes from Last Executive Meeting

The minutes from the December 7, 2006 were reviewed. Bob S. motioned to accept them as presented, Henry 2nd, unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report

Bill passed out the latest report. So far the Division has received \$957 in membership dues, more will be coming in this spring.

<<Sue arrived>>

The group discussed the high meeting revenues and the desire to charge \$20-25 for member meeting registrations in the future. The group felt that by charging less, some people would register and then not show up, feeling they had little to lose. The group also discussed giving members preference when registering for meetings with attendance caps. **Laura** will include a statement on future meeting registration forms, such as: "Members will be given preference on registration up until <date>".

<<Jim arrived>>

The remaining \$320 of the NESAF grant for the FAP was received recently.

Henry motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Bob S. 2nd, unanimous approval.

NESAF Report

Ron reported that the last NESAF ExecComm meeting was held on January 23, 2007. Spencer Meyer is the new Maine Rep., our new District Council rep is Roger Dziengeleski and James Harding is the new Forest Science Coordinator.

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The NESAF website is up and running. VT and ME are the only divisions that currently have their own website. NESAF's Website Editor is Mariann and they also have a Webmaster who receives a \$500/yr stipend. They are considering switching to a database-managed site, which is easier to manage and would eliminate the Webmaster position. The cost for this system is ~\$1100.

Deleted: MaryAnn

Brad Wyman will be retiring as News Quarterly Editor after 6 issues, effective with the mailing of the June, 2008 News Quarterly issue. He is responsible for finding his own replacement and will be advertising the position.

Climate Change Statement: Spencer emailed the group with the draft NESAF statement. It is in the discussion phase and Spencer would like to receive our ExecComm comments. The statement will ultimately be sent to National. The ExecComm can set its policy without a vote from the entire membership. The statement will be reviewed at the NESAF Winter Business Meeting in VT. Henry feels we should be less equivocal on this statement and that foresters should take the lead on the issue and not have an 'us vs. them' attitude. Henry brought in a recent Kennebec Journal op ed

article for the group to scan. Ron mentioned that if MESAF had a different view than NESAF on the subject, we could draft our own division statement instead. **Henry** offered to wordsmith the Climate Change Statement on MESAF's behalf and work with Spencer on it. **Bill** and **Bob S.** will send Henry scientific info and other **ExecComm members** will send Henry their thoughts as well. **Henry** will get the MESAF version to Spencer by the March 20, 2007 NESAF ExecComm meeting.

NESAF Awards: Ron didn't see the list, since he was one of the nominees.

The 2008 NESAF Winter Meeting will be held in Saratoga Springs, NY, on February 26,27, and 28 2008. The 2009 Winter Meeting will be held in Portland. **Ken** has offered to be the General Chair, and **Ron** will be the Arrangements Chair. Ron will begin contacting hotels. He and the group agreed that we should move the meeting back to the downtown area.

Deleted: at the end of

2007 Spring Meeting

The group decided to try to organize a field meeting in cooperation with the Master Logger organization. The desire is to look at logging jobs done with loggers and foresters and to promote the value of working together. It will be held in the Rumford/Bethel area on **Thursday, May 24, 2007**. The membership rate for registration will include both MESAF and Master Logger members. **Laura** will investigate how attendees can receive Master Logger CEUs. **Henry** will make initial contacts with Master Logger leaders ASAP.

2007 Fall Meeting

Discussion was tabled until the next ExecComm meeting.

Fall Business Meeting Minutes

Jake feels that the annual business meeting minutes should be made available to the membership (posted on the website) before the next annual meeting. It was decided that the **group** will email any comments on Bill's October 10, 2006 minutes to him by **Friday, February 9, 2007**. **Bill** will send the draft copy to **Laura** for posting on the website with a statement that they are approved by the ExecComm, but are still awaiting final membership approval at the Fall 07 meeting.

Comment [KL1]: I agree with the idea of the intended posting. Realize though that it is not the Executive Committee's purview to approve/disapprove, edit, or change the MESAF Business Meeting Minutes, either individually or collectively. That task is solely in the hands of members attending the 2008 Business Meeting. I would just note that the minutes are DRAFT until additions, corrections, and approval are made by the membership at the next annual business meeting

2007 ExecComm Meetings

The group decided to have its next meeting via video conference. **Bill** will handle booking the ATM sites. We are allowed a max. of 4 sites. Bill will set one up for Fort Kent, Orono, Lewiston/Auburn and somewhere Downeast. The next meeting will be scheduled for March 1 in the morning. Second choice is March 2 in the PM, and finally March 2 AM. **Bill** will let the group know the plan as soon as the arrangements are made.

2007 Initiatives

Legislative Reception

There are not any pressing issues and the group decided to table this idea for now.

Forestry Awareness Program

Part I: On January 19 the committee had a video conference/meeting. Pat Maloney, Kevin Doran (MFS) and Tad Johnson (Ed. Dept) participated. Tad explained that the Maine Learning Results are changing. 2007-08 will be a transition year and 2008-09 will be the implementation. The state wants to have engaging and integrated units of study. On the short-track are grant opportunities (\$110-115,000) to develop partnerships between "low achieving schools" (high schools), non-profits (SAF, MFS, PLT), universities/tech schools, businesses, etc. to develop a curriculum for the 2008-09 school year.

<<Jake left at this point>>

Tad stated that “a good idea is better than a good grant writer” and that it would take ~50 hours to write the grant proposal. The “low-achieving school” list should be coming out within 2 weeks. The grant money would be spent on materials such as PLT manuals, meetings, salaries for curriculum writers and perhaps high school teachers involved in the process. The finances would be handled by the school district, not MESAF. Sue wanted endorsement for this endeavor from the ExecComm. Bill motioned to authorize Sue to involve MESAF in the preparation of the Department of Education grant to develop a forestry curriculum to meet the Maine Learning Results, Bob S. 2nd, unanimous approval.

Part II: Foresters in classrooms: Sue stated that 110 foresters have signed (mostly via the orange cards) up to be speakers in classrooms. Ten schools have indicated interest in having a forester speak to their class. Previously, 40 schools were involved in the poster contest. Sue is in the process of finding Regional Coordinators to handle matching interested schools with willing foresters. She has the following list so far: Rory Eckardt, Mark Leathers, Spencer Meyer, Laura Audibert, Samantha Langley, Steve MacDonald. The longer term plan is to get re-involved with the old poster contest schools. Another future goal is to have a web link of school resources, likely hosted on the MFS site and cross-referenced with ours.

Forester Relevance

Largely covered in the spring meeting discussion.

John’s Bridge Project

Katie reported that Dale Currier, student chapter chair five years ago, started to plan a memorial to the 14 migrant PCT workers who died in the van crash by John’s Bridge on the Allagash. Funds of \$950 were raised and still sit in the student chapter account. Katie would like these funds to be transferred to the MESAF account and held for this project, since future student chapters don’t really know what the money is for and might spend it inappropriately. The group agreed to accept the fund transfer. **Ron** said he would spearhead this project and try to send out another letter to raise the remaining funds, to meet the needed total of ~\$3000. Jeremy Wilson has the list of the original donors.

Forestry Student Enrollment

Laura mentioned that the UMFK Forest Technology Program is suffering from declining enrollment and would like ideas to boost it back up. Bill mentioned that he had spoken with current freshman students and their interest in forestry stemmed from contacts made in Scouts, with family members and with local forester acquaintances. The group discussed that perhaps our FAP efforts should also target Envirothon teams, Outing Clubs, Scouts, etc.

Harvesting Task Force Final Report

Henry moved that the ExecComm accept the Harvesting Task Force Final Report, Bob S. 2nd, unanimous approval. Bill suggested that on our website we should state that the report is for informational purposes only and MESAF is not recommending that it be used in any formal way. **Laura** will update the website accordingly. Bob Wagner got Alec Giffen’s approval for Ken L.’s assistance in working with the FIA data. This project is underway, but not complete.

Website

The group suggested that **Laura** contact our service provider to get our current “hit” count and the types of people checking out our site. **Laura** will also add the MESAF meeting dates to the NESAF on-line calendar.

News Quarterly Correspondent

Tony officially agreed to be the Maine correspondent. **Thank you Tony!**

Marc Johnson Scholarship

The scholarship currently has a balance of \$4100 (without MESAF's \$1500). It needs \$5000 to start paying out interest, but the payments don't begin until 2009. Ron motioned to allocate an additional \$250 for a student to attend the 2008 NESAF meeting, Henry 2nd (*I think...*) Unanimous approval. The group agreed that if there are worthy items to spend our funds on, we should spend them.

Comment [KL2]: This contribution was approved by the MESAF Executive Committee at its December 7, 2006 meeting. Why, now 2 months later, has the contribution not yet been deposited to the Marc Johnson Memorial Fund?

Comment [KL3]: My understanding is that once the fund reaches \$5,000 then disbursements, aligned with the fund's intent, of accumulated interest can be made. With the pending MESAF \$1,500 contribution, the fund will surpass the minimum threshold. So in March, 2008 while there may not be a large amount of interest, it could be disbursed to a qualifying student.

Future ExecComm Meetings

Subsequent meetings will be scheduled during the March 1 video meeting. The group preferred 8:30 AM start times for any video meetings.

UMaine Student Chapter

Katie reported that she will be doing a direct email to forestry freshmen and sophomores to encourage them to join SAF. The students reported during an informal survey that they don't want to participate in anything that is like a classroom environment.

The Student Chapter donated \$250 to the Marc Johnson scholarship and they also appropriated \$250 toward sending students to the NESAF meeting in March.

They have begun planning their calendar project for next year.

The ExecComm decided to have the MESAF \$250 donation for the NESAF meeting go toward the group of students attending, not just one individual.

Katie mentioned that the students would like to set up a more natural resource-focused career fair in Nutting Hall, so students can meet directly with potential employers.

Fort Kent Student Chapter

Laura said there is nothing happening yet, but **she** will continue to suggest it to the forestry faculty at UMFK.

Communications Committee

Tony mentioned that he will be contacting Kevin Miller of the BDN and ___Richardson from the Portland Press Herald (**PPH**) to set up meetings. **Henry, Gary** and **Rene** offered to go with Tony to the meetings. Rene suggested the PPH Business editor (**Turkell (I believe)**) as a possible contact as well.

Deleted: Turkoll

Ron motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:08 PM, unanimous approval.

Submitted by

Laura Audibert