

**MESAF Executive Committee Meeting**  
**June 10, 2008**  
**204 Nutting Hall, UMaine Campus, Orono**

Attendance: In person: Ken Laustsen, Jake Metzler, Bill Livingston, Dave Field. On the phone: Laura Audibert, Dave Maass, Gary Balhrow (arrived at 9:28 AM), Henry Whittemore, Jack Lutz (from San Francisco).

Henry opened the meeting at 9:04 AM with a brief anti-trust statement.

The biomass tour agenda item was moved up so Jack could participate.

**Secretary's Report**

Laura had sent the minutes via email after the meeting in March. Dave F. motioned to accept the minutes as written, Dave M. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous approval.

**Treasurer's Report**

Bill emailed the Treasurer's report to the group on June 9, 2008. The evening email (the second one) is the most accurate report. Bill reported that there is \$3,517 in the checking account and \$4,867 in the savings, totaling \$8,385.30. Ron Lemin needed \$1000 for the down payment on the hotel for the 09 NESAF meeting. NESAF will reimburse this amount, which Bill will put in a separate account.

The two spring field tours brought in \$2000 in revenue. Laura recently submitted postage expenses and Jack has expenses to submit as well. Our spring meetings usually break even.

Bill sent the \$500 donation we appropriated to the Envirothon recently, from the Forestry Awareness account.

Dave M. motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Jake 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous approval.

**NESAF Update**

In Spencer's absence, Ken reported that the recent NESAF bylaw revision passed, with 270 members voting. The executive committee's next meeting will be held at Cabela's in Scarborough next week.

Ron L and Ken are going ahead with the New England Leadership Academy to be held the 1.5 days immediately prior to the 09 NESAF meeting next March. They were not sure what National was doing about their Academy next year.

Candidates for Vice Chair are still being sought for next year. Spencer will run again as the Maine Rep.

**2009 NESAF Winter Meeting**

Ken still needs an Audio/Visual chairperson.

Consensus on a theme is also needed. The theme must be decided soon to start advertising the meeting in September. SWOAM and the Maine Chapter of the Wildlife Society will be sponsoring with us. Ken asked for ideas for a keynote speaker.

*(The current Winter meeting organizational chart is attached to these minutes).*

### **Biomass Field Tour**

Jack reported that the meeting went well logistically. He feels that there should be informational tips on how to where to get lunches and other details so things are not overlooked. Jack mentioned that a concern arose on the tour that all the available wood is already being used by existing facilities. Dave F. feels that there will be a trucking shortage. Ken indicated that Maine is currently cutting what we grow, roughly 0.4 cds/ac/yr. Ingrowth is increasing. Ken listed four suggestions made by a recent committee:

1. Take more off existing harvest areas;
2. Bring in biomass and pulp from VT and NH where there are fewer facilities;
3. More new thinnings;
4. Intensive mgt to increase land productivity.

*(Gary joined at 9:28 AM on the phone).*

Ken also reported that there is lots of annual mortality.

The small tour group size allowed for more conversation.

Laura reported that there were 72% members and 28% non-members in attendance.

This topic is good for the Fall or NESAF meeting since there is regional interest and implications for wildlife habitat.

### **Conservation Easement Tour**

Jake reported that the tour had 23 attendees including speakers and was smaller by design, although there were still spots available. He said that some of the easement discussion addressed allowing recreational usage and getting just compensation.

Laura felt that the two tours were scheduled too close together and that attendance suffered for the second one. She would prefer to have future tours separated by at least 3 weeks for preparation purposes as well.

Membership attendance was 56% and non-member was 44%.

Jake mentioned that attendance might also have been higher if the "informal carpool" listed on the flyer was actually a bus. High gas prices and driving to Medway may have discouraged attendance.

*(Jack left the conference call at 9:54 AM).*

### **Tour 3 Nature-based Tourism**

Dave Maass reported that the tour will focus on the Bigelow Preserve and the Huts and Trails system. The tentative time frame is the last week in August or early September. They want to include a hut in the tour. The Carrabassett Valley Academy has agreed to allow use of their vans for the tour. Dave also mentioned that there are some ecotourism groups in Farmington that they may ask to participate.

It was decided that **Dave M.** and **Dave F.** will get the final agenda information to Laura by Friday, June 27, 2008.

## Fall Meeting Planning

The date is Tuesday, October 14, 2008 and Bill has reserved the Corbett Business building lecture hall and the first floor classrooms.

For a topic, Dave F. suggested biomass related issues and production costs. It was also suggested to address AAC, new markets, impact on recreational access and other concerns with this issue. The fall meeting will address these topics specific to Maine, while the more regional issues could be addressed at the NESAF meeting.

**Jack**, **Dave M.**, **Dave F.** and **Henry** (not in the lead role) will organize this fall meeting.

**Dave F.** will email Laura with the formal topic within a week (by June 17).

Laura suggested that if we continue with multiple field tours, we elect more members-at-large. It is difficult for excomm members who already have other duties to plan meetings as well.

Bill suggested that we would have 3 members-at-large and perhaps form program committees to help with meeting preparation, utilizing members who responded to the You're Invited campaign.

## 2009 Election Progress

Gary reported that it was a great expense to do the personal, You're Invited, invitation. Laura reported that of the 40 responses received so far, 3 indicated leadership interest, 8 "behind the scenes", 13 committee/task force, 8 Forestry Awareness and 20 declined.

For committed candidates so far, Gary has Dave Maass for Chair elect, Bill Livingston will run again for Secretary/Treasurer and for Member-at-Large, Chris Fife and Wil Mercier agreed to be on the ballot. All bio sketches should be sent to Laura.

**Gary** said he will get the complete election slate to Laura by the end of July. The slate must be received by Paul Dolan at NESAF by September 1, 2008.

**Laura** will check the national website for the necessary bio sketch info.

## Maine Forestry/Woods Expo

Bill reported that the event was better attended than last year, although there were fewer exhibitors. Ken and Bill feel it is still worth attending in the future. Our only expense was \$150 for the table registration. The wooden MESAF display case was used instead of national's big one, which saved money.

## Licensing Task Force

Gary reported that there were no updates.

## Policy Committee

Dave F. indicated that there was nothing new on the Dept. of Conservation consolidation plan, although there may be things going on in the background.

## Forestry Awareness Committee

In Sue's absence, Bill reported that Sue was very involved in high school Envirothon competitions this year and coordinating volunteers to help out.

The China Forestry Day went well. The Gorham Middle School Forestry Day is scheduled for June 10-11. Belfast may be interested in organizing a Forestry Day in the future.

The PLT workshop for foresters was very successful, there were ~20 participants.

Bill reported that we and the Lewiston/Auburn teachers were awarded the Dept. of Education grant request for \$77,000 to integrate forestry into the school curriculum. Ken's Forest Inventory and Growth plot (FIG) program will be set up on school properties and used by the students.

### **Communications Committee**

Tony was absent, but Laura mentioned that he had scheduled a meeting with Kevin Miller of the BDN, but she wasn't sure of the details.

### **Student Chapter**

Bill mentioned that Jeremy Leicy is the new chapter chair for the coming year. First year student membership was up last year.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for **Friday, September 5** in Nutting Hall or the Buchanan House. The conference call option will be open, with 6 phone lines available.

Dave M. motioned to adjourn and 10:40 AM, Dave F. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Submitted by  
*Laura Audibert*