

**MESAF Executive Committee Meeting**  
**January 23, 2009**  
**Buchanan Alumni House Large Board Room, UMaine Campus, Orono**

Attendance: Katie Manende, Laura Audibert, Ken Laustsen, Jake Metzler, Bill Livingston, Jeremy Leicy, Spencer Meyer, Gary Bahlkow, Tony Filauro, Wil Mercier, Sue Aygarn and Dave Maass (arrived at 9:10 AM). Absent: Henry Whittemore

Jake opened the meeting at 9:05 AM with the gavel and an anti-trust statement he received from National.

Bill's annual business meeting minutes were added to the agenda.

**Secretary's Report**

Copies of the minutes from the September 5, 2008 meeting were passed out to those who did not receive them via email. The group introduced themselves and indicated whether they held a voting or non-voting position on the exec. committee. The voters are Wil, Katie, Jeremy, Gary, Spencer, Dave, Bill and Jake. Non-voters are Ken, Laura, Tony and Sue.

Dave motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Spencer 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2008 Exec. Comm members Dave, Spencer, Bill and Jake voted in favor, Gary abstained since he was not at the last meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**

Bill passed out copies of the report. The Fall Meeting grossed \$8087, expenses were \$2821 and we netted \$5265, more than \$2000 over the budgeted amount. Recent expenses are \$350 for 10 new student memberships and a \$1057 payment for the NESAF Winter meeting, which will be reimbursed after the meeting. The Forestry Awareness Program had an expense for the Forest Trees of Maine booklets awarded to volunteers at the fall meeting.

The beginning balance for the NESAF Winter Meeting is \$987.35. Sponsorship and exhibitor money is coming in from Gary. We paid \$235 upfront for ice time through Jessica Leahy, which will be reimbursed later.

Bill mentioned that MESAF must report financial activity to the IRS through NESAF. **Ken** will audit our books for the 2008 calendar year and Bill will send the report to NESAF.

Gary noted that we have a good balance in our account and it will increase with the proceeds from the NESAF meeting. We should spend it on good projects, rather than hoard it.

Ken suggested that MESAF have an income line in our budget for the NESAF Winter Meeting. Bill said that we could not change the budget since it was approved by the membership at our fall meeting. Any NESAF income will be a bonus to our budget. We will keep this income in mind when planning projects.

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

**Draft Minutes from Fall Business Meeting**

Bill passed out his draft of the minutes. He asked that the group review them for typos and name misspellings and get back to him by **February 6, 2009**. Once they are cleaned up, **Laura** will post them on the website. Spencer feels that having minutes available early is a good thing.

## NESAF Update

Spencer reported that the group voted and awarded the NESAF awards—a full slate. One grant was submitted and denied. Spencer suggested that Maine should apply for grants. The deadline is December 2009. This subject will be added to the next excomm agenda.

MESAF will get nominations for all NESAF awards. The list of previous recipients and the awards specifications can be acquired from the NESAF website. The nominations for Fellow must be in by March 31.

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No action on the History Project since last meeting.

NESAF is questioning whether to abolish the working groups. Do they have the authority to abolish them? They have trouble finding leaders that need to put on the technical meetings at the annual meetings. Spencer had the question: What is the relevance of working groups to NESAF? Tony commented that he would favor a redirection of the groups rather than dropping them entirely.

<Ron L. arrived at 9:46 AM>

Tony suggested an ambassador concept. National and HSD are discussing and re-working the idea.

Ron mentioned that NESAF is exceeding the federal tax ID limit by \$35,000. He said it is very important to keep proper records and stay on top of things.

The News Quarterly listed Max McCormack as the Fellow Committee chair, but he has in fact stepped down. His replacement is not known. The Fellow Committee submits a packet to council for voting. There is a minimum of three letters of recommendation needed, but the preferred number is six.

Grant proposals have be sent to NESAF through Spencer, so he can check for correct format and channel it properly. \$1600 is available from NESAF for next year.

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## NESAF Winter Meeting

Ken reported that as of Jan. 22, there are 122 (111 full member package) winter meeting registrants. Laura suggested notifying Maine LPFs of the meeting. Ken said Peter Greeno is the NESAF public relations person, and he may already have that base covered. It was mentioned that the other meeting sponsors (SWOAM, Wildlife Society, etc.) have notified their members separately. The task of applying for continuing education credits will be discussed at the Winter Meeting planning meeting later today.

Ken needs a raffle/auction volunteer for the meeting to handle solicitations and such. **Sue** Aygarn may take the job.

## NESAF Leadership Academy

Ron passed out an agenda for the Academy, which will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2009, the day before the Winter Meeting. He also passed out a list of potential candidates to attend the Academy.

## 2009 Fall Meeting

The date for the Fall Meeting is Tuesday, October 13, 2009. The group decided that the Corbett Business Building is the best overall location. **Bill** will try to book the hall now, but may need to wait until April, per the University booking rules.

**2009 Executive Committee Meeting Dates:**

- ★ **Friday, February 27, 2009**, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, 204 Nutting Hall. Lunch provided. A maximum of 5 conference call lines will be available for those who cannot attend in person. **Bill** will handle arranging parking permits for the attendees. Maybe they can be emailed out ahead of time?
- ★ **Friday, April 3, 2009**, 9:00 – 12:00 PM, Alumni House (unless changed later). The Spring Field meetings will be the main topic of discussion. All should attempt to attend in person. No lunch provided.
- ★ **Monday, August 3, 2009**, 9:00 – 12:00 PM, Alumni House (unless changed later). The Fall Meeting arrangements will be the main topic. Election planning will also be finalized. Lunch will be provided.
- ★ **Friday, September 11, 2009**, 9:00 – 12:00 PM, Alumni House (unless changed later). Final prep for Fall Meeting. No lunch provided.

**Spring Field Meetings**

Jake mentioned that Ron had suggested the topic of invasive species; Rob Bryan suggested looking at the biomass guidelines; Jake suggested a GIS/GPS session in the computer lab.

Bill and Spencer are collaborating on a meeting during the first week of June near Winter Harbor. Topics for this field meeting include beech and herbicide use, a SF risk rating model and white pine silviculture. The second day will include invasive species and the balsam wooly adelgid. Spencer motioned that MESAF co-sponsor this meeting with the Northeast Forest Health group, Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion: **Laura** will receive the SAF registrations and forward them to Bill. The NEFH registrations will go to Bill. One and two-day registrations will be available. Overnight lodging is up to the registrant. Bill will use the MESAF bank account to handle the income and expenses. Bill will be getting meeting details within a week. Registration will start in April. The entire NEFH meeting will be June 3 – 5, the field sessions will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. It was discussed that non-members would be charged the breakeven rate and members would be less. All topics and details will be solidified at the February 27 meeting. The group voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**MESAF 2009 Theme**

Topics suggested include the current economic situation and the Maine governmental department proposed consolidations. Consolidations may be voted on by the legislature in June 2009. Our input would be to the ACF and Appropriations committees of the legislature. Spencer suggested that we have vision and be proactive on the subject. **Jake** will ask Dave Field to head up the policy effort. Maybe we should develop a list of what government functions are important to us, since it is difficult to get consensus within MESAF.

Laura suggested the topic of labor issues. Perhaps the possible strategies for a sustainable workforce could be discussed. Maybe we could identify blocks of sustainable infrastructure, such as labor, forest health, etc. that are essential to the forest economy.

Dave suggested “what is a professional forester?” Another suggestion was the enforcement of quarantined insect problems.

Jake concluded that he had enough ideas to work with and this would be discussed again later.

**Forester Licensing Task Force**

Gary reported that there is currently a functioning board. SAF is invited to sit in on all board meetings. Ken attended the October meeting on behalf of SAF’s CF program. In 2009 the licensing board will accept all SAF CFE assignments for meetings. Nory Parr in NH is currently the contact

person for SAF credits, he has the final word on credit assignments. Credit assignments must be requested from Nory prior to the event. If requested after the event, National must be contacted instead. Ken suggested that **Laura** become a "certified provider," which would allow her to make credit assignments herself. **She** must check with Nory on this soon.

Gary noted that the TF's work is essentially done, but that SAF should still send members to attend the board meetings. **Ken** will attend the January 2009 meeting, perhaps in the future too.

**Jake** will talk with Max M. (Licensing TF) and Bob Wagner (Harvest Classification TF) to see if the charge for their TFs is complete, in which case, the TFs will be deactivated.

Bill suggested offering free meeting registrations for volunteers such as committee and task force chairs. Jake noted that we currently have the policy to allow free meeting registrations to all MESAF elected positions. Bill motioned and Gary 2<sup>nd</sup> to extend free Fall Meeting registration to all those whose names are on the ballot for elected MESAF office at the time of the Fall Meeting. Dave M. voted in opposition, but the motion still carried.

Spencer motioned that the chairpersons of all standing committees and special committees (which includes task forces) be granted free registration at all MESAF organized meetings, effective immediately. Bill 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous approval.

The current list of committee chairs is:

- ★ FAP Sue Aygarn
- ★ Communications: Tony Filairo
- ★ Policy: Dave Field
- ★ Forest Practices: ??
- ★ Nominating: Gary Bahlkow.

**Jake** will touch base with the committee chairs to ask if they intend to continue serving. At the next MESAF meeting, **Jake** will nominate chairs for the unfilled committees. All chairs should be asked if they have info to present at an upcoming excomm meeting and if so, they should appear on the agenda. Dave motioned to reappoint Sue as FAP chair and Tony as Communications chair. Wil 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous approval.

<LUNCH BREAK>

### **FAP Committee Report**

Sue listed some upcoming events: Envirothon Forestry Day, March 20; University Forest Field Day, April 23; Active Envirothons in April/May; No Child Left Behind, early April study plots. There will be a need for volunteers when the study plots are being used.

There will be PLT workshops in Wells in Feb. and Oxford Hills in March, volunteers are needed at both events. **Sue** will get Laura the list of events to put on the website.

There will be a Bangor Christian School Forestry Day in May, Leonard's Mills Childrens Days in May/June and the All Things Wood Expo in Portland on May 30. The China Forest Day and Gorham Forestry Field Days will also be held this spring.

It was noted that school forests are very effective learning tools and that Maine should encourage their establishment.

Sue noted that the key associations to these efforts are Envirothon, PLT and Maine Tree Foundation. A stumbling block seems to be school transportation costs. MESAF has provided

assistance in the past. Spencer suggested including a session at the NESAF meeting on school forests. He also suggested that perhaps a NESAF grant could be used to sponsor a meeting inviting schools with forests and those without, to encourage increased establishment.

Bill suggested telling Tish Carr that MESAF has transportation funds available for Envirothon. Perhaps we should create a grant process for schools to apply for assistance. It was discussed that it was okay to donate to Envirothon, since we are familiar with the project. We need to develop a formal process to assist with other school needs.

Bill motioned to allocate an additional \$1000 (max) to the FAP to make reimbursement payments to schools for transportation to Envirothons, based on the recommendations of Tish Carr. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous approval.

Gary suggested that we keep track of where school funds are needed for future allocations.

Ken clarified that a requirement for a NESAF grant is that there is SAF member participation and the project involves outreach.

Sue noted that Jake Maier has been working with youth from KidsPeace in Ellsworth doing PCT on Orland Conservation Trust land. Bill noted that scouting is another good group to support.

### **Communications Committee**

Tony mentioned the News Quarterly item on the Baxter Park trip. Applications are due by Feb. 1, 2009. He also asked for input on this information for the Quarterly. The group is very pleased with his work.

March 22 is the deadline for the next Quarterly. Tony would like to be able to publish info on our upcoming spring field meetings. Peter Greeno from NESAF contacted Tony and they will work together on this. **Tony** will try to organize a meeting with John Richardson of the Portland Press Herald and the Communications Committee to talk about issues.

Bill suggested getting media attention for our donations to the Envirothon. Ron suggested inviting Downeast media to the spring meeting at the coast.

### **Student Chapter**

Jeremy Leicy listed the current officers:

Chair:           Jeremy Leicy  
V. Chair:       Jake Hicks  
Secretary:      Cassie Vaillancourt  
Treasurer:      Kelsy Troy

The calendar project was going well until the printer broke down. Many calendar orders still need to be printed. Some of their recent and planned events include an early December tour of the University Forest with the Forest Guild, there may also be a biomass related tour with the Guild in February, ice fishing on Feb. 21 and many students will be working at the NERCOFE meeting this spring.

**Jeremy** is compiling a list of students willing to volunteer at the NESAF meeting in March.

Their finances include \$1077.65 in the checking account and \$4278.63 in the savings. Their income is derived primarily from the calendar sales and this should increase when the printer is fixed. Their expenses include the NESAF meeting and their various field tours. So far they have received

\$300 from the Marc Johnson fund for the NESAF meeting and \$500 from MESAF. They will also be applying to the student academic travel fund for assistance.

There are currently 20 active student members.

For the moment, Ken mentioned that the Winter Meeting full package cost is only \$30 for student members (from any school) who volunteer for at least one half-day at the meeting, which may be revised later at the planning meeting

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The noontime seminar series has been discontinued due to lack of attendance. The mentor program is not very active either.

Ron noted that Chris Fife was a candidate for the Leadership Academy, so we should suggest other names.

#### Other

Gary attended an ACF meeting recently and they may be interested in co-sponsoring events with us to help with costs and volunteers.

Ron mentioned the HSD (House of Society Delegates) Success Stories Program. He would like **Laura** and **Sue** to compile a history of the Poster Contest/Forestry Awareness activity to showcase how many students we have impacted over the years. It is also significant that the program began with a Foresters' Fund grant. He thinks our project is a good candidate for the program. The deadline for submission is August 1, 2009.

Spencer inquired if there were any avid bikers in the group. He is interested in forming a MESAF team to ride in various fundraising tours, such as the Trek Across Maine. Sue is interested and Henry's name was also recommended.

Dave motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 PM, Wil 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous approval.

Immediately following, Ken hosted a NESAF Winter Meeting planning meeting in the same room.

Submitted by  
*Laura Audibert*