

**Maine Division Society of American Foresters  
Executive Committee Meeting  
January 25, 2010  
Buchanan Alumni House, UMaine Campus, Orono**

Attending: Jake Metzler, Spencer Meyer, Dave Maass, Jessica Leahy, Don MacKay, Dan Simonds and Sue Aygarn. On Skype: Tony Filauro, Laura Audibert.

Missing: Ken Laustsen, Ron Lemin, Katie Cousins.

Dave opened the meeting at 9:05 AM by thanking the group for joining the MESAF Executive Committee. Each member then introduced themselves and Dave made an anti-trust statement.

There were no changes to the day's agenda.

Jake motioned to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2009 Conference Call meeting as presented, Spencer 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous approval.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bill explained the activity since the start of our fiscal year on October 1, 2009. The Fall Meeting yielded a gain of \$6161.07. Bill transferred \$2500 from the general account to the Forestry Awareness (FAP) account and also an additional \$2000 to the FAP for the Maine Tree Foundation donation. This donation will cover expenses for 3 teachers on Maine Tree's Teacher Tours. Sue mentioned that Maine Tree lost a major donor recently. Bill reported that there were no new expenses for the Envirothon.

Bill explained the 2010 Budget. We haven't received much dues income yet. The spring meetings usually bring in \$2000 in registration fees and ultimately breakeven. The Northern Forest Forum brings in \$300-\$700 annually and breaks even as well.

For budget expenses, we have the \$5000 donations to PLT, Envirothon and Maine Tree Foundation; a \$600 student chapter award, \$300 for the Johnson Travel Fund (until the fund yields enough interest to fund students' travel to NESAF); \$2000 Division Manager stipend, \$300 web page fee, \$315 new student chapter memberships (9); and the student social in September.

Bill mentioned that the primary expenses for the FAP account are for Maine Tree and Envirothon.

Bill recalled a member's comment at the annual business meeting in October, that as a non-profit we should not hold more than 6 months of expenses in our account. Bill feels that at meetings where our registration fee far exceeds the actual cost, we should indicate to registrants what the excess funds are being used for. Spencer suggested that we should spend 20 minutes in our Fall Meeting to tell the entire group what we do with the funds. Jake explained why we charge more—to try to encourage folks to become members and to use the funds for good causes. Bill wants to be able to justify the costs to the IRS and he feels that NESAF is the responsible party to the IRS. Spencer suggested asking all attendees how they feel we should spend the funds. Bill suggested that the meeting flyers should indicate what the revenues are spent on. Jake suggested that in a letter to the membership the members be

asked to bring spending ideas to the annual business meeting. Perhaps we should send out a member survey prior to the meeting. Don feels that our funds are too low to catch the attention of the IRS.

Spencer asked how the Division Manager was paid. Bill said the position was as an independent contractor and paid \$2000 annually in quarterly stipends.

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

Spencer mentioned that travel expenses to NESAF ExecComm meetings were paid by NESAF. Paying travel can be used as a recruiting tool. Jake suggested that members of the MESAF ExecComm and Chairs of Committees be reimbursed for travel to ExecComm meetings. This decision was tabled until the next meeting. Members voiced concern over voting ourselves a benefit. It should be put in the budget and discussed at the annual business meeting. Tony advocates considering this idea. Jake feels that Laura should be allowed to invoice for travel expenses. Bill suggested adding a line item in the budget for Division Mgr travel expenses.

**Dave** and **Laura** will discuss the Division Manager contract and prepare to sign it soon. Maybe a line will be added to the contract allowing the Chair to propose changes to the contract and bring it to the ExecComm for approval.

### **NESAF Update**

The winter meeting will be held in Nashua, NH, March 9-11, 2010. The member registration fee is \$125. Spencer indicated that there were fewer exhibitors and more sponsors. He suggested we check the NESAF website for more details on the meeting.

Fellow nomination packages are due to national by March 1.

Spencer announced the NESAF Award Recipients:

**Integrity in Conservation—Tom Wagner**  
**James Twomey—Larry Rousseau**  
**Austin Cary—John O'Brien**  
**Gould Tech Transfer—Sue Aygarn**  
**Mollie Beattie—Jake Metzler and Spencer Meyer**

Other nominees for the awards will be carried over until next year.

Finances—\$25,000 in grant money available. The NESAF Foresters Fund grant application process is not very clear at this point. Bill mentioned that he has a meeting on Feb. 4 to work with teachers on writing grants and Spencer said they could apply for the 2011 funds now. They should check the NESAF website for more info. Spencer said that NESAF presents a deficit budget each year, but actually they make more money.

Policy Review Committee—Peter Greeno is the chair. Peter did a member survey and the results show that most of the members want more public and member education about forestry issues. NESAF is thinking about creating 2 positions, one to handle communications and outreach. All policy statements need to be approved by the entire membership. The position will help to facilitate state-level policies. The preference is to communicate to the

membership via email, but this is problematic since not all members have email or use it very often. Every NESAF division does not have a Policy Chair position. Dave Field needs to be contacted by MESAF each year to see if he is still interested in the MESAF position. **Dave M.** will call Dave F. on this soon.

## 2009 Overview

Jake mentioned hosting the 2009 NESAF Winter Meeting was a big task for MESAF. We also held our Fall meeting and two “spring” workshops. We still haven’t decided about on-line payments for MESAF events. We had a continued focus on Licensing Board meetings—Ken is handling this. We reviewed the biomass guidelines and Sue presented our comments. **Sue** will forward the document to the group. Jake feels we should spend as much money as possible on FAP programs.

## Goals & Standards

MESAF cannot testify on behalf of its membership without member approval, but it can make referrals to a Goals & Standards document. Jake feels it is not a good idea to put out one document. Perhaps we should have website pages on topics and references to other sources of info. He is still trying to figure out the process. Jake is very interested in pursuing this project. He wants to get better information out. Tony said that the original document was used, but not sure as to the extent. He feels it should be updated. It should be more informative to the public. It is important to be current with information, it is much harder to jump in on an issue. Spencer feels that the background information is not important. We should define the purpose and audience first. Someone should take ownership of this project. Dan suggested that the audience should be policy makers in the legislature. Bill did a search on the web for Maine Forests and Maine Forest Practices to see what came up. Jake proposes to review the current document and decide what is worth keeping and then propose the next step. **Tony** and **Dave** will work with **Jake** on this project. Perhaps a blog could be created and the question, “Why do you manage Forests?” thrown out to see what the various responses are. Jake’s group is not at the task force level yet. *It will be an agenda item at the next meeting.*

## Spring Meeting Planning

Dave suggested BMPs. He talked with the water resources forester at the MFS, Keith Kanoti. The MFS has a protocol for evaluating BMPs. Dan said that in 3<sup>rd</sup> party auditing, BMPs are usually a non-conforming issue. **Laura** will email the Members-at-Large the meeting evaluation results from the last five years so they can begin to consider Spring and Fall meeting topics. The **Members-at-Large** will make suggestions and bring them back to the larger group.

A follow-up GIS workshop was suggested following last June’s workshop. The Members-at-Large will make suggestions. The topic of Family Forests was suggested, which could be coordinated with SWOAM, and Tony suggested the topic of silvicultural investment on industrial ownerships.

<Spencer left the meeting at 11:15 AM and Jessica left at 11:45>

## Fall Meeting Planning

Dave mentioned that Henry W. had wanted to invite speakers from non-forestry groups, for example, Cathy Johnston from NRCM. **Dave** will send an email to the group asking for suggestions.

### **Maine SAF Dues Change?**

Dave mentioned that \$10 of the SAF dues currently goes to MESAF. Tony advised not reducing the dues now, unless it will be for the long-term. Any change to the MESAF dues must be initiated by the Division. The group recommended not changing the dues.

### **Licensing Task Force**

Dave mentioned that Ken attended a recent board meeting. There were questions about people needing to take two CF exams—one for a Maine license and one for CF.

### **Communications Committee**

Tony sent in the News Quarterly material. This spring he will consider meeting again with the Portland Press Herald and the Bangor Daily News. He will let us know his plans.

### **Executive Committee Meeting Dates**

The NESAF Winter Meeting is March 9 – 11, 2010.

**Bill** will check on the following dates at Wells Commons for the Fall Meeting: October 12 (no classes so better parking), October 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22. Wells does not charge for the conference room if we hire them for the catering. The preferred date for the meeting is Tuesday, October 19.

The MESAF Executive Committee Dates are as follows:

**Friday, March 19, 2010, 9:00 AM–12:00 PM, Buchanan House;**

**Monday, April 26, 2010, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Buchanan House;**

**Monday, August 2, 2010, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Buchanan House;**

**Monday, November 15, 2010, 8:00 – 10:00 AM, Phone conference.**

**Bill** will reserve these dates for us.

### **Forestry Awareness Program (FAP)**

The group is trying to develop forestry education opportunities. They currently have events scheduled for Gorham, Belfast, Leonard's Mills and China.

The three Fall Field Days had ~150 participants. Sue is working with Tish Carr to match foresters with kids. There is \$2500 in the budget for Envirothon this year.

Sue is trying to create School Forest opportunities. Through a Maine Outdoor Heritage Grant 10 new school forests could be created. The teachers would be trained in the PLT format. Workshops for teachers will be held in Portland during the week of April 4, in Norridgewock during the week of May 2 and in Houlton, date TBA. The goal is to connect teachers with foresters. Southern Maine needs foresters. Dan motioned to offer free Fall Meeting registration to SAF member foresters who participate in this training. Jake 2<sup>nd</sup>. We must get the list of participant names to Laura before Fall Meeting registration. Bill clarified that we have \$100 in the budget for training. In the past we have sponsored PLT training. We can use this to defray meeting costs or teacher transportation. Jake wants to make the note to increase training costs for the future. Dave will make a note to bring it up when the budget is made. The suggestion was made to perhaps pay schools for the cost of a substitute while the teacher participates in one of our activities. The schools would invoice us for this cost.

There are two PLT teacher tours this summer: July 13-16 and July 27-30.

The group finally voted on Dan's motion. Unanimous approval.

**Other**

**Dave** will meet with the **Members-at-Large** on the spring meetings. **Jake** will follow up in the GIS workshop.

Jake motioned to adjourn, Dan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at 1:29 PM.

Submitted by

*Laura Audibert*