

**Maine Division Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
March 19, 2010
Buchanan Alumni House, UMaine Campus, Orono**

Attending: Ron Lemin, Spencer Meyer, Katie Cousins, Jessica Leahy, Bill Livingston, Sue Aygarn, Laura Audibert, Don MacKay, Dave Maass. On Phone: Dan Simonds.

Missing: Ken Laustsen, Jake Metzler, Tony Filauro.

Dave opened the meeting at 9:11 AM with an anti-trust statement.

There were no changes to the day's agenda.

There were no changes to the January 25, 2010 meeting minutes. Spencer motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Jessica 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report

Bill listed the activities in our accounts since the January 25, 2010 meeting. We have received an additional \$1517 in member dues and it appears we are on track to reach our \$2200 budget amount. The Northern Forest Forum received \$261 in income and expenses for the meeting were \$259.70. The lunch expense for the January 25 ExComm meeting was \$184 and the Division Manager's quarterly stipend was \$500. We paid additional new student member dues of \$210, for a total of \$525 for the fiscal year so far. From the FAP account, \$500 was paid for the Cumberland County Envirothon.

The total in all our accounts (checking, savings and FAP) is \$17,767.61.

Katie motioned (for the first time!) to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Jessica 2nd. Discussion: Bill put together the 2009 calendar year IRS info and sent it to NESAF for reporting. Ken audited it and it looked fine. It was mentioned again that we seem to have too much money in our accounts and we should find good programs to support. The group unanimously approved the report.

NESAF Update

Spencer noted our NESAF award winners, himself, Jake and Sue. Great job! Peter Greeno has been very active. We will be getting another email from him on the possible policy and communications position(s). NESAF presented a deficit budget (\$7000). They prefer to be conservative and underestimate meeting revenues. They always end in the black. They may be looking at another membership initiative. The 2010 Winter Meeting appears to have generated \$5000 for NESAF and \$5000 for the Granite State Division. NESAF's finances are okay.

Peter G. is releasing a program to link students with professionals in New England who would review and critique their resumes. He has sent a newsletter to students within NESAF. Many employers are now posting job openings on the NESAF website. Ron, Peter and Christopher Whited of national would like the student members to form a congress and get a student rep to sit on HSD.

The 2011 Winter Meeting location has not been decided yet. The two locations being considered are the Lake Morey Resort and somewhere in Burlington. Our group preferred Lake Morey, since it is closer. New York SAF would like to host another joint meeting with NESAF. Two options are to have the Yankee Division co-host with NY as they did in Saratoga (but NESAF and Yankee would split half of the total and each get only 25% of the revenue) or switch to a 5 year cycle, where NESAF co-hosts the meeting with NY. Laura voiced concern that this may tax local volunteers too much, since the Portland meeting would follow the next year. The Yankee Division will decide how they prefer to handle it within two months.

Katie questioned our help to students for the NESAF meeting. Bill mentioned that we budgeted \$800 in 2010 for student aid and he may get some receipts from the Nashua meeting. There was discussion on whether having the NESAF meeting during college spring break helped or hurt student attendance. We concluded that we can't please everyone. Orono's spring break is the first two weeks in March each year.

Spencer mentioned that the position of Maine Rep to NESAF will be open at the end of the 2010 calendar year. He hasn't decided if he will run for this position again. The NESAF Chair-Elect position will also be open. For Maine SAF, the Chair-Elect and three Member-at-Large positions will be open. The ballot info and candidate bios need to get to NESAF by July 31, 2010 for the electronic ballot option. **Spencer** and **Dan** will talk about this next week. They would like one other person to be on the nominating committee.

Travel Expenses for MESAF ExComm.

Spencer feels that Laura should be reimbursed for her travel and that she and Dave need to get language in her contract. Spencer asked why folks don't come to meetings—is it time or \$? Spencer estimated that four excomm members travel from outside the Bangor area and at \$.50 per mile, and attending six meetings per year, the cost would be ~\$3000. Ron noted that NESAF pays for travel, lodging and meals for their excomm members to attend meetings. Dan feels we should use this as a recruiting tool to broaden the range of available members. Maybe we should limit the amount of travel assistance. Spencer suggested developing rules on expenditures. Ron feels that we need to offer something if we want a good excomm. **Dave** will draft up a travel expense proposal and send it to Spencer for review. It will be presented at the next excomm meeting. We need final approval from our membership on this.

The Division Manager position will be handled separately. Laura asked the group if they felt shortchanged when she did not attend excomm meetings in person. The group agreed that Skype has worked well in the past, but being in person periodically is good as well.

Goals & Standards

Jake reported via email that he hasn't worked on it yet, but still wants to pursue it. No comments from the group.

Spring Meeting Planning

Katie, Jessica and Don met in person and communicated via email often. They presented 3 meeting proposals.

The first meeting is designed for consulting foresters and would be held in Southern Maine (Baldwin). The theme is how to make extra money from small woodlots through

diversification. Jessica met with Tom Doak on ideas. **Jessica** will find out how many people the Baldwin building can hold.

The second meeting is on technology, primarily on Huber land in KI. Don scoped this out and wants to highlight new technologies being used for operational planning. The group suggested including DeLorme personnel. There would be a mix of professional and consumer grade technologies. Don indicated that the landowner requires us to have insurance.

The third meeting on vernal pools will be held jointly with the Forest Guild and the School of Forest Resources (to simplify the insurance issue). University vans will likely be used for the transportation.

Katie mentioned that another possible meeting for next year would be at the Holt Forest in Arrowsic.

The vernal pool workshop is scheduled for Friday, May 7. **Don** will arrange the KI trip around his schedule in late June or July. Jessica feels that the Baldwin trip would best be held in September. Jessica offered to have her students handle the mailing for the Baldwin meeting.

Ron passed out copies of the insurance forms to the group. Spencer suggested that the members-at-large call Dan Zigler and tell him the meeting agenda and he will give them further instructions. We will likely need proof of insurance from the transportation carrier. Spencer suggested that we invite only "SAF members and resource professionals," *not* the general public. Our tours don't go very far in the woods, "just off the road." Dan Z. will tell us what is needed and there is no need to give him information he doesn't ask for.

Deb Boyer of NESAF can send out a mass emailing for us when needed.

It was decided that registration will ask for checks to be sent to Laura. Credit cards will not be accepted. **Laura** will handle registration for the Forest Guild members as well. **Jessica** will talk prices with the Forest Guild and get back to the group with suggested registration costs. The non-member rate is typically \$25 more than the member rate. A student rate also needs to be developed.

The logistics of the KI meeting will be addressed at the April 26, 2010 excomm meeting. **Jessica, Katie** and **Don** will check on buses for the KI trip.

<Don left at 11:25 AM)>

The April mailing will include the Chair Letter from Dave and the agenda and registration for the Vernal Pool workshop. **Laura** will check into sending postcards to members for the other two meetings at a later date. Dave's chair letter will include general information about these two tours. **Laura** will also look into a digital mailing service to cut down on the workload of additional meeting mailings. **Bill, Spencer** and **Katie** offered to help **Laura** search for options.

Fall Meeting Planning

Dave discussed the idea of trying to bring divergent groups together. Spencer suggested highlighting circumstances where foresters came together with other entities to find common ground. Examples like field foresters working with auditors, White Mtn Nat'l Forest plan, LURC CLUP, Plum Creek, PLT—foresters/educators. **Dave** will contact Kenny Fergusson to see if he feels this would interest industrial field foresters.

In the interest of time, the Licensing Board report, Communications Committee and Student Chapter report were tabled until the next meeting (the chairs were absent).

<Jessica left at 12:08 PM>

Forestry Awareness Committee Report

Sue wants to do a mailing to update the volunteer base and the mailing list. **Sue** will send a draft to the group. **Laura** will try to get the email addresses when she sends for the LPF mailing list from the board. **Laura** will make returnable postcards to include with the spring mailing. **Sue** will get her the necessary information for the cards.

Upcoming FAP events include the Olympiad and Envirothon training for the Jonesport-Beals team.

Sue mentioned that she wouldn't mind having someone else take over as the FAP Chair in 2011. She feels she accomplished her task of transforming the Poster Contest into something more workable. It is now a clearing house for forestry education needs. She feels we need new blood on the committee. Sue will create a position description and a synopsis of the FAP. Spencer suggested that this may a good time to expand the program to the NESAF level. **Sue** will get the info the Spencer.

The group feels that the Committee Reports are important and they should perhaps be placed earlier on the agenda so they do not get "tabled." Another option is to allow time limits for each agenda item so that all items are addressed.

Dave motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 PM. Unanimous approval.

Submitted by
Laura Audibert