

**Maine Division Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
February 4, 2011**

UMaine Cooperative Extension Office, Orono

(Minutes amended at Executive Committee Meeting, May 6, 2011)

Attending: Jessica Leahy, Mark Andrews, Sue Aygarn, Dan Simonds, Laura Audibert, Katie Cousins, Wil Mercier, Kristen Hoffman, Ron Lemin, Bill Livingston.

Absent: Dave Maass, Tony Filauro, Jacob Hicks.

Dan opened the meeting at 9:10 AM with a brief antitrust statement. Members introduced themselves around the table.

NESAF Update

Wil reported that the 2011 Winter Meeting at Lake Morey in Fairlee, VT was progressing well.

Discussions about a possible joint NESAF/NYSAF meeting for 2013 are just beginning. If the other NESAF divisions agree to insert the joint meeting into the Winter Meeting rotation, the Yankee Division would host in 2012 and Maine would host in 2014. If the joint meeting is not in the rotation, Maine will host in 2013. Ron mentioned that Ken Laustsen and others are preparing a Winter Meeting Planner which includes all the info needed to host the Winter Meeting. It will be made available to all divisions.

Peter Greeno has been reappointed as Membership Chair for NESAF. He is working on a phone drive to contact former members. The Maine Student Chapter is already doing this for us and other student chapters will be encouraged to do so within their divisions.

The Policy Chair position is currently vacant. Names of possible candidates should be given to Wil. This position has a stipend of \$599 per year.

Laura asked if NESAF advertises the Winter Meeting outside of its membership. Ron did not think so. Suggestions were made to post the info on various list-serves and websites to get the word out. **Ron** will add this outreach procedure to the Winter Meeting Planner.

Laura will compile a spreadsheet of all the non-member email addresses from recent meeting registrations to have available for future meeting or activity contacts.

Fall Meeting Results

Laura listed some repeated suggestions of future meeting topics from the 2010 meeting evaluation forms. For indoor meetings: economics issues within Maine's forests and revisiting FPA. For field meetings: inventory/cruise methods with growth/yield, biomass, invasives, FPA harvest sites and small woodlot harvesting. Suggested locations listed were: BPL examples of exemplary harvests and the Baxter SFMA. **Laura** will email the 2010 Fall Meeting evaluation results to Mark and Kristen.

NESAF Grant

Ron mentioned that the MESAF grant proposal put together by Bill and Tish Carr was approved. No other grant proposals were submitted. The grant funds were created with the chapter's 1995 National Meeting revenues. MESAF's grant is for \$1200 to help cost-share the purchase of forestry tools for schools, primarily those participating in the Envirothon. The schools must pay 50% of the cost to get the 50% match from the grant. **Bill** must formally request the grant check from Russell Reay, the NESAF Treasurer. **Laura** will post the grant award info on the website.

Laura asked that the minutes from the November 15, 2010 Excomm meeting be approved. Jessica motioned to accept the minutes as presented via email, Katie 2nd. Unanimous approval. **Laura** will now post them on the website.

<Bill arrived at 10:05 AM>

Treasurer's Report

Bill handed out the current report. The Fall Meeting netted \$2460, double the budget estimate. Our division ending balance will now be \$1200 higher, barring any drastic changes throughout the year. Invoices paid since November 15 are the Division Mgr stipend of \$500 and first-time student membership dues. Bill will begin sending out the checks for our obligated donations to the Maine TREE foundation and to the Envirothon. The funds are transferred from the main MESAF account to the FAC account and then to the recipients. Other funds available this year are the \$2000 for excomm travel and the \$500 for Laura's national meeting registration (voted on at the October Division business meeting).

The issue of the excomm travel funds was discussed and **Ron** will send Dan the form that NESAF uses. **Dan** will re-work it to fit MESAF's needs and email it to the group for comment. Dan will need to approve all travel reimbursement requests.

Bill noted that the end of MESAF's fiscal year is the last day of the month prior to the Fall Meeting.

Jessica motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Wil 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Bill motioned to direct the chair to adapt the NESAF travel policy to fit MESAF situations. Jessica 2nd. Unanimous approval.

2011 Program Planning

The group agreed that the multiple field meeting format is good. Jessica commented that transportation is the biggest cost for the field meetings. Tour buses are now ~\$1200, school buses are cheaper.

The Members at Large will be its own subcommittee to propose programs for the three field meetings. **Jessica** will chair the group. Katie suggested three regions, a small landowner,

large landowner and something in between. Kristen noted that Plum Creek just did a big vernal pool discovery project that may be worth investigating. The Members at Large will meet separately to plan the meetings.

The dates for the 2011 Executive Committee Meetings were established as:

Friday, March 18, 2011 in Orono

Friday, May 6, 2011, location TBD

Friday, July 15, 2011, location TBD

Laura will email the Division Manager's contract to excomm members and also a calendar of activities. Dan feels that the Division Manager's most important role is to prompt members when work needs to be done. **Laura** also offered to prepare a division Operating Manual, so members understand their roles and the protocols to follow.

Jessica listed the possible topics and locations for 2011 field meetings:

Cruise/inventory

FPA sites

Biomass

Harvest on small woodlots

Holt Research Forest

Plum Creek vernal pools

Land Trusts—silviculture—Androscoggin, Kennebec

“Sivicultural Mystery Tour”

BPL sites

Possibly highlight MESAF award winners

Dan mentioned that Dick Hale phoned him with some suggestions: Knud Hermanson (?) on legal surveying; and a SWOAM program on discontinuing roads.

Fall 2011 Meeting Planning

We must brainstorm soon. **Jessica** will contact Bob Wagner to see if the Munsungan Conference on the FPA could be incorporated into a meeting we might have. **She** will report back to the group at the next meeting. Katie suggested having longer Q&A sessions as a way of being interactive.

Bill suggested the topic of the condition of Maine's forests infrastructure, such as road systems, harvesting, labor, etc. Are they on the brink of collapse?

Licensing Board Task Force

Ken Laustsen was not present to give a report. Katie brought up her concern about the CF exam and the additional questions specific to Maine. She feels that having just 10 questions relative to Maine is not enough for this sort of exam. She questioned how the Maine question bank is managed. She suggested adding more Maine questions to the exam. **Dan** will talk to Ken L. and invite him to our next meeting on March 18 to hear our concerns on this issue.

<Jessica left at 11:47 AM>

Statewide Policy Engagement

Dan wondered if Maine SAF has or wants a role in the current discussions on some important topics within the State, such as LURC and BPL, to name a few. We could advocate for professionalism and science. Mark will talk with Pat Sirois of the Maine Forest Products Council to see what his thoughts are and to keep us informed. Perhaps an ad hoc group could be formed to address these issues as they arise. **Dan** will talk with Dave Field about these policy topics.

<Laura left at 11:55 AM>

<Katie resumed taking the minutes>

SAF Meeting 2/4/2011 Notes:

Notes after Laura left:

Envirothon has a field day on March 18th, typically has been put on my MFS. This year, MFS has a furlough day on the 18th, so MESAF reps will be leading the training. Should be a good opportunity to help improve format and content of the training at the field day. Bill and Sue will be there, and need 8 or so volunteers to help out at the day. Have filled most of the gaps, need 2 or so more people.

Sue is planning to update e-mail list/database. It would be nice to create opportunities to better reach out to our membership. We could compile the e-mails coming in from our meeting sign up lists to bulk up our database.

No updates to report from Tony on the Communications committee.

Student Chapter:

Looking to get a group to the NESAF meeting.

Also interested in creating a group of contacts to call to go job shadowing with. Maybe we can assist with this by asking on a form on the fall/spring meetings if they would be willing to volunteer.

If we do make a database of contact into, someone will need to manage it (perhaps the chair-elect)

Dan motions to be adjourned, Wil seconds.

Submitted by

Laura Audibert