

**Maine Division Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
May 6, 2011
Amended July 19, 2011
203 Nutting Hall, UMaine, Orono**

Attending: Bill Livingston, Katie Cousins, Wil Mercier, Mallory Buzzell, Jessica Leahy, Kristen Hoffman, Jake Hicks, Laura Audibert (on Skype).

Absent: Dan Simonds, Sue Aygarn, Mark Andrews, Dave Maass.

Katie opened the meeting at 9:04 AM. She stated that Dan Simonds is taking a temporary leave of absence from the Chair position and she will be filling in for the next few weeks. She then made an anti-trust statement and asked Laura to send her a more formal version for future use. **Laura** will email one to her.

Bill asked that an item regarding Hugh Violette's death be added to the agenda.

February 4, 2011 Minutes

Wil asked to have the February minutes revised as follows: page 1, paragraph 5, line one under NESAF Update should read, "Discussions about a possible joint NESAF/NYSAF meeting for **2013** are just beginning." Also in the same paragraph, line three should read, "...Yankee Division would host in **2012**...."

<Tony Filauro arrived at 9:11 AM>

Jessica motioned to accept the minutes as amended, Wil 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Previously Dan had agreed to draft up a travel expense form for the MESAF Exec. Comm. **Katie** will pick this up and send a draft around to the group shortly.

Treasurer's Report

Bill passed out copies of the Treasurer's Report, with the changes since the last meeting highlighted in yellow.

\$2000 was transferred to the Forestry Awareness Account. \$300 from the Marc Johnson NESAF Travel Fund was used to send two students to the NESAF meeting in Vermont. The web page bill of \$300 was paid. \$573 was used for student travel to the NESAF meeting—8 students attended. The checking account has a balance of \$4743.29 and the savings account has \$4995.46.

In the Forestry Awareness Account, the \$2000 donation to the Maine Tree Foundation was made to help sponsor their teacher tours. The \$1200 NESAF grant award was received. \$120 of this was invoiced by Jay High School to purchase some forestry equipment. Other schools will be applying for some of the equipment grant as well. Jay High School did very well at the regional Envirothon recently and Bill feels the program is working.

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

Licensing Board Update

Ken Laustsen attended the last board meeting and the group was provided with his notes and the minutes from the board's March meeting. The board is functioning properly. Katie summarized Ken's comments and noted that the next board meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2011.

Nomination for New Member at Large

Katie informed the group that Mark Andrews has resigned his Member at Large position effective immediately. Laura read the MESAF bylaws where it states that in the event of an executive committee vacancy, the other nominees for the vacant position could be contacted and if no success, any voting member is eligible to be appointed. After some discussion of possible replacements, **Katie** agreed to contact Bob Chandler, Jr. If he declines, other possibilities are Bart Plourde or Frank Cuff. Bill suggested asking them if they are willing to put their name on the ballot for next year as well. **Katie** will keep the group informed of her progress.

Memorial Discussion for Hugh Violette

Hugh Violette, a UMaine graduate and SAF member passed away on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at the age of 28. Bill noted that his parents want to set up a scholarship within the School of Forest Resources. He also suggested planting a tree in the Nutting Courtyard in his name.

There was much discussion about the most appropriate action to take and the concern of setting a precedent for future occurrences. The group agreed that MESAF budgeted funds should not be used. In the end, Bill motioned to send an announcement to the Maine SAF membership asking that those who are interested may make a donation toward a memorial tree in Hugh's name to be placed in front of Nutting Hall. Jake 2nd. Unanimous approval. **Bill** will draft a statement and send it around to the group for approval. All donations will be sent to Bill as the Treasurer. **Laura** will post this information on the website as well. **Laura** will also send Bill a current copy of the Maine SAF membership list, along with instructions on how to access it from the national SAF website.

NESAF Update

Wil reported that the Winter Meeting in VT was a success.

Peter Greeno, the Membership Chair has resigned his position effective in June and he is looking for a replacement. Jonathon Wood has expressed interest in becoming the NESAF Policy Chair. This position will assist all divisions. The hope is to establish smaller policy committees that are more dynamic and nimble and that can act quickly. This sort of arrangement would require a change in the bylaws.

The NESAF Exec Comm has worked hard on trimming the budget to get away from the massive deficit spending of late. The News Quarterly will be going digital soon, to save on high printing costs. To continue to receive a paper copy, members must specifically request it. Although it was printed on the last page of the latest NQ, the group felt it is important to notify

the membership more directly so they don't miss out. Kris suggested that NESAF send out a postcard notification to the membership. Laura suggested that the Maine Division upcoming Chair Letter mention this change.

May MESAF 2013

Wil passed out a record of the last few years of receipts from NESAF Winter Meetings. Maine had approved a one-year delay in the hosting schedule, so Maine would host in 2014. The other divisions are concerned that pushing the schedule ahead one year will adversely affect their budget. NESAF has proposed to co-host the NESAF/NYSAF meeting in the winter (Feb.?) of 2013 and then host another NESAF meeting in May 2013 in Maine (likely Portland). The group discussed the implications of this plan at length. The group would like to make the May meeting more field oriented with a mix of field trips, workshops and some lectures. There is concern that the Maine field meetings may pull folks away from the NY meeting, since most folks will likely attend only one meeting. The message **Wil** will take back to NESAF in June is that Maine is amenable to the two meeting scenario as long as NESAF advertises them at the same time and with equal support. The group also stipulated that the NESAF shares of both meetings be pooled and split 50/50 with Maine, so Maine has a better chance of achieving its meeting revenue goal and NESAF shares in the risk that Maine is taking on behalf of NESAF. Bill suggested that the NYSAF/NESAF meeting be held in Saratoga, NY, since the Forest Pest Council is having a special anniversary meeting there as well and would perhaps co-sponsor. Laura also suggested that if Maine NESAF meeting focuses on field tours in May, the Division should still host its own field meeting(s) to serve its own members who may not be able to attend the May 2013 meetings.

<Bill left at 10:26 AM>

Spring Meeting Planning

So far two tours have been arranged and a third is in the works. The theme for the field series focuses on the Austin Cary Practicing Professional Award Winners.

One tour, organized by Kris, will be on July 22. Attendees will meet in Howland at 9:00 AM and take a school bus to the Duck Lake Unit on BPL land. Hosts will be George Ritz and Bob Seymour. The topic is Restoration Forestry. There will be four stops within the unit and lunch will be picked up from Nicasious Lodge. The bus will return to Howland at 4:00 PM.

Kris picked up the ball on a Dartmouth Forest tour in northern NH which would be hosted by Kevin Evans. She is still working on the logistics. It will either be in late June/early July or later in August or September. Potential topics include fish biology, woodcock habitat and rocksnot. Perhaps a theme of wildlife ecology and silviculture could be woven together. **Kris** will work on the details with Kevin soon.

Jessica has organized the third tour, scheduled for August 5. It will be a tour of the Baxter SFMA hosted by Rick Morrill and Jensen Bissell. We will meet at the Park HQ and travel into the park on a school bus. We will return to the HQ by 4:00 PM. A lunch BBQ may be in the works. **Jessica** will get a general idea of the tour stops so a meeting flyer can be developed.

Fall Meeting Planning

Jessica informed the group that the Munsungan Conference on the FPA will not be happening this fall. The group felt that the timing may not be good for the FPA topic given potential action by the governor's administration.

After much discussion, the group agreed to tentatively pursue International Forestry as the topic, with specific focus on how foreign efforts can impact Maine. The group preferred Tuesday, October 11 at Wells Commons for the date and location. **Katie** will contact Brian Milakowsky, who has experience in Russia. **Wil** will talk with Bret Vicary and also Ernest Bowling of Sewall. It is important that their experience have relevance to Maine. Katie also noted that having a speaker that was just "interesting" might be good too. **Jessica** will contact Lee Allen about his soils work. The group will communicate via email. The topic must come together by our July 15 meeting or another topic will be chosen.

Committee Reports

Communications

Tony said the committee has been on a hiatus over the past few years, for various reasons. He is looking for ways to stay connected to the media. Wil suggested setting up a meeting with media reps on the same day and place as the Fall Meeting, where topics could be discussed and the reps could meet or interview the meeting speakers. Tony wants the issues to reach the public so they can be educated. Tony will continue to send the meeting announcements to the various media outlets. Katie suggested starting in informational blog directing readers to forestry related articles and such. It would need to be managed carefully so it doesn't come across as a policy statement.

<Jessica left at 12:00 PM>

Student Chapter

Jake Hicks reported that eight student attended the NESAF meeting in VT. They plan to donate \$1000 to the Marc Johnson fund or perhaps split with the new Hugh Violette Scholarship fund. Last fall they had many new members, but not all attend the meetings. They went to the SFMA and Plum Creek this spring. The student graduates received their SAF rings.

Katie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 PM.

Submitted by

Laura Audibert

May 7, 2011