

**Maine Division Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
February 14, 2014
Conference Call**

Attending: Wil Mercier, Eli Shank, Sasha Miller, Ken Laustsen, Jessica Leahy, Katie Manende, Ron Lemin, Bill Livingston, Laura Audibert

Absent: Kris Hoffmann, Tony Filauro, Colton Burgess

Wil opened the meeting at 9:05 AM with a brief anti-trust statement.

Agenda Changes

No changes were made to the day's agenda.

Minutes of November 15, 2013 Meeting

Ron and Ken emailed Laura some changes back in November: Wil was present in person at the meeting, not on the phone; under Treasurer's Report, it should state that Bill had the Treasurer's Report and budget update (not minutes) present in the meeting room and he recently paid a \$700 fee from Cyr Bus Lines. Under NESAF Award Nominations, Ron stated that he would lead the nomination for Ken for the Distinguished Service Award. Under Licensing Board Update, the second paragraph, second sentence should read, "Many members' terms are up at year-end and all have indicated they will re-apply for re-appointment by the governor."

Ken motioned to accept the minutes as amended, Ron 2nd. Unanimous approval. **Laura** will make the noted amendments and send around the correct version.

Treasurer's Report

Bill circulated the report via email on February 13, 2014. He noted that he has closed out the Forestry Awareness Account to avoid the bank's low balance charges. The funds were moved into our regular checking account. So far Bill has received \$500 in membership dues. Laura's first quarter stipend was paid recently.

Bill has not yet received the grant funds from Russ Reay for the Foresters for the Birds workshop.

The Allagash Bridge Memorial funds are still in our account. **Ron** and **Eli** will finish up the project this year. They need to find a place for the sign and plaque. They also plan to plant 14 trees around the sign, one for each person lost in the accident. **Eli** will email Ron.

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

2014 EC Meeting Schedule

The group decided on the following dates, times and places for this year's EC meetings:
Friday, April 11, 2014, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Nutting Hall, Orono—Bill will find a location;

Friday, July 18, 2014, 9:00 AM—1:00 PM, Ken's camp on North Twin Lake—election nominations and solidifying the Fall Meeting will be among the topics;

Friday, September 5, 2014, 9:00 – 1:00 PM, Orono—finalizing Fall Meeting items;

Friday, November 7, 2014, 9:00 AM—1:00 PM, Augusta –Award Nominations will be finalized, **Katie** will find a location for this meeting.

The Fall Meeting is scheduled and reserved for Tuesday, October 14 at the Wells Conference Center on the UMaine campus.

Bill noted that he has \$350 is cash bar tickets for the UMaine Alumni/MESAF Social at the March 2014 NESAF meeting in Nashua. There will be a MESAF update as well as a school update. **Ron** will check on the deceased Maine members that need to be recognized at the NESAF meeting. So far there is Robert Lumpio and Allan Gordon.

2014 Field Tours

The first tour will be the Foresters for the Birds workshop led by VT Audubon. **Katie** will take the lead on this tour. The dates are not certain yet, but it will be held at the Holt Research Forest near Bath and the indoor session will be at Reid State Park. We received the NESAF grant to reimburse the VT Audubon presenters for their travel expenses. **Katie** will contact Amanda Mahaffey to coordinate things.

Other topics Wil listed were: SFMA Tornado Salvage, Cedar Mgt repeat, Spruce Budworm, Commercial Thinning, Jake Maier's Readfield Watershed, Forest Health Issues.

Eli will head up a tour of the SFMA Tornado Damage. **He** will contact Rick Morrill. The target date is mid-June to early July. The current research being done by Bob Seymour et al will be incorporated into the tour as well.

Ron will contact Alison Kanoti and head up a tour of Coastal Forest Pests, such as the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Browntail Moth and Winter Moth. This tour will take place in mid-summer, depending on best pest development stage.

Laura suggested that we take Jake Maier up on his offer of a tour of his work in the Readfield watershed. **Ron** will contact Kirby Ellis and see if he can work with Jake on setting up a tour for the fall.

Wil noted that Brian Roth would like to help out in some way. He would like to have a tour/discussion of intensive forest systems in northern Maine. Wil suggested that **Laura** contact him and put together a Northern Forest Forum on this topic. **Ron** will assist with this as well. **Ron** will help Laura revive the Forum and make it more active.

Laura noted that the spring mailing, which included field tour info and a chair letter should go out in early April, at least four weeks before the first field tour. Ideally we will have the dates, titles and locations of the remaining field tours to be included in this mailing.

For the upcoming NESAF meeting, we will have a stack of MESAF field tour flyers at the registration table and a poster on an easel. It will also be discussed at the alumni social. **Everyone** will send their tour info to Laura by **Wednesday, March 19**. **Laura** will prepare the flyer and send it to Ken for printing and he will bring it to NESAF. **Wil** will make a poster for an easel. **Laura** will get the info to Wil by Thursday, March 20.

Board of Licensure

Ken reported that the licensing bill, LD1735 An Act to Amend Forester Licensing Requirements, has been submitted to the legislature. A public hearing was held on February 4. No one spoke in opposition, but several spoke in favor, including the MFS and a Plum Creek Forester. If the bill passes, the board will need to establish new rules and regulations. If passed as is, it will become effective on June 1, 2015. Many folks who are currently interns will be in limbo, but Ken noted that current interns will be held to the old regulations. Current licensees will not be affected. The next board meeting is scheduled for February 27 and **Ken** will attend. Jessica noted that Bob Seymour was not re-appointed to the board and Max McCormack was appointed to replace him.

Committee Reports

Forestry Awareness—Sasha reported that the winter has been fairly quiet. There are some upcoming events: a FIG workshop at Lee Academy on March 14, a PLT facilitator training in Bath on March 21 and a Project Wet, Wild and PLT workshop sponsored by the AMC in April. The teacher tours are all set for July. There will be Forestry Field Days in Portland in May and Sasha will need foresters for these events.

Pat Maloney asked Sasha for an article on MESAF awareness. **Sasha** will draft it up and run it by the EC. She will find out exactly what is needed. **Sasha** will send the letter to the EC for review by **March 1**, for submission by mid-March.

Communications—No report in Tony's absence.

Student Chapter—No report in Colton's absence.

NESAF Update

No report in Kris' absence.

Other

No additional items to discuss.

Adjourn

Ron motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 AM, Jessica 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Submitted by
Laura Audibert