

**Maine Division Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
July 18, 2014
Ken's Camp, North Twin Lake, Millinocket**

Attending: Eli Shank, Wil Mercier, Ken Laustsen, Jessica Leahy, Laura Audibert

Absent: Sasha Miller, Bill Livingston, Katie Manende, Ron Lemin, Kris Hoffmann, Michael Pouch, Tony Filauro.

Wil called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM with a brief antitrust statement. Laura asked if there was a quorum and yes, four voting members are required. It was noted that if a "call for a quorum" is not made, the group can proceed, even if there is not the required number of members.

Agenda Changes

Laura requested that the website be added to the agenda under "Other."

Minutes of April 11, 2014 Meeting

Jessica motioned to approve the April 11, 2014 minutes as presented, Eli 2nd. Motion carried with one abstention.

Treasurer's Report

Bill emailed the Treasurer's Report to the group prior to the meeting. He highlighted important items in his email (attached). The Allagash Bridge Memorial fund has \$939. Eli would like to get the memorial installed this year. He suggested it be placed on the east side of the bridge in a turnaround outside the Allagash Wilderness Waterway zone. We need to get a rock (granite would be ideal) and find out how to affix the plaque to the rock. A memorial stone salesperson may have helpful suggestions. The language on the plaque needs to be determined as well. Wil suggested that a budget for the memorial be prepared so we will know if additional funds are needed.

Jessica noted that her grant funds will be used to sponsor a Succession Planning Workshop in Portland on October 31, 2014. The exact location has not been determined yet. Presenters will be Mary Sissock, the Cooperative Extension Forester from VT, Paul Catanzaro from UMass, who will speak on lessons learned in succession planning and a third speaker from SWOAM. The audience is expected to be primarily consulting foresters. It will be limited to a morning session. The grant funds will be used to cover room rental and speakers' travel expenses. **Laura** will apply for the CEUs once the agenda is set. We will use MESAF's online registration process and mail out the workshop flyer with our fall meeting mailing.

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

Ken discussed the Local Wood Works conference set for November 14 and 15, 2014. It is sponsored by the Kennebec Land Trust. There are three levels of sponsorship--\$2500, \$1000 and

\$250. The \$40 registration fee includes the Friday meeting and a Saturday field trip. Jessica requested that a student price be added. Wil suggested emailing the sponsorship proposal to the full Executive Committee (EC) for a final decision. Ken will prepare the proposal and attach the meeting details and send to the EC by mid-August. We are considering a \$250 sponsorship and the conference flyer would go out with the fall meeting mailing in mid-September.

NESAF Update

No report.

2014 Field Tour Updates

Foresters for the Birds

Ken attended the May 7, 2014 workshop. The initial grant proposal was expanded after it was submitted. The May 7 workshop was underwritten by the Forest Guild and Maine Audubon. Ken was asked to use the grant funds for the May 30 workshop in Washington County. The May 7 tour had ~25 participants, mostly consulting foresters and agency people. The registration was free and participants brought their own lunch. The May 30 workshop was held in Grand Lake Stream. The \$504 in expenses was paid with the \$502 in grant funds and \$2 from MESAF. Ken will submitted the final report for the grant and listed how the funds were spent (attached). Jessica motioned to approve the Final Report for the grant so it could be sent to Mel Harder at NESAF. Laura reported difficulty getting information to prepare the meeting flyer and registration went through Maine Audubon, so figures were not readily available to MESAF. Katie and Laura discussed the issue earlier and agreed that if MESAF is sponsoring a meeting, it should be responsible for sending out the flyer and handling the registrations. Jessica reported that students attended a May 28 FFTB session and their primary lesson learned was that foresters argue all the time and no one presented the right answer. The EC concluded that the objectives of the grant were met and NESAF should accept the report. With the funds three workshops were held and ~24 students attended 2nd the motion. Unanimous approval.

SFMA Tour—June 27, 2014—Millinocket

Eli reported that the tour was very successful. The meal and bus expenses totaled ~\$1100. The bus bill went directly to Bill and the cost was not in the current Treasurer's Report. It was noted that Cyr Bus is often very late in submitting invoices. The Katahdin General Store prepared 43 lunches for ~\$300. Eli noted that it was a very hot day and more water would have been appreciated. He suggested that MESAF purchase a refillable water cooler and cups to bring on field tours. Laura will prepare the final tour spreadsheet and evaluation summary shortly. Wil thanked Eli and Laura for their work on the tour.

Hemlock Tour—July 31, 2014—Gorham, Harpswell

Tour registrations are coming in.

Augusta Watershed Tour—September 11, 2014—Winthrop/Readfield

Ron reported to Laura that Kirby Ellis and Jake Maier are working to prepare the tour details.

Fall Meeting Theme

The theme is “What to do with...?” It was decided that one topic would be Climate Change and proposed panel members are Andy Whitman (presenting his new climate change mitigation model), Mac Hunter (conservation biology viewpoint), Allison Dibble (ground scale impact) and Tony DiMato from VT (modeling tree migration). There will be four 15-minute presentations with 30 minutes of discussion. Moderators will play an important role in asking questions and promoting discussion. The goal is discussion, not providing all the answers. **Ken** will ask Amanda Mahaffey to be the moderator.

The group discussed the possible topic of the North Atlantic Fire Science Consortium, but there was deemed to be little interest.

Eli suggested the topic of Early Stand Treatments. Potential presenters are Emma Schultz from LandVest, Ryan Wishart from Seven Islands, Kirby Ellis or Roger Greene as consultants for small ownerships and Ted Shina from Huber who can offer a historical perspective. **Jessica** will ask Brian Roth to moderate this session. This session should follow the Climate Change session.

The group decided against the topic of Forest Pests, since many other groups are discussing these issues.

The third topic will be Small Blocks. Barry Burgason will be asked to be the moderator and to provide a 5-10 minute introduction, to include the wildlife perspective. Jeff Williams and Cliff Foster will be asked as private consultants and **Katie** will be asked to find a logger who works on both small and large ownerships.

The remainder of the Fall Meeting discussion was tabled until after lunch.

Election Nominations

The following slate was proposed:

Chair-elect—Kris Hoffmann;

NESAF Rep—Ken Laustsen;

Members-at-Large (3)—Kirby Ellis, Brian Roth, Eli Shank (Kate and Ron L. are backups).

The submission deadline to Paul Dolan is August 1, 2014. Other possible MAL candidates are Bob Cousins, Bart Plourde and Bob Chandler (declined today).

NESAF Award Nominations

The following nominations will be submitted:

Distinguished Service (service to profession)—Mike Dann—**Jessica** will spearhead the nomination package;

Integrity in Conservation—Steve Swatling—previous nomination will be resubmitted;

Dave Smith (Silviculture)—Bob Seymour—**Jessica** will spearhead this nomination;

Mollie Beattie—Katie Manende—previous nomination will be resubmitted, Rick Morrill—**Eli** will spearhead nomination;

TWOUmey (service to NESAF)—no nominees;

Ernest Gould Tech Transfer—tish carr—**Bill Livingston** will be asked to spearhead this nomination;

Austin Cary Practicing Professional—Barrie Brusila—**Wil** will ask Rick Morrill to spearhead this nomination;

Fellow (local, regional national service to profession)—Mike Dann—**Ken** will help with this nomination. Pat Sirois will write a letter—nomination letters will also serve for Distinguished Service Award nomination.

Northern Long-eared (NLE) Bat Policy Statement

Kris forwarded an email to the group earlier in the week asking if MESAF would like to issue a letter to NESAF regarding the NLE bat. The Allegheny Chapter is asking NESAF for support. Barry Burgason wrote a letter for the Maine Forest Products Council newsletter describing the situation, which is basically that the NLE bat numbers have declined significantly due to white-nose syndrome. If the bat is listed as Endangered, landowners would not be allowed to harvest timber during June or July. A “threatened” listing would allow more flexibility. SWOAM is following the issue. Jessica looked up some info on her phone and there are eight species of bats in Maine. The Little Brown bat, Eastern Small-footed bat and the NLE bat populations are struggling due to the white-nose syndrome and the Little Brown bat could be listed in Maine.

Ken suggested that we ask Jim Harding of NESAF to draft a letter and circulate it to us for MESAF to sign. Jessica suggested having someone keep tabs on the situation and to keep us informed. *MESAF’s concern is the lack of information. We will not sign onto to a letter without more information and thought and without a careful review of the language. Once we see the letter, we can provide a quick turnaround if needed. We recognize this as an issue of growing importance to Maine.* **Laura** will email this italicized section to Kris to forward to NESAF. Letters are easier to submit, position statements are much more difficult.

Soliciting/Accepting Meeting Sponsorships

Laura forwarded an email request she received from Daryn Deveau of Farm Credit East requesting information on sponsorship. Ken suggested that NESAF would be the best location for sponsorship. After discussing the pros and cons of allowing sponsorship of MESAF activities, the group decided it wasn’t worth the potential trouble. **Laura** will ask Kris for the NESAF sponsorship person and **Laura** will pass this info along to Daryn.

Board of the Licensure of Foresters Update

Ken missed the June meeting. They are working on rule-making and the exam development within a very short time window. Public/group comments are allowed at this point. Current intern foresters do ~~not~~ need to meet the licensing provisions of the old law. With the enactment of the new law, A licensed forester must sign off on a summer intern’s on any experience, earned prior to graduation. A licensed forester acting as a sponsor also needs to sign-off on intern forester work experience, which hasn’t always been done in the past. **Ken** plans on attending the August meeting.

MESAF Website

Laura reported that she finally purchased a new laptop. Once she transfers her work to the new machine, she will lose FrontPage as the website mgt program. Bill had offered some suggestions on new programs to use. Once Laura and Bill decide on a program, **Laura** will run it by the EC for approval. **Wil** suggested using the current program to manage the website until after

the Fall Meeting, when the site is less active and the cost of a new program can be added to and approved in the FY15 budget. Wil suggested looking at a web-based program option and Jessica suggested looking at WordPress, that is what UMaine uses. The group prefers having local control of the MESAF website, rather than working through NESAF.

Committee Reports

Forestry Awareness—No report.

Communications—Tony reported to Laura earlier in the day that he has attempted to make contact by letter and email to Aislinn Sarnacki and a Deschaine fellow from the BDN, but no one has gotten back to him.

Student Chapter—Michael Pouch is the new Student Chapter Chair. He submitted a report (attached).

Fall Meeting (continued)

The group decided that the Pest Update will be 15-30 minutes long and immediately before lunch. The speaker must be flexible if the previous presentation runs longer than planned.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **September 5, 2014** in **Orono**. (The November 7 meeting will be held in Augusta).

Adjourn

Ken motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 PM, Jessica 2nd. Unanimous approval. The group thanked Ken and Angela for hosting our meeting again and for providing a wonderful lunch!

Submitted by
Laura Audibert