

**Maine Division Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
February 20, 2015 (edited by Ken L.)
Fort Kent Outdoor Center, Fort Kent**

Attending: Ken Laustsen, Laura Audibert, Jessica Leahy, Bill Livingston, Bob Cousins, Kris Hoffmann, Brian Roth, Kirby Ellis, Wil Mercier (arrived at 10:42 AM).

Absent: Michael Pouch, Tony Filauro, Sasha Miller.

Jessica called the meeting to order at 9:25 AM with a brief antitrust statement.

Agenda Changes

None. Although Bill passed around a draft copy of the Business Meeting minutes from the October Fall Meeting for the group to review and correct.

Minutes of November 7, 2014 Meeting

Ken motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Kris 2nd. Motion passed. Bob and Kirby abstained.

Treasurer's Report

Bill passed out the Treasurer's Report. **Bill** has not yet done the annual IRS report ~~for the IRS~~, he will do it within the next two weeks and send it to NESAF. **Ken** will look over the report and email it to the group for approval.

Activity since our last meeting includes dues income, which is currently \$1283 and the Fall Meeting income was \$3335. Other income includes proceeds from the Ash Symposium and the Family Forest Succession Planning workshop. Bill sent our donation to the Maine TREE foundation and notified them that our support level in the future may be lower. Forestry Awareness had expenses for the Envirothon lunches.

Bill reported that our net income from the Fall Meeting was \$961 and our budget amount was \$1500. WeFor the time being, there will ~~havebe~~ \$500 less ~~to spend as income~~ in our budget. The Family Forest workshop returned \$880 of the grant funds to NESAF.

Our hospitality gathering at Pat's Pizza after the Fall Meeting cost \$110 and was well attended (roughly one-third students, two-thirds members). Additional funds are already set aside for next year. We have hospitality funds (\$350) already in the budget for the NESAF meeting in VT. We will combine our funds with UMaine, but the MESAF funds will be used for beverage tickets.

The Marc Johnson Fund is finally paying out for student travel to NESAF. The students that are sponsored are required to be on UMaine's Quiz Bowl team.

Net earnings from the Ash Symposium (\$164) will be treated as MESAF funds since we handled the registration. Our income from last year's field meetings was ~\$500.

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

NESAF Update

Ken reported that the NESAF EC had a conference call in December, which had a focus on the Northern Long-eared Bat (NLEB). ~~The comments~~ NESAF, NYSAF and Allegheny SAF submitted a single set of comments to the USFWS; which were well-received and they appreciated our helpful approach. The comment period is opening again until mid-March. ~~We~~ NESAF may make additional comments. A "special rule" may be proposed allowing forest management to occur as long as there isn't habitat damage. Maine's Department of Inland Fish & Wildlife has listed the NLEB as Endangered.

NESAF has positions that need to be filled: Website Administrator, News Quarterly Editor and Policy Chair. The current people are serving until replacements are found. Tony ~~Diamato~~ D'Amato will be the new Forest Science Coordinator.

The Winter Meeting will be held in VT on March 23, 24 and 25 through 27. They are still opening for Posters and Lightning Round presentations.

NESAF Awards are as follows:

David M. Smith Silviculture Award—Bob Seymour; Jessica will ask John Brissette to present;
Distinguished Service Award—Mike Dann; Jessica will present;
Mollie Beattie Young Forester Award—Katie Manende; Wil Mercier will be asked to present;
Integrity in Conservation—Steve Swatling; ~~-~~George Ritz will be asked to present;
Austin Cary Practicing Professional—~~someone from NH~~ Brooks McCandish;
Ernest Gould Tech Transfer Award—Mark Twery.

Board of Licensure for Foresters Update

Ken reported that the board terminated the reciprocity agreements with CT and NC since no one has taken advantage of them in years.

The board is working on questions to submit for the new Maine-based exam. There ~~will~~ be was a public hearing on the proposed rules, ~~Ken will~~ supplied written testimony. Ken is disappointed that the board failed to recognize SAF CF as a credential equivalent to a license. The CF has the same requirements as other approved licenses/registrations/certificates. It requires education and experience. No one on the board is a CF.

After June 1, 2015 the only exam required will be the Maine test, which includes Maine laws and other relevant info. UMaine, Maine Forest Service and the board ~~will~~ are supposed to offer a training session for the exam.

Ken reported that VT Office of Professional Regulation is recommending that foresters become licensed to protect the public. Only 16 states currently require a forestry credential.

Business Items

Unity College SAF Student Chapter

Unity College is not accredited by SAF and they want to start a SAF Student Chapter. MESAF needs to bless this effort with 15 Maine members signing a petition to the national office to allow the student chapter. ~~Dillon Dillaway~~ Dylan Dillaway is ~~the~~ new forestry professor at Unity and he approached Ken on this issue. If ~~Dillon~~ Dylan drafts a letter/petition, Jessica will put it on MESAF letterhead, sign it as one of the 15 members and will encourage ~~Dillon~~ Dylan to approach other SAF members in his area for the other 14 signatures. <Wil arrived at 10:42 AM> Jessica will also bring the letter to the NESAF meeting in VT for other signatures.

2015 EC Meeting Dates

- ★ **Friday, April 17, 2015**-- Nutting Hall in Orono at 8:00 AM—Members-at-Large will have field meeting details available;
- ★ **Friday, July 17, 2015**—Ken's Camp, Millinocket—Fall meeting topics, elections;
- ★ **Friday, August 28, 2015**—Sewall Office, Old Town?—Finalize Fall Meeting, NESAF awards.

Fall Meeting Planning

Preferred dates are Friday, October 23 or Friday, October 30. Moose hunts are September 28—October 3 and October 12-17. We will plan on ~150 attendees. Bill will check availability at Wells Conference Center and Jessica will check with Hollywood Slots. Good food is the key. Goal for April 17 meeting is to set date and venue.

Field Tour Planning

Bob C. will develop a tour Downeast.

Kirby will work on a tour in the Milford area on the Pamela Wells property with NRCS practices and Chop & Drop

Brian had three suggestions—1. July 31 is the 150 birthday of Austin Cary. A tour could be developed around his 1936 Common Sense in Conservation book and old growth data from Squaw Mtn in the early 1900's and maybe take place on his (BSP) property in Harpswell.

2. A SBW tour with JD Irving in the Gaspé and northern New Brunswick to show actual damage in the area with helicopter rides. Look at some of their early intervention strategies. Logistics would be difficult and the tour more expensive.
3. Vegetation mgt and beech control in South China. Brian has areas on his own property and Max McCormack has work on his land in Thorndike. Oak regeneration and pine mgt could be included.

Bob, Brian and **Kirby** will have the tour choice selected by the April 17 EC meeting.

Old Business

Elections

Maine Members-at-Large are Kirby Ellis, Bob Cousins and Brian Roth. Kris Hoffman is the Chair-elect and Ken Laustsen is the Maine Rep to NESAF.

Allagash Bridge Memorial

We have ~\$900 in the budget. **Ron Lemin** and **Eli Shank** are working on the project. Jessica wants the project completed this year. Ron and Eli are supposed to put a budget together, **Jessica** will contact them. Although a rock with a bronze plaque is the plan, it doesn't necessarily need to be in this format.

Committee Reports

Forestry Awareness—Sasha is still looking to be replaced as the Chair. Jessica asked Anna Schwarz and **Anna** agreed to take on this position. **Anna** and **Sasha** will need to get together and plan a smooth transition. The dates for the Maine TREE Teacher Tours have been set.

Communications—Tony emailed the group asking that any items for the News Quarterly are due by March 21.

Student Chapter—Jessica reported that there are ~20 student members. They recently volunteered to cut wood for a local Firewood Bank and they interacted with the recipients. Jessica realized that she could not access the Student Chapter bank account because all the officers on the account have left the area. They are working on getting this fixed. Applications for enrollment in the UMaine forestry program are up vs. last year at this time.

Other

Kris noted that the Coulter property is for sale and it will go to a realtor shortly.

Ken noted that SUNY ESF was approved asfor the first in the nation Natural Resource Ecosystem Management program accredited by SAF.

Adjourn

Ken motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:53 PM. Numerous 2nds. Unanimous approval.

Submitted by
Laura Audibert