

Maine Division Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
January 12, 2018
Conference Call

Attendance: Katie Manende, Brian Roth, Tony Filauro, Bob Cousins, Bill Livingston, Kirby Ellis, Ron Lemin, Laura Audibert. Guest—Lloyd Irland.

Call to Order

Katie opened the meeting at 8:06 AM.

Potential Loss of Funding at PEF

Katie asked Lloyd to update the group on the current situation at the PEF. Lloyd indicated that the PEF is funded through the NE Forest Research Station and some funding may be lost due to the fires out west. The full-time PEF technician has retired and the position is not being funded for replacement. Laura Kenefic's position does not appear to be affected. Bill is meeting with Laura K and others next week and can update the group on the info. Bill noted that the PEF land is owned by the University and Keith Kanoti is responsible for the operations outside of the experimental areas.

Lloyd suggested we inform ourselves on the issue and send notes to our congressional delegation as a MESAF group and as interested individuals. Lloyd also noted that MESAF does not have an active Policy Committee.

Educating the legislative Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee on the Tree Growth Tax Law

Lloyd attended a hearing of the committee in Augusta recently and was surprised at the committee's ignorance of the TG issue. Lloyd asked that we contact the committee members as individuals to show interest in the issue. The committee needs to be educated. He also suggested that a MESAF member attend the committee hearing to learn about the process and what is being discussed. Lloyd proposed that our clients contact the legislature as well to show their support for the TG program. The Shaler Committee report is due to the legislature on February 18. Lloyd also noted that the MMA (Maine Municipal Association) is not on our side of the issue.

Katie suggested meeting with the Forest Guild and ACF (Assoc. of Consulting Foresters) to draft a joint statement. Kirby noted that the Maine Woodland Owners group is already active on the issue as well. Laura noted that we may need to consult the SAF National policy statements to be sure we are consistent with them.

The group realizes that Policy Committees can be very burdensome, but would be worth trying to form one to keep abreast of the issues and inform the membership. A group of retirees, early career professionals and students would be a good mix of members.

Professional Ethics

Lloyd has noticed that professional ethics have not been discussed at a MESAF or NESAF meeting in a very long time. Laura believes it has been at least 15 years since MESAF addressed anything. Lloyd suggested at least a 15 – 60 minutes discussion of ethics be included at every MESAF meeting. It is not clear what students are taught about ethical issues. Lloyd wants young folks to be more educated and active.

Ron asked Lloyd to form an Ethics Session at the 2020 National Convention in Rhode Island. He will look into it. It was suggested that NESAF form a Working Group on Policy and Ethics.

<Lloyd left the meeting at 8:40 AM>

Katie will put all Lloyd's issues on the February EC meeting agenda. The PEF issue is most time sensitive. Keith Kanoti will get back to Katie on the issues timeline and Katie asked our group to reach to him on how MESAF can be most helpful and when.

Bill will ask Steve Shaler and Keith Kanoti for more info he can share with us on both issues.

Bill also noted that the Student Chapter is receptive to learning about the TG issue. Ted Shina is offering an evening course on how to become a licensed forester and there is a policy section in the course.

Bill confirmed that the current Student Chapter contacts are still Brian Renfro and Meryl Nelson-Lee.

Kirby asked if the PEF was funded through NRCS. **Kirby** will ask the Penobscot NRCS group if there is funding available through them from the Farm Bill for the PEF. Maybe the PEF could be funded through an outside grant. Bill explained that much of the PEF's operations and staff budget comes from their timber harvesting.

EC Meeting Schedule

The group decided on the following EC meeting dates for 2018:

Friday, February 2, 2018	9:00—12:00 PM	204 Nutting Hall, Orono
Friday, April 6, 2018	9:00—12:00 PM	204 Nutting Hall, Orono
Friday, August 3, 2018	9:00—12:00 PM	204 Nutting Hall, Orono

The Fall Meeting date will be October 26, 2018 at Wells Conference Center. **Bill** will reserve Wells.

Ron, Brian and **Alex** will each choose a date and organize a field tour this year (Ron's will not be in August and he is thinking about the topic of Beech Bark Disease). **Laura** will send around the latest meeting evaluations with suggested tour and meeting topics. The mailing for the field tours is sent 5-6 weeks before the first tour date. Laura would like to have the details for all three tours for the mailing, if possible.

Sponsoring Northeast Silviculture Institute for Foresters

MESAF received a request for a \$500 donation to help sponsor the Institute in 2018. Bob C. sits in on the NESAF EC as the interim Maine Rep. and reported that this group applied for a \$2000 NESAF grant for the Institute. He noted that MESAF is not listed as an “in-kind” donor on the grant. We will discuss this issue more at the February meeting after we get more info.

Regional Leadership Academy

Ken Laustsen is sponsoring a Regional SAF Leadership Academy in PA. He has requested that MESAF nominate someone to attend the Academy by June 30, 2018. Ken has also applied for a NESAF grant to help fund this effort. **Katie** will invite Ken to our February meeting to explain it. The \$300 fee covers expenses for the nominee. Bill noted that our budget can support the \$300. Katie feels the Academy is very worthwhile and recommended that we nominate a younger career person.

Other—Bill is concerned about our lack of dues reimbursement from NESAF. He recently expected a large check and only received \$50. For 2017 he has only received \$580 in total (usually it’s ~\$2000). **Kirby** will ask a National person when each division can expect their payments. **Bob C.** will ask at the NESAF EC meeting this week. Laura checked the National website membership page and MESAF’s division dues are listed as \$10, so they did receive our request for the increase.

Next Meeting

Friday, February 2, 2018, 9:00—12:00 PM, 204 Nutting Hall, Orono. **Katie** will send out the agenda for the meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 AM.

Submitted by
Laura Audibert