

**MISAF Executive Team Meeting  
St. Ignace, Michigan  
20 January, 2005**

Chair Don Dickmann called the meeting to order about 10.08.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Members in attendance: Bill Cook, Don Dickmann, Amy Douglass, Jim Ferris, Jerry Grossman, Bill Hasse, Doug Heym, Les Homan, Don Howlett, Bernie Hubbard, Deb Huff, Glenn Moll, Georgia Peterson, Martha Sjogren.

**2005 Leadership**

**State Chair:** Don Dickmann

**State Vice-chair:** Don Howlett

**State Treasurer:** Jack Pilon

**State Secretary:** Jason Mittlestadt

**District V Council Representative:** Bernie Hubbard, 2005-2007

**U.P. Chapter chair/first chair:** Jim Ferris, Chris Burnett

**L.P. Chapter chair/first chair:** Quent McNichols, ???

**Meeting agenda approved**

Motion to approve the agenda made by D.Howlett, seconded by D.Huff. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Executive Team minutes from 15 September, 2005 approved**

Motion to approve the agenda made by B.Hasse, seconded by D.Howlett. Minor corrections. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Past Chair's Report**

Good output per resources, two good state meetings, good communications effort. In general, 2004 was a good year for the MSAF. Membership is declining nation-wide and with the MSAF. It's a big issue that will need to be addressed by the MSAF.

**Treasurer's Report**

\$3,238.64 in the general fund.

\$3,220.86 in the forester's fund.

FF discussion: acknowledge donors in the Michigan Forester, use some funds for the 2005 legislative event. Other ideas? None mentioned.

**Potential Activities for 2005** (along lines of SAF Strategic Plan)

- Suggest a plan to reach target audiences (who, what, when, where, how . . . )
  - Message-SAF activities and forestry issues
  - Venue-news editors, school, et al.
  - Utilize existing "image" work done by Roger Misiak
  - Buck LaVasseur type folks?
  - Suggested an ad hoc MSAF planning committee
  - Select easy-to-implement ideas that most members can use

- Consider revision of MSAF Forest Management Guidelines for Michigan
- Increase field or field-oriented components to state and chapter meetings
- Better promote communication successes
- Develop/enhance communication efforts
- Are policy statements/policy development a good idea?
  - What are membership implications?
  - Are policies too divisive?
  - Which issues might not be too divisive?
- 2005 Legislative event
  - Are legislators interested in this?
  - Re-contact Frank Egler from Tom Casperson's office
  - Many new legislators in 2005
  - Tour concept was envisioned, field tour, with bus, minimal travel time
  - Who? G.Peterson, B.O'Neill, Mac Smith(?)-MFA, Des Jones(?)-Tree Farm, need a mostly downstate crew for logistics, although others can call, make contacts, etc.
  - Agenda? Certainly include a PNIF component
- School Forest Issue . . . add to a larger communication plan? (*Note: the MSAF prepared and distributed a letter on the topic in 2004*)

### **MSAF Awards**

Need a new chair for 2005.

National field forester candidate suggested by B.Hasse --Karen Gardner of International Paper (Goodman Tract). Several past awards have not yet been delivered. An informal and local event might be the ticket to presenting these awards. This worked well in Newberry with Eino Saino's 50 year award.

### **Leadership Academy**

Positive comments by both D.Dickmann and J.Grossman. Don noted a conspicuous absence of information on the national website and will check on that. Michigan is prepared to send an individual to the 2005 academy, if one is held. B.Hubbard noted that the SAF Council had not eliminated Leadership Academy support. D.Howlett is vice-chair, but has participated in these events in the past and suggested we send another MSAF member.

### **Michigan Forester**

Next deadline is 4 February, but that will need to be extended.

Publication remains solvent, but more ad revenue would be helpful.

Suggestion: publish an MSAF "who's who in 2005" in the next edition.

Suggestion: promote D.Dickmann's new publication "Michigan Forest Communities", MSU Extension publication E-300.

### **Spring 2005 Statewide MSAF Conference**

Theme: Forest impacts of deer

An ad hoc U.P. planning team has met once to develop the theme and prepare a rough outline/agenda for the conference. B.Cook agreed to head the speaker selection process, with help from the U.P. planning team.

B.Cook recommended **Dr. Gary Alt** as the keynote speaker and session presenter. Dr. Alt is a nationally recognized leader in promoting an ecosystem-based approach to targeting deer population levels. His career has mostly been with the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Dr. Alt's fees and expenses may run as high as \$3000 and Cook wanted Executive Team approval before engaging Dr. Alt.

A **motion** was made by B.Hasse for the MSAF to fund Dr. Alt up to \$3000. Seconded by J.Grossman. Discussion involved Dr. Alt's perspectives and qualifications. Funding can probably come from registration fees, although this might mean an additional \$20/head with an attendance of 150 people. D.Heym emphasized the need to have a keynoter focus on Michigan, not just experience from Pennsylvania.

B.Cook also asked for direction in **expanding the conference target audiences** to include interest groups such as the media, selected legislative members, the natural resources commission, MUCC, and similar groups. The topic and high profile keynoter may draw a larger than normal audience. No motion was requested or made, but the consensus was to move in this direction.

### **Fall 2005 Statewide MSAF Conference**

Q.McNichols submitted notes from a 2004 LP Chapter meeting. Possible topics: family forests (PNIF), forest health (EAB, BBD, exotics, climate change, etc.), forest taxation.

### **Budget 2005**

The Executive Team discussed 2005 budget items using a spreadsheet prepared by Jack Pilon. Estimated revenue was \$6015 and budgeted expenses were \$7390 (with the knowledge that not all expenses will be expended). D.Dickmann will forward the proposed budget to J.Pilon. A **motion** was made by J.Ferris to accept the proposed 2005 budget, and seconded by L.Homan. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

### **Other Items**

The MSAF needs to notify national of our 2005 leadership.

#### Membership

- The MSAF has 498 members as of December, 2004 (significant downward trend).
- J.Grossman had compiled purge lists from 2001-2004 for recruitment opportunities.
- Maybe use the Spring State Conference as a recruitment tool.

State forest certification – audit scheduled by the end of September, 2005

Must add Jason Mittlestadt and Chris Burnett to Executive Team email list

D.Dickmann presented items from the national Volunteer Organizational Structure (VOS) Task Force report that requested input from State Societies and were discussed by the Executive Team. D.Dickmann will prepare comments and forward to national.

B.Cook had to leave the meeting prior to adjournment.

*These minutes prepared by B.Cook, 4 February, 2005*