

APPROVED Minutes Michigan Society of American Foresters, Executive Committee
January 9, 2009
USFS, Saint Ignace, Michigan

Attendees: Larry Leefers, Ernie Houghton, Bill Cook, Maria Janowiak, Doug Heym, Martha Sjogren, Bernie Hubbard, Jason Hartman, Tom Seablom, Jason Stephens, Bill Hasse, Glenn Moll, Jack Penegor, Jason Hartman, Don Howlett, John Hamel, Les Homan, John Pilon, Jim Ferris.

Meeting called to order about 10:10

Welcome and Introductions – proceeded smoothly
Parliamentary Procedures – handout provided by Larry

Approval of agenda

Request to approve agenda: Larry

Motion to approve: Jack Penegor

Second: Don Howlett

Passed with a chorus of ayes

Secretary's report and minutes from October, 2008: Martha Sjogren

After a brief review of the draft minutes presented by Martha Sjogren and some spelling corrections:

Motion to approve the minutes of the 10/20/08 Executive committee meeting made by: Don Howlett

Second: Jason S

Passed with a chorus of okays.

Martha also shared an update on auditing activities. She and Glenn audited the Michigan Forester account for 2007 and will send the final letter to Larry, Jack Pilon and Craig Kasmer.

Jack Pilon is giving Martha and Glenn the MSAF account information today. They will complete an audit for 2008 and distribute the results to the same individuals.

Martha also shared the results from our teller, Terry DeBlaay of the 2008 elections: Jack Penegor, State Vice Chair, Pete Squibb LP First Vice Chair, Rick Myrick, LP Second Vice Chair, and Bill Hasse UP Vice Chair.

Immediate Past Chair report: Ernie Houghton

- Sent a letter out to all purged members in December 2008 encouraging them to stick with SAF.
- Draft of bylaws is almost available. Ernie will get with John Hamel and they will definitely have it available by Spring meeting.
- HSD may be working on a new member packet.

President's comments: Bernie Hubbard

- SAF was given the opportunity to go speak before the Obama transition team. They were the only forestry organization to do so. Michael Goergen used the HSD report for the presentation.
- Bernie has been SAF President for nine days and he is receiving many invitations. He is looking forward to the challenges of the year.

- Larry shared his comment that the MSAF is quite proud to have Bernie serving as the President and honored to have him with us at our meeting. Larry encouraged Bernie to contact his friends and support system here in Michigan if we can help.

Council report: Larry presented the December 2008 District 5 Council Report by Greg Russell.

- Larry discussed the Bob and Ann Gregory Award in some detail. They are trying to raise \$100,000 to create a sustainable fund to support international foresters' attendance at the National SAF convention.
- Upcoming council meeting: Feb 21 and 22 in Bloomington, MN

Technician members: 2-year programs are going through accreditation process. There are still some details to work out since not all schools would be accredited in the same year.

Treasurer's report (MSAF Budget Worksheet, MSAF 2008 Budget Status Report, MSAF Education Fund Account): Jack Pilon

Jack pointed out that the bylaws say that the Chair needs to appoint the treasurer. Larry appointed Jack Pilon the MSAF Treasurer for 2009.

Request to approve agenda: Larry
Motion to accept: Jack Penegor
Second: Ernie
Passed with a chorus of ayes

Jack emphasized that the state meetings are important income-generators for MSAF.

Close Michigan Forester account.

Motion to close the Michigan Forester account, transfer the money to MSAF through Jack Pilon and get rid of the bulk mail permit made by Maria
Second: made but not recorded
Passed with a chorus of ayes

Discussed need for MSAF travel expenses for MI. The gist of the discussion was that the need for travel expense support is highly variable, depending upon employer support and budgets. The budget worksheet showed a line item for Michigan Bird Council Travel Support. Scott Jones said that specific line item wasn't necessary at this point. Bill Hasse made a motion to change the line item to "misc" travel support. Someone called out an amendment to make it for in-state travel only which Jim accepted. Doug suggested keep line item on bird council specific because we have had two previous committee members who needed that support. Maybe in other cases we could have a misc category.

Motion with friendly amendments made by Larry to have two line items (State meetings and Michigan Bird Council Travel Support) budgeted for \$0 each and ADD a line item for "Misc In-state travel support" and budget \$200. Amendments accepted by John Hamel and Bill Hasse
Motion passed with a chorus of ayes

Maria discussed the Spring meeting with the Canadians Institute of Forestry and the splitting of any revenue, she thinks we'll need to split with Canada.

John Hamel asked what current dues are (they are \$10) and whether and how they could be raised. I think the discussion said that bylaws would need to be reviewed and that raising dues probably needed to go to the membership for a vote.

Glenn Moll wondered if we could amend budget in mid-year.

Bill Hasse said let's add to meeting income total to \$2700 and take \$800 out of money in account to get closer to a balance.

Motion to approve budget as modified. Jack Pilon reviewed the amendments and pointed out that this would require dipping in to existing account balance. John Hamel opposed voting on a budget that isn't balanced.

Jack Pilon requested a vote on the budget.

A clear majority replied: aye

One member responded: nay

One member abstained.

Motion passed.

Later in the meeting, Jack Pilon reminded the group each student chapter needs to submit an account summary (income/expense) to him at the end of each year.

MISAF Education Fund

Jack Pilon shared the MSAF Education Fund Account report that would have been presented by Mike Elenz if he had been in attendance.

Briefly reviewed the information and discussed non-profit status. Larry Leefers asked Jack Pilon to request a more recent (than 1993) letter from National for tax-exempt status.

Motion to accept the report: John Hamel

Second: Jack Penegor

Passed with a chorus of ayes

UP Auto Tour: Glenn Moll presented a report.

Glenn shared copies of the new brochures.

Glenn and Don Howlett discussed needs for seeking additional funding in 2009.

Motion to include in the Education fund that the Auto Tour might need up to \$1000: Motion was made but maker was not recorded

Second: Les Homan

Passed with a chorus of ayes

Michigan Forester: Bill Hasse

Seems to be working as insert to The Forestry Source.

Resigning as business manager.

Jim Ferris has volunteered to take over MI Forester Business Manager role.

Bill Hasse is trying to sponsor a "Liar's Club" routine section of the Michigan Forester. Details to follow.

Bob and Ann Gregory Award: Larry Leefers

Larry asked Bill Cook to email a notification to members. Bill agreed if Larry provides.

Discussion on donations for deceased member: Larry Leefers

SAF member attend funeral/send condolences from Society

If some family sets up some memorial fund, contribute nominal amount on behalf of

Larry requested the following bring proposal to the next meeting: John Hamel/Don Howlett/Tom Seablom

Larry will explore more information on the Mac Smith.

Motion to cover student costs at last meeting. Maria Janowiak said they were covered

Motion by John Hamel that as a policy student members are not charged registration for state meetings.

Second: Tom Seablom

Passed with a chorus of ayes

HSD 2008 convention meeting: Larry Leefers

- Very interesting meeting. Both Ernie Houghton and Larry attended. An observation is that those chapters that have a two-year term for chairs play a bigger role in the HSD.
- Spring meeting will have a field trip and Maria Janowiak will submit to National SAF for an adequacy of insurance coverage. Info should be submitted 60 days in advance.

Revision of green book: Doug Heym

Doug presented the table of contents for the revised Forest Management Guidelines for Michigan, 1st draft.

He also presented a two-page Funding Ideas for same.

Draft should be ready for publication this calendar year.

Group discussed exploring option to pursue certified chain-of-custody printing.

Motion to use \$2000 from the Michigan Forest Education Fund made by Doug H

Second: Bill Cook

Numerous ayes

Two opposed

Motion passed

Clarification made that this would mean that most of the Education Fund was spent with today's commitments.

Policy and Communications Coordinator: Bill Cook

Presented MSAF Website usage graphs.

- Bill requested Executive committee members review the back page of his handout and the website itself and send him emails to identify needs for updating.

Discussed the idea of a 2009 legislative event.

- There were no objections to Bill C sharing with other groups that the MSAF would be willing to assist in some fashion if a 2009 legislative event related to forestry/natural resources.

Ohio SAF seemed interested in partnering with us, in general

Carbon/greenhouse gases is an important topic. Might be good topic for a future meeting. Encouraging 2009 chapter events and share those with students.

Policy Team: Doug Heym

- Three MSAF position statements on website: NIPF, deer, fire. All need to be reviewed. Doug will send to executive committee.
- Jack Pilon wondered about need for policy on biofuels. Bernie Hubbard said national has one. Jack Pilon and Maria Janowiak will review the national and notify Doug H if they think we should consider a Michigan position statement.
- Fire position 3/20/2002, revised and extended 5/7/2007 for five years.
- MUCC liaison—"PNIF Coalition" Three goals – Bill Cook will share with group.
- Michigan Forest Resource Alliance liaison

Science and Technology Coordinator: Joyce Angel-Ling sent a note she had no update at this time

Continuing Forestry Education and Certification: Deb Huff [not in attendance] reported through Doug Heym nothing has changed but reminds meeting planners that they need to submit agenda's well in advance for evaluation.

Canadian Institute of Forestry liaison: Les Homan

- Loss of membership is a common theme.
 - CIF 'ring' discussion on who gets rings.
 - "E-lecture" series
 - Joint meeting in Spring 2009 is the biggest topic
-
- MSU liaison - Larry Leefers spoke for Pascal Nzokou. Student memberships have been sponsored by MSU folks
 - MTU liaison – Lots of activity, historical logging demonstration in August, held conclave MTU finish 3rd, 8 students attended convention, 3 out of 4 students who interviewed were offered jobs, two students who went to the Fall meeting had good things to say, held a Christmas tree sale, informal quiz bowl with WI and MN to build skills for next conclave. Some discussion about whether student membership sponsors are needed.
 - LSSU liaison: Bernie Hubbard used to be serving in this capacity but does not at this time. There was some conversation about the fact that since the spring meeting will be held at LSSU we may get contacts then.

Editorial Board Chair: Brenda Owen wasn't able to attend

Les Homan said Brenda had some extra copies of the Michigan Forester for people to share as they wish.

Upper Peninsula Chair, Spring meeting update: Maria Janowiak

- Committee has been working hard to get ready
- Topic: Today's Forests/Tomorrow's Uses
- March 31/April 1, 2009
- Meeting will likely be held at LSSU
- Working on speakers: land tenure/ownership, insect and disease, certification, globalization, traditional fiber markets, special forest products

- Had been thinking about submitting Foresters Fund request but Maria will not in order to not limit the possibilities for the other FF requests discussed at this meeting
- Looking for recommendations for experts on US/Canada roundwood
- Shooting for \$99.99 registration fee

Already looking in to tri-meeting in Spring 2010 with WI and MN.

- Ernie Houghton and Maria are helping get started.
- Lac du Flambeau March 2-4, 2010.
- Topic: Forest Management and Recreation

Lower Peninsula Chair, fall meeting update: Jason Stephens

- Just getting started on planning.
- Will send out general call for topics.
- Possible topics: “parcelization”, debate over public support of private land management

Looking to support smaller, informal LP SAF events

- Would be good to coordinate with MSU
- Jason and Rick Myrick are look at bringing students out to a timber sale
- Doug Heym mentioned some coordination with MSU summer camp at Pigeon River would be good
- Coordination with ACF would be good too

Membership Coordinator: Amy Douglass was unable to attend.

- Awards Team: membership pins (Mike Vasievich)
- Pins were very popular at the Lansing meeting. MSAF buys the pins, Between 5 to 10 years ago we decided to buy them and that they would be handed out at the meetings. Last year there were some discussions about figuring out a broader way to distribute pins. There hasn't been a clear policy. Bernie Hubbard has suggested that we either NOT give pins any more or make sure they get to all the people. Larry Leefers wants to have this discussed when Craig Kasmer is present. John Hamel suggested publishing a list in the Michigan Forester of members that will hit those milestones and let people know that pins can be picked up at meetings or contact Craig at Hartwick Pines.

Bill Hasse brought up the SAF Fellows. He reviewed a list and is seeking recommendations for potential candidates.

John Hamel mentioned that Tom Seablom was honored last year as our Young forester, to a round of applause from the group.

Had the following teams listed in the agenda but generally agreed that these teams are no longer really in existence:

- ~~Ethics Team~~
- ~~Membership Diversity Team~~
- ~~Membership Categories Team~~
- ~~Students Mentoring Team~~
- ~~Recruiting/Reinstating Team~~
- ~~Member/Leader Training/Orientation Team~~
- ~~Nominating/Placing/Developing Team~~
- ~~Member Services Team~~
- Membership at Large – Don Howlett volunteered and was appointed by Larry Leefers

Expanding member participation: Tom Seablom

Tom raised the issue that it seems to be the same individuals participating in MSAF. Smaller meetings can be very good for pulling new people in. Coming up with brief time commitment tasks is a good way to get members involved.

Two-year term for Chair: Larry Leefers

Ernie Houghton raised the topic. There was general support for the two-year term in order to be more effective. Maybe a one-year vice chair position. Would be a small cost savings as well since leadership academy only needs to be funded every other year.

Request for a motion:

Motion to adjourn: Maria Janowiak

Second: Tom Seablom

Passed with a chorus of aye