

APPROVED Minutes Michigan Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
9 March 2010; Marinette, WI

In attendance: Glenn Moll, Bernie Hubbard, Doug Lee, Jack Penegor, John Hamel, Joyce Angel-Ling, Bill Cook, Don Howlett, Maria Janowiak, Bill Hasse, Marion True, Terry Manty, Ernie Houghton

Called to order 7:15 by Jack Penegor.

Introductions were made.

Parliamentary procedures – Jack Penegor

- We've been voting by email and Jack wonders if that is a valid procedure. No one seemed to have concerns.
- Larry Leefers had a list of voting members he put together last year.
- Normally, chairman doesn't vote unless there is a tie.
- Chair also doesn't make motions.

MSAF Secretary provided copies of the minutes of the 1/8/10 executive committee meeting (handout).

Motion to approve minutes made by Don Howlett.

Second: Glenn Moll

Passed with a chorus of ayes.

Motion to approve agenda made by John Hamel.

Second: Doug Lee

Passed with a chorus of ayes.

Archival team – Craig Kasmer was not present

Jack Penegor mentioned that at the last meeting we approved the purchase of bins. No one present was certain whether or not

MSU Department of Forestry Update –

Dan Keathley has resigned as Department Chair but will continue to serve until a replacement is found. No one present knew what the current status is.

Treasurer's Report – John Hamel covered for Jack Pilon (handout Budget Status Report).

John reviewed the revenues and expenses to date.

Motion to approve the Budget Status Report was made by Don Howlett.

Second: Doug Lee

Passed with a chorus of ayes

Council Report - Greg Russell did not attend our meeting.

Greg had sent an email note out a month ago. Bernie mentioned that Council is looking at various ways to increase revenue and build membership. One of the ideas is to give rings to graduating foresters. This is patterned after the Canadian (CIF) program. Most of the Canadians wear their rings and it is a real source of pride for them. Bernie said the executive committee responses to Greg's email was roughly as followed: MN 11-2 opposed; WI 50/50; MI 11-2 in favor. Bernie brought it up at a meeting at Stevens Point with students and they ARE interested in it. The idea would be to present the rings to students as they graduate. SAF would buy a bunch up front and then sell them to members to create a revolving fund to be able to buy them for students. John Hamel recommended that even if National doesn't do it, we consider doing it as MSAF. Cost estimate is \$20-25 for SAF. They'd be sold to members for \$50-100 and graduating SAF members would receive a ring as a gift.

Motion to support the idea of giving a universally-recognized piece of jewelry to graduating seniors in forestry programs made by Ernie Houghton.

Second: Bill Hasse (some discussion ensued)

Passed with strong support

Two members called out gentle nays

UP Auto Tour – Glenn Moll (Handout: UP Forestry Auto Tour)

Four volunteers plus Jack Penegor have stepped forward to help with the western UP sign replacement project. Don Howlett will do Delta County. Bill Hasse and Jim Ferris have also volunteered. Some are already done in Schoolcraft County. Bill Hasse suggested people could use sign replacement as a project to recruit new members. Maria wondered if we could do sign up and get it organized that way. Glenn mentioned that people could use the sign replacement project to get articles in the local newspapers to explain the project. The four volunteers can lead it. Years ago, Bill Cook prepared a spreadsheet of the members who could be contacted to help. A new membership list came out today and can be found on the National website.

Miss Dig is [allegedly] a crabby old lady, according to Bill Cook. Nevertheless, she should be called if a posthole digger is working on a new hole. The group strategized methodologies for handling bad situations if a member failed to call before digging.

Jack Penegor has the replacement signs in his storage unit. He is getting posts this Friday. Glenn will provide a guide to Jack for pre-drilling holes for the bolts. Maybe Jack and Glenn will work together to prep the poles. Jack may GPS the sign locations.

Bill Hasse remarked that he is amazed that we've had the ability to get this project started and maintain it. Glenn said he still has a concern about what people in the public think when they see the signs.

Michigan Forester – Brenda Owen was not present
Submissions for the next edition: BEFORE May 5th.

Group again voiced support for publishing with National and the high quality Brenda is producing.

Somehow the discussion of Michigan Forester morphed into a discussion of how National can handle credit cards for registration for our conferences if we wanted. Several members mentioned that might be particularly handy for Federal agency folks who seemed to have a very difficult time getting valid checks to John Hamel a few years back.

Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative –

Joyce Angel-Ling called the organizers to ask if they still wanted our \$250 to sponsor their upcoming meeting. Joyce passed around a couple of copies of their agenda which looked like pretty good topics to Joyce and showed how our logo would look on the back. Glenn Moll and Ernie Houghton both thought that it was a small amount of money for good exposure to an environmentally-minded audience. The organizers asked if we would like to specifically sponsor the forest health session. Some discussion by the group about the They asked us and we've followed up we are charter members, some potential concern that since some of the groups may be anti-forestry and aligning ourselves with them could be dicey. Bernie mentioned a recent meeting of various professional societies and thinks the future is going to be built by working with others and partnering. Don Howlett thought that since we are a charter member of the MBCI we should sponsor the session as a whole, rather than the forest health session.

Motion by John Hamel that we spend \$250 to sponsor the session as a whole.

Second by Don Howlett

Ernie Houghton made a friendly amendment to take the money from our Education Fund

Passed with a unanimous batch of ayes.

National Convention

Jack Penegor and Joyce Angel-Ling are both planning to attend in Albuquerque, NM. Bernie said it was unlikely National will have a leadership academy in August.

Education Fund – Tom Seablom was not present.

Jack Penegor had spoken to Tom and is now clear that the John Hamel is the co-signor of the Education Fund account. There was some discussion about how the account would be audited. The answer seemed to be that the MSAF treasurer would handle the audit. The group seemed to think that 60% of the raffle proceeds go to National and the remaining goes into this account

UP Chapter Update

Bill Hasse and Maria Janowiak indicated that things are pretty set for the Spring conference. 100+ were signed up last week, probably looking at 125+. More WI folks are signed up than MI. Proceeds will be split proportionally between the two chapters. We have lots of exhibitors. Raffle is coming together. Tom Seablom had given Maria some items, as have several other individuals. Raffles will be during breaks. Maria

mentioned the earlier emails that traveled around about making a request for raffle items.

LP Chapter Update –

Pete Squibb called Terry today. Said he had gotten back late he has some things and some decisions that need to be made that will be discussed at tomorrow's LP meeting.

MUCC liaison –

Jack Penegor hoped that we would get an article in their magazine about UP auto tour.

PNIF Coalition –

Bill Cook reported that they are working out.

Membership –

Amy Douglass sent an email to Jack Penegor recently of delinquent members. Maria mentioned that she had a nicely worded email reminder she could share. Ernie suggested Jack should share the list with the LP/UP chapter chairs and let them decide how to handle it.

Executive committee list for the year –

Martha volunteered to create one and pass it around for review. Jack Penegor needs to review bylaws and minutes from 2009 to identify things that no longer work with the new bylaws in place before he develops the next executive committee meeting agenda.

Council Update – Bernie Hubbard

SAF is looking at doing something in Haiti. Mike Goergen is calling it something like reforestation in Haiti. Less than 2% of Haiti is forested. Bernie has concerns. Other groups have gone in and tried to help with the deforestation issues. We have the expertise to plant the trees but some of the issues are really societal/cultural issues. National has applied for a grant to the Clinton Foundation and may end up receiving \$300,000- 1,000,000. SAF has some expertise in its membership. SAF has a solar oven program but that would be changing the culture. Bernie's been the one asking the hard questions. Don Howlett encouraged SAF to work closely with USAID/USFS IF. Bernie described an example where he thought a project might be successful if there was a large landowner who supported a reforestation project and was able to control removal of trees for cooking wood. SAF is good at technical solutions but most of the biggest challenges are social. A Washington Post reporter said an SAF project in Haiti would be of great interest. International is in our mission statement. Good idea but will be challenging.

Since the Wild Acre sale didn't go through, SAF now has a backlog of maintenance work that had not been one over the last few years. And DC is an expensive place. As an example, they have an estimate of \$40K to paint the building. They decided to take some money out of a fund to pay for painting the building. They are considering fund raisers like paving the driveway with bricks that people could have their name put on if they donate money.

*Motion to adjourn made by John Hamel.
Seconded rather loudly by Maria Janowiak.
Passed with a rousing chorus of ayes.*

Meeting adjourned at 9:14

John Grosman – present a proposal for some leadership development. Handout provided. He was a longtime member of WI state committee. John worked for WDNR, as a training officer for the last 15 years. He was state SAF chair in 1997. At that time they would send their chairs to the National leadership academy. Met several of the MSAF chairs and they talked about developing a regional program modeled after the national leadership academy. They talked about maintaining a network but they never did that follow-up. He also worked in USFS S&P in wildland fire training. John mentioned that in the fire area, leadership development has been identified as a concern in some of the wildfire tragedies that have occurred.

John described a training technique that has been developed called the “staff ride”. One of these has been developed for the Mann Gulch fire. Participants read, receive an orientation, and review the site in the field. They trace the linear pathway. Then the group integrates to discuss why you participated and what you’ve learned. Mack Lake is the latest “staff ride” that’s been developed.

John is interested in reconnecting with his leadership group from the late 1990s and soliciting ideas from current Chapter leadership about what kinds of training would be needed for emergent leaders NOW and making leadership training opportunities available. High reliability organizational design is being looked at in the wildland fire community.

Maria said that doing this regionally vs. nationally might allow more people to participate. Maybe a monthly webinar could be a model to use.