

Michigan Chapter SAF
Executive Team meeting, approved
Fall MSAF meeting, McGuire's Resort
12 October 2011

Present: Doug Lee, Bill Cook, Don Howlett, Glenn Moll, Martha Sjogren, Ernie Houghton, Bernie Hubbard, John Hamel, Nancy Garlock, Georgia Peterson, Laurie Marzolo, Doug Heym, Joyce Angel, Bill Rockwell

Joyce Angel called the meeting to order at 6:20pm.

- 1) The anti-trust statement was agreed upon among those present, even though no one has a print copy of it.
- 2) There were no additions to the agenda.
- 3) Secretary's Report: Everyone hoped Jack Pilon was okay after he passed out. Georgia Peterson asked to include the reason for the brick purchase from national: It is a paver whose proceeds are used to help remodel the national headquarters. Laurie Marzolo moved, and Don Howlett seconded, to approve the Secretary Report with that suggested change (passed).
- 4) Treasurer's Report: Joyce Angel shared the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Jack Pilon. An internal audit was conducted by Ada Takacs and Josh Wall. No irregularities were found. Don Howlett moved, and Doug Lee seconded, to accept the Treasurer's Report (passed).
- 5) Education Fund Report: There are five months left of rental funds for the billboard in the education fund. Bill Cook provided a more detailed description of the billboard's location on I-75 (on east side of the road facing north, located north of Vanderbilt exit). John Hamel moved, and Terry Manty seconded, to accept the Education Fund Report (passed).
- 6) Council Report: Ernie Houghton opted to save the Council Report for the member meeting scheduled for October 13 since there were no actions requested for it.
- 7) Membership Report: Joyce Angel shared the report on behalf of Amy Douglass. There is a new tiered membership structure that will be put in place as of 2012 (Ernie Houghton will discuss in greater detail tomorrow [October 13] during the membership meeting). Credits are being offered to members who participate in the "Partnership for Better Forests" program. The delinquent member lists were circulated. The Michigan Society did not have the chance to pursue delinquent members for 2011, because membership rosters from the national office were not available for most of the summer. Joyce Angel encouraged the team to contact anyone on the list that they may know to encourage renewal. Although there is apparently a dues discount for recruiting new members, this information could not be found on the national website.
- 8) LP Chapter Report: Georgia Peterson reported that registration for this fall's meeting is low. The MDNR did not approve its staff to attend until the first week of October,

which may have contributed to the low numbers. Doug Lee provided copies of three very appreciative letters from teachers who attended the MFA-sponsored Teacher Workshop conducted by Trees for Tomorrow (Ralph A MacMullen Center in early August). MSAF sponsored three teachers for the program, and MFA is hoping to host it again in 2012. Doug Lee also reported that the Lower Peninsula Chapter summer tour of past burn sites in the Grayling area was well done and well attended (about 20 participants). A special thank you goes to Jack Pilon for organizing the event (not the fires).

- 9) Upper Peninsula Chapter Report: Terry Manty reported that the Legislative Day initiated by US Representative Benishek's office was well received. The event will be covered in the next Forestry Source. There is one candidate for UP Vice Chair, and they are looking for another so that the election can be competitive (It is too late to provide the names for ballots that could have been distributed by the national office). They are considering BMPs as a featured topic for the spring 2012 meeting, and that it will likely be held later in the spring so that field sessions/demonstrations can be part of it.
- 10) Student Chapters Report: None available, but Georgia Petersen mentioned that Larry Leefers is now the faculty advisor for MSU's Forestry Club.
- 11) Other committee reports: Laurie Marzolo asked if there was anything of note related to science & technology. Doug Lee suggested working with program committees on relevant topics. Perhaps there could be a monthly tech blurb? Consider linking with the national Forest Science & Technology Board. Laurie Marzolo will be looking into a forestry tour in Europe to be held in 2-3 years.
- 12) Old Business:
 - a. The new Green Book is in print. 400 copies are available for distribution to allow for one more review. After the final corrections are made, about 4,600 more copies will be printed.
 - b. Brenda Owen is trying out new freeware for publishing purposes, although there was a line item in the state budget for a new software purchase. Suggestion is to still make that purchase, although it may not be as expensive as anticipated. Three Michigan Forester issues were printed in 2011, and three are planned for 2012. The deadlines for submissions are January 9, May 9, and September 7. Production costs are believed to be steady, but will confirm this before the next publishing deadline in 2012.
 - c. The Heartland Academy (Southern Illinois) was a good experience. Eleven attended from Michigan, which was by far the largest and coolest group.
 - d. There are several open positions that need to be filled. Sara Wall is the LP Vice-Chair for 2012, but we still need candidates for Vice-Chair 2013 election. John Hamel is running for State Vice-Chair, but others may still be nominated as well. It was pointed out that the immediate past chair coordinates nominations for this position, which at this time is Jack Penegor. Jim Ferris agreed to take over (from Deb Huff) as CFE Coordinator. The suggestion was

to suspend the business manager position for the Michigan Forester. Don Howlett moved, and Bill Cook seconded, to have Jim Ferris serve as both if he's willing.

- e. Billboard update: The billboard was created and rented thanks to a collective effort by multiple forestry interests. It costs \$400 per month to maintain, and has been up since July. The billboard says "Forestry isn't magic, but the results are." Few in the room have actually seen it, possibly because there is construction along that segment of I-75 at this time. Regardless, 11,000 cars pass along that segment each day. Bill Cook reported that hits on the miforestpathways.net website have jumped since July, but not sure if the sign is responsible. The committee will need to revisit the topic in January to consider whether to continue funding this effort, and if so, whether a new design should be developed. He will talk with the billboard owner to see if the board across the road (west side) could be used instead—though it would still face north.
- f. Ties to the Land: Joyce Angel expressed an interest in hosting one of these family forest succession sessions in the northern LP, perhaps working with Russ Kidd (MSUE). The companion need for this effort would be a list of attorneys and accountants who are willing to work with families to keep the land intact. Georgia Peterson will forward the flyer for the upcoming session in Traverse City to Joyce Angel.
- g. Auto tour: Glenn Moll reports that there are 63 signs that need to go up in the western UP. Don Howlett volunteered to help install them in the central UP. Others have previously volunteered for the western area, but need to follow up with this. Josh Wall has ideas for the companion brochure. Glenn is ultimately concerned about the overall impact of this project, given the costs associated with more brochure printings and upkeep of the signs. The cost of printing more brochures is about \$3,500—where will that money come from? John Hamel strongly suggested that this should be discussed further at the UP Chapter meeting. The group agreed that there needs to be a budget outlined for the education fund (like the MSAF budget) so there is an awareness of what needs to be covered. John Hamel moved, seconded by Don Howlett, that Jack Pilon and Josh Wall be asked to develop the education fund budget, with Don Howlett offering a friendly amendment to identify those things already mentioned, such as the "green book," scholarships, brochures, billboard, etc. (passed).

13)New Business:

- a. National SAF is looking for raffle support and at least one item from each state. There is \$100 in the current budget for this. What would be economically feasible to transfer to Hawai'i that would represent Michigan? Members are asked to provide suggestions. This will be discussed further at the membership meeting.

- b. National SAF is also interested in receiving “success stories” from each state—Michigan’s will likely be the teacher workshop and Benishek legislative tour.
- c. Sara Wall would like to propose purchasing a screening license (\$150) to host the “Green Fire” video statewide. She is willing to take the lead in setting this up. This will also be discussed at the membership meeting.
- d. The recent dismissal of Cara Boucher as DNR State Forester was discussed. Some suggested writing a letter to Rodney Stokes encouraging the newly appointed forester to have a forestry background. Others suggested waiting until there is a clearer understanding of the new role of the DNR State Forester and the Timber Advisory Committee before crafting a position statement. Ultimately the concern is—in part—that components of forestry are getting fragmented at the state level. No motion was brought to the floor at this time, but Bill Rockwell and Bernie Hubbard offered to discuss the options.
- e. There is a forestry policy conference scheduled for Oct 17 in Rhinelander, WI that is being convened by US Representative Sean Duffy from that state. Michigan has been encouraged to attend. The main topic is access to federal forest land.

Laurie Marzolo moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Don Howlett. Adjourned at 9:24pm.