



Michigan Society of American Foresters

**Michigan SAF Executive Team
Escanaba, Michigan
Hereford and Hops Restaurant
Wednesday, March 19, 2014**

Attendance: Joyce Angel, Tara Bal, Bill Cook, Jason Darling, Amy Douglass, Jim Ferris, Bill Hasse, Chris Hohnholt, Ernie Houghton, Don Howlett, Bernie Hubbard, Tori Irving, Doug Lee, Glenn Moll, Lisa Parker, Jack Penegor, Georgia Peterson, Andy Van Dyke

6:35pm – Bernie Hubbard called the meeting to order.

1. Anti-Trust Statement – Reminder that no one will discuss timber prices.
Bernie Hubbard reminded us that we are not allowed to discuss timber prices.

2. Secretary's Report, Approval of last meeting minutes – Lisa Parker

Lisa noted that there were two sets of Executive Team meeting minutes for approval as she distributed copies of said minutes to the team:
October 02, 2013 at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City, Michigan and
February 05, 2014 at Audie's Restaurant in Mackinaw City, Michigan.
Edits were taken.

Jack Penegor made the motion to approve both sets of minutes as edited.

Second: Chris Hohnholt.

Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.

3. Treasurer's Report – Lee Mueller

Bernie Hubbard reported that Lee Mueller was not able to join us and that he did not have copies of the Treasurer's Report for us all. Bernie remarked that the UP auto tour monies and the Fall Conference overage were sent to Chris Hohnholt at Michigan Technical University to clear up the overpayment made by Terry Sharik before the Fall Conference. In response to a question by Ernie Houghton about the award plaques expense, Bernie noted that funds in the amount of \$330.72 on the Awards line item showed disbursed. He also informed us that National had sent almost half of the annual dues payments and that the remainder will trickle in through the year. Also, we have so far spent just over \$1,100.00. Bernie stated that he would not ask for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as he had been unable to present the report.

6:45pm – Bernie Hubbard adjourned the meeting for the dinner break.

7:20pm – Bernie Hubbard resumed the meeting.

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4. Education Fund Report – Chad Fate

Bernie Hubbard reported that Chad Fate couldn't be here but had sent an email that stated nothing had changed from Wednesday February 05, 2014. Again, Bernie said that no motion to approve was indicated in this instance.

5. Council Report/Presentation – Gary Vander Wyst, District V Representative

Bernie Hubbard reported that Gary Vander Wyst was planning on attending the meeting and Spring Conference but that the weather had not cooperated and so he would not be joining us. Gary had emailed a report and Bernie brought a copy that will be attached. The following points were distilled from this report:

a. the National Council will be meeting in Alexandria, VA from March 27 - 30 for the purpose of interviewing and selection of the Society of American Foresters Chief Executive Officer from the three final candidates.

b. Gary emphasized the opportunities provided by the upcoming Heartland Leadership Academy, composed of Districts V and IX.

c. for the first time in five years, the Council approved a balanced budget for 2014.

d. Council created the Magic Force Task Group and temporarily shifted the charters of the following committees: Communication, Cultural Diversity and Leadership Develop(ment), to work together with HSD during 2014.

e. Gary stressed that "it is critical that the membership assist in disseminating information of the SAF Brand: Thriving Forest. Essential Resources. Strong Communication."

District V Council Representative Gary Vander Wyst closed by inviting the members to contact him by phone or email with any questions or comments and he would respond as quickly as possible.

The fifth item (e) created some discussion by the Executive Team as to whether the last term was "Strong Communication or Strong Community". Secretary was able to confirm "Strong Community" as the correct phrase.

Additional discussion took place between LP Chair Jason Darling, and State Chair Bernie Hubbard on the subject of inviting the District V Council Representative and the SAF President to the MSAF Fall Conference. It was decided that Jason, Bernie and Ernie Houghton (past District V Council Representative) would stay in contact to facilitate the task of encouraging either or both persons to attend and perhaps give a presentation as part of the conference, or during the evening meal.

6. LP Chapter Report - Jason Darling

Jason Darling reported that the Lower Peninsula Chapter of MSAF By-Laws were finally digitized. He stated that they need some updating but took the position that this should wait until National updates theirs after the new incorporation and reorganization takes place. Regarding the LP Secretary/Treasurer position there is one able and

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willing candidate, Ben Stein. For the Vice-Chair position there are two able candidates, Tricia St. Pierre and Jocelyn Mahone. He was hoping to have those candidates help with the organization of the Fall Conference and asked if he could do that without having elections as his aim would be providing those candidates with the experience of organizing the meeting. It was proclaimed that they can help without having a title, no problem.

7. UP Chapter Report - Andy Van Dyke

Andy Van Dyke reported that there was not a whole lot of new news as he has been real busy planning the spring conference program for tomorrow. Chris Hohnholt has guaranteed that there will be a profit of \$1500.00 or he will make up the difference – Andy says he is fairly sure that there will be a profit. The chapter is looking for a summer event topic to have a meeting in UP.

UP Chapter would like to split Secretary/Treasurer position into two as that will allow another body to assist with the work. They are looking forward to the conference...there will be 2 buses – 55 passenger/47 passenger -- 1 bus would save costs so they will take a head count to see who is planning to attend the field portion. Some field stops needed to be cancelled due to weather, there is too much snow. Chris Hohnholt mentioned they have a unique problem as eighteen students have registered, but that it is a good problem to have.

There followed member discussion about who paid for student rooms and registration.

8. Other committee reports:

a. Communications – Bill Cook

Bill Cook quipped “shall I re-communicate the communications?!?”

Bernie Hubbard initiated a discussion when he asked the Communication Seat if he had an idea of who was being reached or not reached by electronic communications, perhaps members who don't receive and non-members who do? Bill responded that many recipients are not MSAF members and some are not even foresters. He stated that he holds a more current and accurate email contact list than National as no one goes on the list-serve unless they have requested it and that those recipients update him with valid addresses so as to keep in the loop. He maintains two lists, an Upper and Lower Peninsula, with some 375 contacts total. In response to Bernie's question of “how does someone get on the list”, Bill answered “word of mouth”.

Bernie's concern was that there seemed to be a correlation with digital only communications and a drop in conference registrations. Chris Hohnholt volunteered that he mailed invites out to those members on the National list that did not have email addresses. Bill mentioned a rough cost for this at \$1.00 each. Chris suggested that if National kept birthdays, MSAF could separate their communication method by age, snail & email. Bill felt that there were other factors at work as to who used e-registration



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versus paper. Bernie stated that we are not picking up the new members. Chris and Bernie felt that hard copies should be sent to the entire member roster.

Tori Irving asked if new members get a welcome packet? Glenn Moll answered that no, that does not happen but he felt that members would have to have their head in the sand to not know about the Spring and Fall Conferences.

Jason Darling stated that the Lower Peninsula Chapter will do a hard copy mailing for the upcoming Fall Conference.

It was discovered that no one except Bill has this extensive email list and members felt that there should be a back-up in the 'vault'. Bill mentioned that he compares the National membership rolls with his list-serve and those who do not appear on his list receive a message from him, inviting them to be included in the communication emails. Glenn Moll asked if there are any potential conference attendees from the Bill Cook communications list that are not on Bernie Hubbard's membership rolls. Amy Douglass asked to be placed on the list, especially as she is the Membership Seat on the Executive Team.

Ernie Houghton stated that there were a few new Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Forest Resources Division employees that were now new members and that the MSAF information was placed into their new hire folders. It was discovered that National does not notify Amy as Membership Seat when new MSAF members were added and that we need to have that happen electronically. Bernie will explore the National procedure for information sharing.

9. Old Business:

a. Forester / Surveyor Update – Bernie Hubbard

Bernie informed us that there seems to be a disconnect between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the broader forestry community at large on the issue of running timber boundaries. (At this point we should all be aware of the debate around the issue of foresters running timber boundary lines, and the difference between this and running property lines – LDP). MDNR management is saying that this is not an issue for them, whereas due to the legal challenges brought forth by the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors (MSPS), it holds some import for the rest of us.

Brenda Owen, Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Timbermen and MSAF member is the point person in this arena. She has submitted an update of the situation dated March 18, 2014. Key points include:

i. a successful meeting was held between Brenda Owen, Paul Drysdale (Association of Consulting Foresters, Michigan Chapter Chair) and the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors in February at which they (MSPS) “acknowledged the need for common sense in the issue of who runs lines between two corners and who does not”.

ii. “hot button” issues MSPS has with foresters include advertising running property lines as a service and setting corners

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iii. all sides agree “that the next logical step is to update the occupational code for foresters in Michigan”. There is a core-working group to develop the language that is needed for the update and Bernie Hubbard is serving on this group. “We should be able to successfully introduce a bill...in early winter 2014/2015.”

iv. MSPS will be formally requested to update their occupational code to conform with the other 49 states, (Michigan is sole exception) by the inclusion of the clause “items that are not to be included as activities within the definition of the practice of surveying”.

Jim Ferris asked “should we make a motion?”

Tori Irving said “I think we should have a position statement.”

Jim Ferris made a motion to take a position statement on the foresters responsibilities between property lines and timber cutting boundaries...

Second: Tori Irving

Discussion occurred on the motion.

Ernie Houghton proposed an amendment to the motion that it include mapping.

Jim Ferris accepted the amendment.

Jim Ferris clarified his motion thusly: MSAF should develop a position statement addressing the role of foresters in establishing timber cutting boundaries, property boundaries, and mapping.

Second: Tori Irving

Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.

b. Michigan Forester Timeline – Tori Irving

Tori Irving reported that she had been considering the possibility that the Michigan Forester should increase to four issues a year as there are no page restrictions in the digital format and she certainly has enough material. The concerns include the consulting foresters advertising, and a price increase to include the additional issue.

She has also been thinking that although many MDNR foresters are not MSAF members yet, she proposed that we should distribute the newsletter as a way to get our word out there. Bernie Hubbard stated that it would be O.K. with MSAF if it is sent to non-members.

The conclusion reached was that it would be up to Tori if she wanted to take on an extra issue annually but that perhaps the advertisers should be surveyed to see if there would be interest in placing one more ad.

Bill Cook brought up increasing the distribution to include Bill Botti’s organization, Michigan Forests Association as those members are the target audience for our

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consulting forester advertisements. He stated that it could be as simple as a link to MSAF newsletter in the MFA newsletter, Leaves.

c. Leadership Academy – Bernie Hubbard

Bernie reported on the Heartland Leadership Academy 2014. It will be held in southeast Iowa at the Honey Creek Resort State Park. MSAF did not yet have any nominations for attendees but must have five by March 28, 2014. The goal was to get at least 5 persons from each of the states within the unit. The catch with this is money – there is an expense to participants as they would need time off from work and need pay for their own travel. Ernie Houghton stated that he thought those persons being considered for the vacant LP Chapter positions should be on the nomination list.

d. Auto Tour – Glenn Moll / Don Howlett

i. Auto Tour Brochure – Glenn Moll

Glenn Moll presented a document “Auto Tour Brochure Printing Quotes – 9th Printing” that laid out his findings regarding the printing, storage and shipping costs for the brochure. He stated that he had a concern regarding the certification of the paper as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative had sponsored the brochure as well as Longyear who is Forest Stewardship Council certified. Member discussion followed that if we didn’t advertise either SFI or FSC then there would be no conflict. MSAF wants to use certified paper as it is the right thing to do. It was suggested that we use the printer who was certified both ways.

A motion was made by Jack Penegor to use F.P. Horak, of Bay City and say “printed on certified paper”.

Second: Tori Irving

Discussion:

Members felt it was important to be specific.

A friendly amendment was made by Bill Cook to empower Glenn Moll to allow FSC instead of generic certified labeling.

Second: Joyce Angel

Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.

Glenn stated that he would allow for shipping and storage and keep the job under budget.

ii. Auto Tour App - Don Howlett

Don Howlett reported that Michigan Technical University has agreed to host app on their servers and will create IOS based app and host it as well. The professor at Northern Michigan University will retire and has handed the project over to a student, whom he wanted to supply with a stipend, something between \$200.00 and \$500.00.

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Don felt \$300.00 would be adequate as there was only some 3% of the app to complete. The student will be graduating this year and the monies would seem to provide some incentive to finish the work.

As this student is not IOS certified, we are out of luck there, but after the Android app is on the server he felt we could find an IOS developer and that National SAF could probably fund this part of the project with grant monies.

After some discussion on Quick Response (QR) codes it was understood that they are universal and do not need to be specific to the device.

A motion was made to spend \$300.00 to get it done by April 20, 2014 or as negotiated by Don Howlett.

Second: Andy Van Dyke

Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.

10. New Business

a. Fall Conference - Jason Darling

Jason Darling reported that he and Dave Neumann have accomplished quite a bit regarding the composition and organization of the Fall Conference. The plan is still to pick up where the Spring Conference left off. The focus will be on regeneration issues in Red Pine and in Northern Hardwood Stands impacted by Emerald Ash Borer and Beech Bark Disease. The MDNR is motivated to be heavily involved and partly due to that involvement the target audience is primarily new foresters such as those employed by the Conservation Districts and MDNR. This may result in a review for those with more experience.

Discussion of dates followed with the decision taken to shoot for early September and look at the week of the 8th and the week of the 15th for facility availability.

b. Future Conference and other Meetings Planning / Scheduling

i. Strategic Planning Committee

Bernie Hubbard began by reminding us that himself, Doug Heym, Georgia Peterson and Lee Mueller formed the core of a Strategic Planning Committee, as decided at the Executive Team meeting on February 05, 2014. There followed discussion around the state chapters, Upper & Lower, with the statement made that participation is difficult in the LP and the suggestion offered that maybe it is not a numbers thing.

Numerous questions were asked:

is a day-long planning meeting something that would make sense? in the summer? when? what dates? if there are too many summer conflicts perhaps a retreat day of the executive team, meeting the day before the conference would suffice? would the topic be substitutive? are the notes and minutes from the last five-year strategic planning session available? the plan itself?

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Bernie answered that the committee would organize the meeting and that dates could be considered via email.

ii. Future Conference Planning/Scheduling

Bernie Hubbard stated that he thinks we should be planning farther ahead, for example, Wisconsin is organizing two-years out already.

Discussion followed: This has been tried before and didn't get too far. We need to focus our attention on leaders and filling positions. Would this be a permanent planning committee? Experience in planning would be more efficient as those persons would know what would need to be done. Long term planning would mean giving up flexibility. There are benefits to an ad hoc planning committee in that those who aren't necessarily involved in MSAF can be drawn in as their talents or specialties are needed.

Bernie stated that Joyce Angel will head up the Conference Planning Committee.

c. Awards and Nominations

Bernie Hubbard reported that we as a society need to be proactive and nominate for these state and national awards.

It was suggested that the Michigan Forester newsletter could publish a schedule of awards and nomination due dates and place it in each issue to let it serve as a reminder.

A motion was made to adjourn by Jack Penegor.

Second: Jason Darling

Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.

10:20pm Bernie Hubbard adjourned the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS FORTHCOMING:

SAF District V Council Report – Gary Vander Wyst

Update – Forester Occupational Code/Surveyor Issue – Brenda Owen

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