



Michigan Society of American Foresters

**Michigan SAF Executive Team
The Loft at Bay Harbor
Petoskey, MI
Wednesday, October 15, 2014**

Attendance: Joyce Angel, Tara Bal, Bill Cook, Jason Darling, Amy Douglass, Paul Drysdale, Chad Fate, Jim Ferris, Doug Heym, Chris Hohnholt, Don Howlett, Bernie Hubbard, Doug Lee, Lisa Parker, Jack Penegor, Georgia Peterson, Tricia St. Pierre, Martha Sjogren, Andy Van Dyke.

MSU Student Chapter Representatives: Hilary Bartzen, Jackie Bratkowski, Brian Zimmerman.

6:30pm – Bernie Hubbard called the meeting to order.

1. Anti-Trust Statement – Bernie Hubbard

Bernie reminded us that we are not allowed to discuss timber prices.

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

Lisa submitted for approval the Wednesday, March 19, 2014 Executive Team meeting minutes held in Escanaba, MI at the Hereford and Hops Restaurant.

Chad Fate made the motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: Don Howlett

Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.

3. Treasurer's Report – Bernie Hubbard for Lee Mueller

Bernie reviewed the report submitted by Lee Mueller digitally as Lee was unable to attend.

Don Howlett made the motion to accept the report.

Second: Chris Hohnholt

Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.

4. Education Fund Report – Chad Fate

Chad updated us on the education fund balance sheet. He asked us to discuss the question of student attendance at the MSAF conferences in relation to the National SAF 'Foresters Fund' & 'Education Fund'. Specifically he asked if we still want to donate two-thirds of the raffle ticket sales to the National SAF Education Fund, or ask National for a Foresters Fund \$1,000.00 grant for both the spring and fall conferences to allow subsidy of student participation. Discussion followed with no action taken.

Responsible stewardship of our forests while meeting the vital needs of society.



Michigan Society of American Foresters

Doug Heym made the motion to accept the report.

Second: Jason Darling

Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.

At this point Bernie asked if there were any New Business additions for the meeting agenda.

Jason Darling added the topic of Strategic Planning.

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

Bernie reported that Gary Vander Wyst will be in attendance at the conference and will present his report at the MSAF Business Meeting held Thursday, October 16, 2014.

6. LP Chapter Report – Jason Darling

Jason reported that the conference planning process had gone well. Bay Harbor here in Petoskey turned out to be cheaper, price wise, for base room rates and the Bus Tour rates are on budget. He thanked Joyce Angel as being a great help in organizing the tour. The organizers had experienced some communication issues and Jason asked if access to the MSAF list-serve couldn't be expanded to ensure fluid communications, especially when the List Master is unavailable.

Discussion followed on the secretary's responsibilities as administrative assistant to the organization and the suggestion was made that perhaps that position (Secretary) would be suitable as a backup to the Communications Chair for contact information.

Georgia mentioned that this conference drew 96 participants! She also brought up the need for coordination between the national and state SAF offices. Apparently there had been payment glitches and registration information was delayed from the National SAF office.

7. UP Chapter Report – Andy Van Dyke

Andy reported that the MSAF Spring 2014 Conference was a success to the tune of \$1,708.57. He noted that next time he would use an air horn to keep speakers informed of their time limits because there is a tight schedule to keep. He also reported on the success of the Michigan Technological University's (MTU) celebration of the Ford Forestry Center's 60th anniversary and MTU alumni reunion.

Discussion was held on the MSAF UP chapter's decision to split the 'Secretary/Treasurer' position, currently held by a single individual. The by-laws will be consulted for proper procedures to change position descriptions and methods by which to change the by-laws themselves, if necessary.

Responsible stewardship of our forests while meeting the vital needs of society.



Michigan Society of American Foresters

8. Communications Committee – Bill Cook

Bill reported that there was not much to report. He asked that those who want to help handle the website and email lists, to please involve themselves.

Bernie commended Bill on having done an excellent job handling the Heartland Leadership Academy communications and getting the information out, the result was a very successful academy.

9. Other committee reports: Policy, Membership, Awards

Doug Heym – Policy Chair: Doug reported on the ‘bat issue’ as The US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) is considering listing all bats as endangered species. This would affect Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio, and these state SAF chapters have gotten involved. Rules might include: no logging during mating season and following Best Management Practices. At this time it is business as usual. Bernie asked Doug to stay informed and involved, especially as possible ramifications may include a harvest moratorium from April to August.

Amy Douglass – Membership Chair: Amy said we still have members, even though dues have increased. At this time our state chapter has some 470 ‘true paying members’ although there is some fluctuation due to student memberships.

Craig Kasmer – Awards Chair: Bill Cook reported for Craig, noting that he is always looking for nominations and would appreciate some involvement from the members.

10. Old Business:

a. Michigan Forester Timeline – Tori Irving

Bernie reported that Tori was unable to join us but that she hopes to attend tomorrow. Tara Bal added that Tori has created a MSAF FaceBook page and that we should all make sure to ‘like’ it. Also, there are three Michigan Forester magazine issues planned for 2015.

b. Leadership Academy – Bernie Hubbard

Bernie noted that Lisa Parker was an attendee. Lisa said she got a great deal of benefit from the experience. Tara seconded Lisa’s impressions. Tricia St. Pierre also attended and reported that she hadn’t known what to expect but felt privileged to attend.

Bernie said that the friendships he made at the academy last forever, relating that he was a participant in 1988, met Dave Walters, our current National SAF President, and they have been close friends ever since.

c. Auto Tour – Glen Moll/Don Howlett

Jack Penegor reported that the auto tour signs are still in his garage since it was one of his busiest summers. He reported that Glenn had suggested that we go to a smaller brochure that would simply highlight the ‘app’, rather than doing a full-fledged

Responsible stewardship of our forests while meeting the vital needs of society.



Michigan Society of American Foresters

brochure. The brochure as proposed in January and March has not yet been printed, therefore it may be best to print an abbreviated version that highlights the QR and 'app' access.

Don Howlett reported that the brochure PDF is available for download off the MSAF website. Also, regarding the 'app', the professor who was originally designing the 'app' has since retired. He was able to find help from a Bay College professor who agreed to complete this task for us but that he was unable to speak with her prior to the meeting. It may be that this will be finished by the end of October.

Discussion followed on the wisdom of continuing to spend money on this project and the need to make sure 'app updates' are funded in the future. The point was made that it would be unlikely that permits would be issued for the sign installation in the future, therefore there is incentive to install and maintain those that are in place. There was consensus among the assembled group as to the value of the program. It was suggested that the Strategic Plan should address Outreach & Education, which would include the Auto Tour Program. It was agreed to table further discussion on the issue until the Strategic Planning Session at the beginning of 2015.

11. New Business

a. Spring Conference – Tara Bal & Andy Van Dyke

Discussion on this topic included the following: MSAF should make an attempt to choose topics & organize with a longer lead time, perhaps 18 months ahead; joint meeting with Wisconsin SAF; possible Bat listing; forester recruitment by government & industry; bringing industry to the table to uncover their needs over next decade; perhaps instead of an informational conference, organize a networking event, include loggers, anything forest/forest products related, biomaterials; employment and education; bring Michigan Association of Timbermen (MAT) and Michigan Association of Consulting Foresters together with MSAF.

8:00pm Bernie – adjourn for dinner

8:30pm Bernie – reconvene

b. Forester Registration – Bernie Hubbard, Paul Drysdale

Bernie gave us a brief history of the State of Michigan congressional bill to remove the Registration of Foresters as a profession from the State Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). Soon after the Fall MSAF conference, when the forestry community was under the impression that the bill was 'dead' and no further action would take place that year, the bill passed! It then moved to Governor Snyder's desk. Bernie recapped the effort put forth by Bill Botti, Bill Cook, Paul Drysdale, Gerald Grossman, and Mark Janke, among others, which had included testimony before committee and other lobbying efforts over the past year. These efforts increased at the

Responsible stewardship of our forests while meeting the vital needs of society.



Michigan Society of American Foresters

'final hour' and Governor Snyder effectively vetoed the legislation by sending the bill back without his signature.

Paul reported that in the letter Gov. Snyder tasks Bill O'Neill, Chief, MDNR Forest Resources Division with leading the process to make the "Forester Registration" better. The goal is to forward and strengthen the profession as a whole. One of the next steps was to be a meeting with various stakeholders such as the Michigan Association of Consulting Foresters (MACF), Michigan Society of American Foresters (MSAF), Michigan Association of Timbermen (MAT), Michigan Forest Products Council (MFPC) and Michigan Forest Association (MFA), whom they hoped would all have a few representatives at the table.

Goals include: improving the definition of 'forester'; setting minimum criteria on 'continuing education credits'; delineating a forester's responsibilities on such topics as mapping and contracts; and ensuring that the language is updated and technology is included. They intend to look at the minimum criteria of the MACF and SAF for accreditation as well as other states' licensing requirements.

Discussion followed on the shape Michigan's Forester Registration may take.

c. Summer Strategic planning meeting – Georgia Peterson

Georgia reported that the summer meeting did not take place but really needs to happen.

Discussion followed as to how best to organize the meeting, who needs to be at the table, how to use the results of the survey. It was decided that meeting should take place before the Executive Team meeting, generally held during the first of year and that a 'doodle poll' would be sent out to determine the best day or two to schedule said meeting.

d. Awards - Nominations – Bernie Hubbard

Bernie reported that the last few years MSAF has been weak in nominating members for the various National SAF awards such as: Young Forester, Field Forester, Retired Forester, and Fellow.

Discussion followed and it was determined that perhaps the awards and their general requirements were not well known among the general membership. It was suggested that announcements should be made during the raffle and at other times during the conference.

e. Western CAC rep – Bernie Hubbard...

Bernie reported on the Michigan's western UP citizens' advisory committee (CAC) nominations.

Discussion followed among the members, salient comments include: how effective has the CAC been in actually guiding the MDNR; Eastern UP CAC has been

Responsible stewardship of our forests while meeting the vital needs of society.



Michigan Society of American Foresters

good at getting along and being effective; the current MSAF member is leaving the W UP CAC as he has served a long time.

Bernie stated that the experience is good and that he felt the input proffered was valued. At one time there were 4 MSAF members on the E UP CAC. He suggested that persons should be recruited by Michigan Technological University.

f. MSAF Involvement on Policy Issues with Partners – Bernie Hubbard

Bernie reported that as MSAF Chair he feels that as a society MSAF should take a more active role in shaping policy and sitting down with various statewide partners and stakeholders in forestry. (TWS – The Wilderness Society, or The Wildlife Society; MUCC – Michigan United Conservation Clubs; MFA – Michigan Forest Association; ATF – American Tree Farm; MFPC – Michigan Forest Product Council; etc.). He stated that he sits on many boards and as a member of many different organizations that could and should be working together to influence policy in this state. Partnerships reflect a more diverse based audience and theoretically legislators should be more responsive to that. He also feels that there are other opportunities for MSAF involvement that are not necessarily policy oriented. Bernie stated that he would like to place this idea on the Strategic Planning meeting agenda. It was suggested that perhaps a new MSAF Executive Team committee chair position was needed or that this was part of the mission of an Outreach and Education position.

Chris Hohnholt made the motion to adjourn.

Second: Don Howlett

Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.