

Michigan Society of American Foresters  
Executive Team Meeting  
DoubleTree Hotel - Bay City, MI  
Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Attendance: Tara Bal\*, Bill Cook\*, Chris Hohnholt\*, Ernie Houghton\*, Don Howlett\*, Bernie Hubbard\*, Pete Klink, Doug Lee, Lee Mueller\*, Lisa Parker\*, Georgia Peterson\*, Tricia St. Pierre\*

**6:18 State Society Chair Georgia Peterson called us to order.**

**1. Anti Trust Statement – Georgia Peterson**

Georgia reminded us not to discuss timber prices

**2. Agenda – Georgia Peterson**

There were no additions to the agenda.

*Lee Mueller made the motion to accept the agenda as presented.*

*Second: Chris Hohnholt*

*Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.*

**3. Secretary report & approval of last meeting minutes – Lisa Parker**

Lisa submitted for approval the Wednesday, April 08, 2015 State Society Executive Team Meeting minutes held in Marquette, MI at the Landmark Inn.

*Ernie Houghton made the motion to accept the minutes as presented.*

*Second: Don Howlett*

*Discussion points: Corrections were taken*

*Item 9.b. should be NLEB;*

*Item 9.c. Senator Casperson is not on the committee to revise the Registered Forester requirements.*

*Ernie accepted the friendly corrections.*

*Second: Don Howlett*

*Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.*

**3. Treasurer Report – Lee Mueller**

Lee informed us that we operate on a calendar year; revenues were up and there are expenses that come at the end of year, such as honorariums and SAF national conference attendance assistance. He reported that he thinks we will end with more income and fewer expenses than projected and the addition of Vendors worked well for spring conference.

**6:25 break to order dinner**

**6:33 back to work**

Regarding the January budgeting meeting Lee would like us to talk about how we split proceeds from conferences. Currently it all goes to the state society with chapters able to keep \$100.00; this bears discussion especially with the homeruns by UP chapter. Please add to the January Agenda.

*Don Howlett made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.*

*Second: Bernie Hubbard*

*Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.*

**4. Education Fund Report – Chad Fate**

Georgia told us Chad was unable to make it but he did send her notes. She reported that the crux of the matter was that Chad would like to step down at end of the year so we will need

Michigan Society of American Foresters  
Executive Team Meeting  
DoubleTree Hotel - Bay City, MI  
Wednesday, September 23, 2015

nominations or volunteers for replacement. There was a brief run down of the figures in the fund and a reminder that one third of the total raffle ticket revenue was sent on to the national education fund.

There was discussion about the amount of work it takes to run the raffle and a suggestion was made that we ask the student chapters to run it as they benefit from the proceeds.

*Lee Mueller made the motion to accept the Education Fund Report as presented.*

*Second: Don Howlett*

*Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.*

## **5. National SAF Updates – Georgia Peterson**

Georgia reported that she had participated in ‘conveners’ calls’ and that it has been interesting to connect with other state chairs, including those from out west and in Louisiana to share topics of interests such as recognition of groups who work for the society. Everyone seemed very interested in the Heartland Leadership Academy, especially Kentucky and Tennessee. It is important to maintain connections and see we are all struggling with the same issues of increasing membership, retention and involvement. Also it was good to know that Matt Menashes was very receptive to state society issues, such as NLEB.

### **a. Forest Science & Technology board**

Don Howlett reported, as he is the Northern Region representative on the FS&T board, but noted that normally there is not much to say, as it is usually the same stuff. However, Matt Menashes asked them to look at the Science Fund, (many members are unaware of its existence) – the purpose of which is to promote science in the organization, a very general goal. Currently the fund balance is \$30,000.00 and the policy is to spend only 3%. Board is tasked to look at activities and consider improvements; typically it is used to support the poster session at the annual National Conference. There were no resolutions at the last board conference call.

## **6. Lower Peninsula Chapter Report – Tricia St. Pierre**

Tricia said she really had nothing to report, except that Mike Smalligan will become Vice Chair at the first of the year and Tricia will be Chair.

Doug Lee brought us up to speed on the particular logistics of the conference.

## **7. Upper Peninsula Chapter Report – Tara Bal**

Tara reported that she was not aware of any important business that needed to be shared but the Spring 2015 Conference went very well and generated a great profit. They had taken an informal survey to gather ideas for the next conferences and the ideas were all over the place, making it hard to find a mix of topics that would appeal to industry, governmental and private foresters.

Regarding the Spring 2016 Conference, Houghton was being strongly considered for the location so that they could take advantage of price breaks from Michigan Technical University.

Andy VanDyke will rotate off at the end of the year and Tara will be Chapter Chair. There were two replacement nominations; Ernie Houghton and Amber Oja.

**7:07 pm break for dinner**

**7:30 reconvene**

## **8. Committee Reports:**

### **a. Communications – Bill Cook**

Bill reported there was not much to say; Georgia responded by thanking him for the fine work that he does.

**b. Membership – Amy Douglass**

Amy couldn't be with us today – and sent no report. Lee Mueller mentioned that the Membership levels are stable but reports from the National office were difficult to obtain. He added that perhaps to increase membership, we could access the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Qualified Forest & Forest Stewardship Programs certified plan writer lists. He also noted that when current members referred new ones, both foresters received discounts on dues for some period, possibly up to five years.

**c. Awards – Ernie Houghton**

Ernie reported that we will have two persons coming from the Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac Farm Services Agency group to receive MSAF Forest Stewardship awards, noting that they will be registering and attending the conference without paying for it. Also, Young, Middle and Retired Forester awards will be given this year.

**d. Policy – Doug Heym**

Georgia informed us that Doug wasn't able to attend the meeting and conference, nor did he have a report to make, however he did inform her that he would like to step down as Policy Chair of the Executive Team.

Debra Huff and Dave Neumann were both put forth as possible replacements. It was pointed out there has been no committee to work with the chair and that it may be easier to encourage involvement at the committee level. It was decided to place the topic on the State Society Business Meeting to be held on Thursday, September 24, 2015.

**9. Michigan Forester – Tori Irving**

Georgia reported that Tori was unable to attend; Bill Cook added that submission to the publication were easier to obtain that actually getting out the 3 issues during the year.

**10. Ongoing Business**

**a. Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB) – Bernie Hubbard**

Bernie stated that there was no recent news to impart.

**b. State of Michigan Forester Registration Update – Bernie Hubbard**

Bernie informed us that there had been three meetings held in the last six months to work on the professional definition of and educational requirements for Registered Forester. The committee had proposed structures to recreate the State Board of Foresters. The new proposal should be finalized by Jan 01, 2016.

**c. MSAF Strategic Planning Update – Georgia Peterson**

Georgia reported that the last meeting had been productive; there had been a first round survey completed; the mission and vision spreadsheet still needs membership input so there will be a second round survey, perhaps in time for the Spring Conference. The next outreach effort will be multipronged to tailor to member needs, web vs. snail mail, telephone...etc.

**d. Student Support to National Conference – Georgia Peterson**

Georgia informed us of a budget line item of \$1,500.00 to be used by the State Society Chair to attend at least the National SAF Conference and as she was only going to use about one-third of that amount, there would be funds left. She began a discussion of how to help send students to the conference and how much money should be used; Lee Mueller noted that a motion was needed to strike the word "Chair" from the budget line item so that the funds could be used to support attendance by others.

*Don Howlett, so moved.*

Michigan Society of American Foresters  
Executive Team Meeting  
DoubleTree Hotel - Bay City, MI  
Wednesday, September 23, 2015

*Second: Bill Cook*

*Discussion: it was pointed out that if the word Chair was struck, then it reads, "\$1,500.00 to support attendance at national meeting; Bill Cook suggested the language "Chair Directed support"; Don accepted the friendly amendment; Ernie Houghton suggested increasing the line item to \$2,000.00; Georgia states that should be a separate motion and Don refused Ernie's friendly second amendment.*

*Amended motion was restated; Motion was made to rewrite the aforementioned budget line item to read: Chair directed funds for attendance at national meeting - \$1,500.00*

*Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.*

*Ernie Houghton moved to increase funding of above line item to \$2,000.00; after discussion this motion died without a second.*

**e. Auto Tour Brochures and App – Glenn Moll & Don Howlett**

Bernie stated that the brochures were printed and, he presumed, distributed.

Don Howlett refreshed our memories on the project to create a smart phone app for the Auto Tour. Although this had taken nearly 2 years to accomplish, he was confident that the Android version could be completed; the IOS – iPhone version will be recoded with funds from the National SAF Foresters Fund.

**11. New Business**

**a. Chair Elect Nominations – Bernie Hubbard**

Discussions occurred about possible nominations for the Chair Elect position; Jason Darling, Mike Smalligan, Andy VanDyke, and Chris Hohnholt; traditionally this position switches between the UP & LP annually. It was decided to bring it up at the State Society Business Meeting the following day, 09.24.2015.

**8:40pm Don Howlett motioned to adjourn.**

*Second: Doug Lee*

*Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.*