

Attendance: Georgia Peterson, Joyce Angel, Amy Douglass, Lauren Rusin, Glenn Moll, David J. Silvieus, Don Howlett, Andy VanDyke, Bernie Hubbard, Ernie Houghton, Tom Hittle, Tara Bal, Gary Vander Wyst, Tricia St. Pierre, Kaytlyn Brinkman, Brittany Mauricette

6:14 State Society Chair Georgia Peterson called us to order.

1. Anti Trust Statement – Georgia Peterson

Georgia reminded us that it is not appropriate to discuss timber prices

2. Secretary Report & Approval of Last Meeting Minutes – Georgia Peterson

- a. Gary Vander Wyst would like to add the District 5 update to the agenda.
- b. No other additions were made.

Don Howlett made the motion to accept the agenda as presented and with the addition of the District 5 update.

Second: Joyce Angel

Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.

6:17 break to order dinner

6:26 meeting resumed

3. Treasurer's Report – Georgia Peterson

- a. Georgia presented the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Lee Mueller. The Report had been distributed via email and reviewed during a conference call on Wednesday, March 09, 2016 by available members of the Executive Team. During this call, Lee expressed that the cash-based accounting system does not account for some of the year-end expenditures/revenues, which can skew reports and projections, also funding available for attendance at Nationals.
- b. Revenue allocations to the Chapters will be discussed later, as will the possibility of the authorization of the Treasurer to spend money with the permission of the Chapter Chair.

Ernie Houghton moved to accept the budget.

Second: Bernie Hubbard

Motion was delayed for further discussion.

- c. Ernie brought up Wheels to Woods, a program Mike Smalligan (LP Vice Chair and DNR Stewardship Coordinator) is overseeing that helps fun schools to get kids into the woods, typically the school's own forest. Mike has been paying up to \$350/bus to facilitate the fieldtrip by paying for transportation. Ernie is asking that the MI SAF donate the cost to cover one bus load.
 - i. Kaytlyn (Kayti) Brinkman isn't certain that the Education Fund has enough in it to cover that cost at this time.

- ii. Georgia suggested that the funds could be gathered under the Donation Sponsorship (\$1,100).

Joyce Angel moved to support the donation of one bus at \$350.

Second: Don Howlett

Motion was delayed by further discussion.

- iii. Georgia inquired about demand for this kind of donation. Tara said that schools in the UP know about it and are using it. Ernie said that a couple thousand dollars have already been spent on this. Georgia said that MFA had some concern over the use of these funds but would be relieved to know the direct impact it has.

Ernie Houghton moved that the decision be tabled until we learn about the Education Fund.

Joyce tabled the motion.

Ernie Houghton's original Motion and Bernie Hubbard's second were accepted.

Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.

4. Education Fund Update – Kayti Brinkman

Kayti reported an update on the balance and expected earnings from donations and raffle funds. Heartland Leadership Academy, two scholarships, and raffle supplies leaves us with a \$22.17 balance for the end of this year, which makes the aforementioned \$350 donation to support Wheels to Woods infeasible for this year. Donations and raffle ticket sales are continuing to come in which could aid in supporting the donation in the future. We can't responsibly commit to Wheels to Wood this year, but we can commit to it for 2017 if it's decided that the funding should come from the Education fund.

Kayti is hoping that the raffle might raise more money than usual, especially since we need to raise \$700 to meet expenditures. Kayti confirmed Glenn's question if pre-raffle sales went to the Education Fund.

Gary Vander Wyst suggested that the Forester Fund through National is up to \$60,000/year, and in the amount allocated the State societies, there is a significant remainder at the end of the year. Everything applied for was awarded funding in 2015, so Gary encouraged this as a reliable source to fund Wheels to Woods. In addition, the next Leadership Academy won't be in 2016, so we'll be holding on to the Education Fund allocation for a bit longer.

February and August (or September?) have \$1,500 limits on applications; June increases that limit to \$5,000. If awarded, National will send out 80% of the requested funds in 4-6 weeks to help initiate the project. The remaining 20% will be awarded pending successful use/completion of the project in conjunction with a written account.

Kayti volunteered to pursue the funding for Wheels to Woods through National Forester Fund, and Gary offered to help get her connected and on the right path.

Ernie commented that if we meet the June deadline, that could potentially put monetary awards into August, which is well beyond the school year. He would like to find the money now (even if we utilize the Forester Fund in the future), and thinks the Education Fund is the proper source.

Joyce Angel motioned that \$350 be allocated from the State Society Budget to support the Wheels to Woods bus.

Second: Don Howlett.

Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.

Don requested that we permanently fix a place on our Fall or January Executive Meeting to get all of our usual Education Fund expenditures on a list that can be submitted to National, potentially funded through their Forester Fund rather than through our State funds.

5. Lower Peninsula Chapter Report – Tricia St. Pierre

- a. Tricia reported that plans for the Fall conference are coming together. The topic has been solidified as The Birds and The Bees – exploring the implications and management activities for upland game, birds specifically, also discussion forest management, fragmentation, and other concerns focusing on bees, insects, and the practices/things that vector and encourage health threats. Location has been narrowed down to Cadillac or Gaylord. Date has been narrowed down to the second or third week of October. This will be open for discussion/vote at tomorrow's Chapter meetings.
- b. There is no other news out of the LP at this time.

6. Upper Peninsula Chapter Report – Tara Bal

- a. Tara reported that everything seems to look good. Matt Menashes is on the way up from Chicago. Some flights were cancelled today but people were making adjustments.
- b. Hotel details were going well. The head count is around 120.
- c. Ernie has the SAF displays from Bill Cook and would like to set them up early. Tara will be at Registration around 7 and the room(s) should be open by then if he'd like to get the displays up then.

7:10pm break for Dinner

7:34 Reconvene

- d. Tara had no other pressing updates from the UP. There are a couple new things they're trying this year, including a new raffle method.

7. Committee Updates

a. Policy Committee Update – Georgia Peterson

Georgia reported that leadership (Chair) is vacant on the Policy Committee. We're having trouble taking on the responsibility, and of three policy statements, one has expired. Georgia wants to ask if there's anyone at tomorrow's meeting who might be interested, knowing that we need to redraw our Position Statement.

Ernie thinks it would be nice to connect with National's Policy Team as a way of encouraging people to take part in it.

Tom Hittle said that the Policy Committee Chair has been vacant for a long time, so we probably have statements that are outdated, not just the one that has expired. His experience is that the role is to be a liaison between local and National members, flushing out issues where it might be appropriate for SAF to take a position. Sometimes it's not a matter of developing policy statements, just letting people know that you're present and supportive.

Dave was urged to consider the position of Policy Committee Chair and he said he would...

b. Membership Committee Update – Amy Douglass

Amy produced a list of lapsed members for the last two years, recommending friendly reminders to renew memberships. Amy reported that relocations cannot be tracked which could account for some of the lapses, though she suggested that we reach out to those on the lists to check on their status.

Current Membership is around 350, usually split fairly equally between the UP and LP.

Gary also reported that membership has picked up Nationally, 3-4%, with about 12,500-13,000 nation-wide. He believes that membership dues reorganization has helped to increase membership participation.

c. Awards – Kayti Brinkman

Kayti reported in the absence of Craig Kasmer, saying that she has a bag of awards with designated awardees.

d. Science & Tech (national) – Don Howlett

Don reported, as the Northern Region representative on the FS&T board, that every year the working groups prepare reports from the prior year, and they're considered for awards; the National Science Award is one that they're working on right now. They're currently trying to find the most effective ways to work collaboratively so that work with related fields can complement one another. These groups tend to work in isolation, which means that there is sometimes little communication and work efforts can inadvertently be doubled. The next Forestry Source will include articles about some of these efforts as a way to advertise and alert others to the kinds of work already going on.

e. District 5 – Gary Vander Wyst

As amended in the agenda, Gary gave an update as to the ongoing business in District 5. Conventions are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

November 2-7, 2016 in Madison, WI
2017 – Albuquerque, NM
2018 – Portland, OR
2019 – Louisville, KY

As mentioned earlier, Matt is en route, and Julie Peltier will be here tomorrow for her comments on Madison.

Gary reported that nominations for National awards have been lacking from District 5. No Fellows have been nominated and very few have been nominated for the awards that were due on February 28. Gary urged that there are well qualified personnel and people should look to the National website for categories. **Field Forester of the Year nominations are due May 15th** (Ernie thinks it might be June 1st). Requirements are on the website and at least one nomination from each Society, perhaps each Chapter, are encouraged. HSD in particular is urging the involvement.

Gary also reported on the following issues:

- i. Due to some issues at National, 2017 will be the next date for the Heartland Leadership Academy. No sites have been selected, but they're looking at Districts 5 and 9.
- ii. National's sale of 42 acres resulted in approximately \$35 million, some of that money is proposed to be utilized to help fund the National Convention.
- iii. Corey Ruple and Christopher Whited are working on Membership concerns and trends at headquarters.
- iv. Heartland Academy
 - a. Ernie said that Indiana had backed out of hosting the Academy and Michigan would be a nice place except that it's a far drive from District 9. Bernie suggested the southwest corner of the state.
 - b. Gary suggested that we try to get the Foresters Fund involved when dates and location get established.
- v. The next National Board Meeting is April 7-10, 2016. LP and UP Chairs may submit questions and comments. There's always room on the agenda for discussion.
- vi. Tara commented that the UP hasn't had a summer field day and this is something that she'd like to reinstate. It will be up for discussion at Thursday's Chapter Meetings.

8. Ongoing Business

a. Michigan Forester Update – Georgia Peterson

Georgia presented the Michigan Forester Update in Tori Irving's absence. Georgia reported that she is unsure of the status of the publication. Lauren commented that it has been over a month since the deadline for submissions, so the consensus is that it should be sent out soon.

b. CFE Coordination – Tara Bal

Tara reported that this SAF meeting will produce 8.5 hours of CFE credits. She would like to remind people that they can get credit for many things that we attend throughout year, but it is on the individual to track and seek accreditation for those hours that aren't pre-qualified. Her concern is that Michigan seems to offer fewer credits than other states, and this can be bolstered by seeking accreditation. She can assign credits to programs for up to one week after qualified

events take place, though she recommends allowing a couple days prior to the event for evaluation and credit assignment. Tara strongly encourages announcing events in advance.

c. Registered Forester Update – Bernie Hubbard

Bernie reported that we have 2.5 years into the effort of reevaluating and redefining the RF program so far. The Draft RF document was distributed amongst meeting attendees. This spring they held two public meeting across the State (Gaylord and Marquette) to get additional input from the Forestry community. Bernie reported on the following:

- A. Historical account of the RF Program
- B. Similarities and differences between RF and CF
 - a. Cost
 - b. Qualification(s)
 - c. Continuing Ed Credits
- C. Mandatory vs. voluntary certification
- D. Occupational Code of Foresters
 - a. History
 - b. Evolution
 - c. Developments alongside the RF Program reform
- E. DNR involvement – Brenda Haskill as liaison
- F. ACF involvement

Tara inquired if Bernie would be giving an update tomorrow, which he confirmed. Tara recommended that Joyce and others who have been involved in this process be identified as contacts for people with questions at the conference. Joyce spoke to the urgency of getting the RF Program redrawn and solidified prior to the end of Governor Snyder's term. Gary recommended contact with Danielle Watson, serving on the committee, for specific questions.

d. BOSS Program – Glenn Moll

Glenn reported on SAF's involvement with the BOSS program, a publication geared towards 4-6th graders for self-taught outdoor education, sponsored by the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy. In the first year they published 25 copies (2014), 100 copies in the second year (2015), and will be printing 2,500 copies this year (2016). This is a growing program and it is important that we're involved in the development of the Forestry portion to accurately and responsibly portray forestry practices. The MWC has requested sponsorship from MSAF though a one-time, three-year, \$2,500 Sponsorship donation towards the development, publication, and distribution of the book. Concerns were expressed over fixing MSAF's name and funding to a wildlife campaign. It seems to be a good outlet for exposing children to the outdoors (and forestry) who otherwise might not have an opportunity, but there are other programs (i.e. 4H) that already have decent environmental education programs.

Don suggested that it might be better if SAF kept their involvement to helping to write the Forestry unit of the book and offering to help distribute it. Joyce seconded that we need to be responsible for getting accurate information into the book (helping edit), and Glenn agreed that he doesn't think it is appropriate for SAF to give them money towards publishing and distributing. Don furthered the conversation by recommending that we offer our expertise and involvement in manipulating the Forestry Unit of the book and then approach National if we get MSAF support for donating funding to MWC. Don feels that 4H already has a great forestry booklet for environmental education and he'd just assume offer technical support rather than financial at this time.

Georgia suggested inviting MWC to the Fall meeting to talk about the genesis and aim of this publication, also the overarching goals of BOSS. Patrick Rusz should be the primary contact for this endeavor.

The general consensus is that we need to have a conversation with MWC about the role they would like MSAF to take and how we can support them while keeping the integrity of forestry education intact.

e. Auto Tour Update – Glenn Moll

Glen reported that of the 3,000 brochures that have been printed, two-thirds have been handed out, and the remaining third should cover next year. Tara said that Jim Schmierer has the signs (locally) and has committed to doing two a week this spring. Jim Ferris has already covered Marquette county. It seems like the Auto Tour is running smoothly.

f. MSAF Strategic Planning Update – Georgia Peterson

Georgia passed out a handout from a Strategic Plan meeting held in Gaylord. She then reported the general outcomes from that meeting, resulting in the prioritization of our goals. Emphasis was placed on making sure that our priorities are aligning well with National and cleaning up our Bylaws. It was noted that the layout of the handout (the Priority table, in particular) was a little confusing and that "Priority" should be changed to "Number of Votes" to be more intuitive. It was suggested that the Strategic Plan be brought up at tomorrow's business meetings to gain input for where to begin and what direction to take. Don noted that we've been talking about revisiting our Bylaws for a very long time and it's something that we need to do. The starting point should be going over our Bylaws, Chapter by Chapter, and then at all levels. The LP and UP have two different sets of Bylaws. **Does the Chapters have hardcopies of these Bylaws?**

Gary recommended a democratic approach; Glen was concerned that it is difficult to solidify a Strategic Plan since priorities are continuously shifting as variables are constantly coming up. Georgia suggested designating a subcommittee. **Ernie Houghton, Don Howlett, and Tricia St. Pierre volunteered to be on the subcommittee, and Amber Oja was nominated in her absence.** The subcommittee has been formed and tasked with reviewing our Bylaws and comparing them to National's.

9. New Business

a. State Vice Chair Nominees Update – Bernie Hubbard

Bernie reported that there had been two nominees for State Chair, though one has declined the nomination due to a change in personal and professional circumstances. Andy VanDyke is the remaining and sole nominee, as he was gracious enough to volunteer. Traditionally we've supplied two candidates from the same peninsula alternating years, so we're still looking for a second candidate from the UP to throw their hat in the ring. Bernie clarified that there is Policy stating that a candidate is not eligible to run for the eight years after he or she has announced candidacy, regardless of nomination.

b. Fall Conference Planning – Tricia St. Pierre

Tricia had nothing more to report that wasn't already covered in the LP Chapter Update.

c. Chapter Conference Revenue Allocations - Georgia Peterson

- i. Georgia reported on behalf of Lee Mueller, stating that revenues from Conferences go to the State Treasurer, except for \$100. The concern is that the expendable income for the LP Chapter is declining because we're lacking alternate sources of revenue, yet we're still being approached for services and activities that we'd like to be able to support. The question was raised if there is a way that we can begin putting more money into the Chapter accounts. The primary purpose is to have extra cash on hand to cover those extraneous costs that we'd like to participate in. Bernie suggested that we consider giving the State Treasurer X amount and keep anything over, rather than what we're doing at current, keeping \$100 and giving the State the remainder. Ernie raised the question if this some be considered when we're revisiting the Bylaws, and the overwhelming response from the crowd was that it is a Budget issue and not appropriate for the Bylaws.
- ii. Georgia supported locally securing anything beyond the \$1750 that the State requests. Georgia posed the question to the Chapter Chairs who did not have strong feelings, suggesting that Lee would be a good source to ask about changing our system. It is also recommended that the question be raised at the Chapter meetings to gauge member support.
- iii. Lee had expressed concern over making spontaneous purchases and the power of the Treasurer to do so without it being pre-approved in the budget. The general consensus is that it should be approved that the Treasurer have the authority to make those sporadic purchases with explicit consent from the State and/or Chapter Chairs, so long as our expenditures and budget remain transparent and justified.

d. Other 2015 Chapter/Society Events – Open Forum

There were no comments or additional information addressed.

Ernie Houghton motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Andy VanDyke

Enthusiastic chorus of ayes followed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19pm.

Executive Team Meeting Points of Discussion for Local Chapter Meetings:

- Chapters should develop a list of funding needs (consider activities, support projects, donations/sponsorships) prior to the Fall meeting – to be finalized at the January Executive Meeting? – to submit to National, requesting funding through the Forester Fund.
- A Policy Committee Chair is needed to review policy statements and take on position statements. Are there any volunteers or nominations from the UP or LP Chapters?
- A list of lapsed memberships is available and we'd like for people to review it and reach out to people they know.
- Field Forester Nominations are due May 15th. Please visit the National site to view the nomination process.
- The next National Board Meeting is April 7-10, 2016. If the LP or UP Chapters have anything questions or comments, those need to be submitted prior to that date to make the agenda.
- UP Chapter would like to reinstate a Summer Field Day. Are there any ideas or recommendations?
- Please review future trainings, seminars, public meetings, field days, etc. that you are hosting or will be attending and submit those items for consideration of CFE accreditation. Make submissions to Tara Bal.
- Bernie will be presenting an update on the RF Program as it currently exists.
- The Strategic Plan needs to be reviewed. A subcommittee has been formed but others are invited to be involved. The subcommittee will undertake the reviewing of our Bylaws as compared to National's. Bylaws exist for each individual Michigan Chapter, so it will be important to have input from both the UP and LP members.
- It has been recommended that we reconsider the current allocation of revenue from Conferences. As of right now, each Chapter is awarded \$100 for hosting a conference and the remainder of revenue is automatically sent to the State. State requires \$1750, so one consideration is that we assume \$1750 go to the State, and the remaining revenue be partially or wholly put into the local Chapter's account. Perhaps \$1750 to State then 50/50 to the State and local Chapter? \$1750 to State, \$100 to local Chapter, split remainder? We're looking for suggestions and input.