

APPROVED
Michigan Society of American Foresters
State Society Meeting
March 10, 2010, Marinette, WI

About 24 members in attendance.

Chair Jack Penegor opened the meeting at 4:42.

Motion made to approve the minutes from the 10/20/09 State Society Business meeting in Grayling by Don Howlett.

Second: Denny Renken

Passed with a chorus of ayes.

Green Book Update – Bill Cook

A couple of years ago, we realized that the 1998 green book forest management guidelines needed to be updated. Doug Heym has been leading that revision, with many different contributors. A draft is nearly final but we need to move into identifying how/when to publish. Goal is to publish it in May 2010.

Deer Meetings – Jack Penegor

Jack mentioned that several public meetings on deer were held this week to take comments on the statewide deer management plan. Several members commented that people could still provide email comments.

Michigan Forester – Jack Penegor provided an update from Brenda Owen

Brenda Owen has been doing a great job on the Michigan Forester. She told Jack that submissions for the next edition are due to her by **5/5/10**. Jim Ferris mentioned that he had conversations with Brenda about soliciting more advertising but she expressed some concern about the complexity of that.

Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative –

Last night the executive committee agreed to sponsor their upcoming symposium in Traverse City with \$250 from the Education Fund.

Council update was provided this morning by Greg Russell.

Treasurer's Report – John Hamel received the Budget status report from Jack Pilon.

John reviewed the report.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Don Howlett.

Second: Maria Janowiak

Passed with a chorus of ayes.

MSU Forestry Program Update

Georgia Peterson told the group that the MSU forestry faculty has gone to the provost to ask what they can do about the proposal that had been on the table. Provost has said it will be up to the faculty to put together a proposal to reduce costs and administrative overhead. Dean Keathley has stepped down as the dean. At this point, it appears that if members are concerned, they should talk to their state legislative representatives to express support for maintaining the forestry program at MSU.

New Business

Shawn Hagen of The ForestLand Group expressed a concern that DNRE prior to setting up a sale, should come to private landowner to ask Heartwood Forest Land properties and other CFI lands for permission to access state forest lands when you have to cross private land. He has been trying to work with local MDNRE people. Plum Creek has indicated they don't want to get involved in this issue. Michigan Timbermen's Association has adopted a policy that would encourage the State to secure access before sales are set up. There would be some ability to proceed with a sale if that permission was not obtained. The idea is to move away from having the winning bidder on a timber sale have to secure access not only for themselves but also DNRE to inspect the sale. Michigan Forest Products Council has adopted a similar policy. The Natural Resource Commission has also been contacted about this issue.

After the meeting, Shawn Hagen provided the following addition to the record: *"Shawn has been working with local MDNRE people, folks in Lansing, and the NRC but getting little progress. He agrees there should be some ability to proceed with a sale if permission was not obtained but the department felt a winning bidder could secure it."*

There was some additional discussion that for efficiency and cost control, reasons, nearby landowners might like to know if others are going to be harvesting in an area. There might be a broader issue that there should be procedures for letting adjacent landowners know about planned activities.

Motion was made by Bill Hasse that we ask the policy committee to develop a position statement for the crossing private land to access MDNRE land and visa versa access for timber sales.

Second: Warren Suchovsky

Much discussion ensued. Topics raised include: there may be inconsistencies in how MDNRE handles access needs; people should ask for permission first, if you can't get it but think you can sell it without the access; person buying the timber is left holding the bag; sometimes MDNRE staff contact private land owner to request permission before they set up sales; if there is a resource issue, maybe MSAF should have a policy but maybe this is a dispute between two parties.

A friendly amendment was made by Maria Janowiak to read: Motion to ask MSAF Policy Committee to develop a position statement that foresters pursue securing access across public and private lands prior to setting up timber sales. Bill Hasse and Warren Suchovsky agreed to the friendly amendment.

A voice vote was taken but there was some question about the outcome. Jack Penegor requested a vote by show of hands. The results:

- 14 ayes
- 4 nays
- 2 abstained

Motion passed.

*Motion to adjourn by Terry Manty.
Second: Warren
Passed with a chorus of ayes.*

Meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm.