

Approved Minutes
Michigan Society of American Foresters
State Society Meeting
October 13, 2011
McGuire's Resort, Cadillac, Michigan

Attendance: Approximately 20 people

Call to order at 5:08 PM by Joyce Angel. Agenda was passed out and approved.

Anti-trust statement was made.

Review of past minutes from March 30, 2011.

Dean Reid made a motion to approve the Past Minutes following these edits: Fix a misspelling by removing the second "s" from Les Homan, on both the motion to approve the treasurer's report and the motion to adjourn.

Second: Laurie Marzolo

Approved with a chorus of ayes.

Executive Team Report

Jim Ferris will be taking over as Continuing Education Coordinator for Deb Huff. This position is in charge of getting meetings and other trainings rated for Continuing Ed. Credits.

State Society is still looking for a Vice-Chair, who would take over as Chair starting in 2013. Positions will be 2-year terms, as begun with 2011 term. Laurie Marzolo asked if State chair position was still being alternated between U.P. and L.P. – This is still the case. John Hamel has volunteered; the Society would like to find at least one more nominee to run. A committee will be established to find nominees.

Jim Ferris: The business manager role for the Michigan Forester has been shelved for the moment – a question was asked about the honorarium for this position– if no one is doing the job the money should not be disbursed, or budgeted for.

Treasurer's Report - Jack Pilon

Jack passed out the 2011 Budget Status report, as well as an update on the Education Fund Account, and gave a brief synopsis. Budget is okay; there is \$3,179.50 in the account at this time with a few minor expenses pending.

Ada Takacs and Josh Wall audited the treasurer's books. The report of this activity will be made available by Joyce Angel.

Education Fund

The budget for the Education Fund will be discussed at the January Executive Team Meeting. Josh Wall has taken over for Tom Seablom as Education Fund Chair, and Jack Pilon has absorbed the associated financial role for this fund into his broader treasurer duties. It was determined that a budget is needed to manage education fund spending.

Highway 75 billboard – Bill Cook

There is enough money remaining for nearly 6 more months of advertising. A discussion is needed to determine whether to keep the sign or let it go in February. Note: All of the money to support this sign has come from contributions, with no additions from the Education fund.

There was a discussion regarding publication of the green book, as well as the auto tour signage and printing. John Hamel, and Ernie Houghton have discussed finding a measurable way to track benefits of auto tour.

Ernie Houghton made a motion to approve the treasurer's report.

Second: Terry Manty

Approved with a chorus of ayes.

Council Report – Ernie Houghton

The tiered dues system is being implemented this year – there are different benefits for different levels. There will be a transition for Certified Foresters –annual billings will come with the dues statements now.

There may be incentives or membership discounts for signing new members. Check the National Website for more information on this.

SAF has partnered with the American Tree Farm System. There will be incentives for the 1st 100 eligible Tree Farm inspectors: Inspectors will get \$100 off their dues for making two inspections on either *new* Tree Farm sign-ups, or *optional* inspections.

Council is approving the renewal of 2 position statements.

National SAF is entertaining offers to sell 26 acres surrounding the headquarters building. The existing partnership with the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation will be dissolved following the sale.

If not completed already, please submit the Forestry Professionals Survey if you received it.

Lower Peninsula Chapter Report – Doug lee

Current meeting attendance was down, about 55 attendees versus 100+ many years. Approximate number needed to break even is 75. However, the summer fire field tour was a success, thanks to Jason Stephens and Jack Pilon for putting that together.

Upper Peninsula Chapter Report – Terry Manty

The Beneshek meeting was well-received

Looking into the effectiveness of the auto-tour.

There is one potential UP chapter vice-chair at present. John Hamel is stepping down as treasurer, and there is 1 interested party to take over that role.

The spring meeting is being planned for late April in Munising or Marquette – topic is Water Quality and BMPs. It was suggested that SAF try harder to coordinate with the stewardship program to get better attendance at meetings – just need to get meeting items approved for Plan Writer Ed. Credits

Old Business

400 green books published – read through these initial drafts and pass edits along to Brenda Owen. Brenda has been working with different software for publishing – looking for something more compatible with the publishing company.

There will be 3 issues of the newsletter next year, synced with the conferences to advertise them in advance.

Regional Leadership Academy – 11 Michigan members attended cost-free to them – this was a successful effort.

Ties to the Land Workshop – Bill Cook

This is a program Bill Cook has been involved with to help people with estate planning – sessions are designed to keep tracts of lands – and their associated families - intact. There is a focus on discussing the wants and intentions for the land with the heirs, as well as “estate planners”. There is a session in Traverse City next month. Finding an estate planning lawyer is key for the success. Expense is not great for attendees.

SAF members might be able to offer forestry advice at these meetings to promote sound forest management –a “stealth education opportunity”.

New Business

National Convention – Joyce Angel

There is 100 dollars in the budget to help support the National Forester's Fund Raffle – Joyce will bring item/s with her to the national convention. Additional donations will also be accepted, Joyce has the mailing address if you are interested.

Also, Joyce is looking for success stories to share at the House of Society Delegates meeting in Hawaii. So far she has: the Beneshek meeting, the summer fire field tour, green book revisions, and the highway 75 billboard. If you have other successes for her to share, let her know!

“Green Fire” – the Aldo Leopold Documentary

Sara Wall recommended that MISAF purchase a screening license and offer partnerships for sponsoring public screenings of this movie as an educational outreach. Cost for license with DVD included is \$150 through the Aldo Leopold Foundation. Laurie Marzolo moved to approve the request, with the stipulation that funds be appropriated from the education fund, and any proceeds be returned to the same.

Second: Georgia Peterson

Approved with a chorus of ayes.

Laurie Marzolo and Nancy Garlock are planning a forestry tour in Spain and Portugal a few years out

Nancy Garlock made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Ernie Houghton

Approved with a chorus of ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM