



Michigan Society of American Foresters

**Michigan SAF Business Meeting
Quality Inn & Suites
Escanaba, MI
March 20, 2014**

Upwards of 40 people were in attendance.

1. Anti-Trust Statement – Reminder that no one will discuss timber prices.

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

2. MSAF Student Chapter Reports

Bernie Hubbard – MSAF State Society Chair, reported that one of the things that we are going to do to get more student involvement is to have them report on student chapter activities.

a. Upper Peninsula – Michigan Technological University

Lauren reported school support for student meeting attendance in the form of excused absences from classes. They attended conclave at Michigan State University in 2013 and there will be 27 students attending this year's competition in Minnesota. The Club is planning an end of year party for the entire department. Some of the students were able to attend the 2013 National SAF conference in North Carolina and there are plans for attendance at the 2014 National SAF Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. Additionally, the school is now one of very few American chapters of the International Forestry Student Association.

b. Lower Peninsula – Michigan State University

Hilary and Katie reported that a big focus of MSU's SAF Student Chapter – the Forestry Club – is community involvement. To increase name recognition they have been spending time at Fenner Nature Center in Lansing, MI. There is a now a partnership for maple syrup production between the two entities. The club participated in Darwin Days at MSU and at the science festival MSU's Forestry Club had the best booth. 1000's of grade school kids will plant seedlings and learn about forestry. They have also partnered with the Future Farmers of American (FFA) to recruit for the Forestry Department and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. They were working on grants to allow for attendance at the National SAF Convention and were proud to report that the Forestry Department had its largest incoming freshmen class in years with 50 new students reporting a forestry major. There is a new outreach coordinator for the department, Walter Chomentowski, and he has been doing a great job. Finally the sap is flowing at the campus sugar bush and there were 8 main lines tapped last week, with over 300 gallons boiled. The Michigan Maple Syrup Association honored the students' sugar bush with an inaugural 1st tap.

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3. Treasurer's Report – Lee Mueller

Bernie Hubbard reported that Lee Mueller was not able to join us and that he did not have copies of the Treasurer's Report for us all. Bernie remarked that the UP auto tour monies and the Fall Conference overage were sent to Chris Hohnholt at Michigan Technical University to clear up the overpayment made by Terry Sharik before the Fall Conference. In response to a question by Ernie Houghton about the award plaques expense, Bernie noted that funds in the amount of \$330.72 on the Awards line item showed disbursed. He also informed us that National had sent almost half of the annual dues payments and that the remainder will trickle in through the year. Also, we have so far spent just over \$1,100.00. Bernie stated that he would not ask for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, as he had been unable to present the report.

4. Education Fund Report – Chad Fate

Bernie Hubbard reported that Chad Fate couldn't be here but had sent an email that stated nothing had changed from Wednesday February 05, 2014. Again, Bernie said that no motion to approve was indicated in this instance.

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

Bernie Hubbard reported that Gary Vander Wyst was planning on attending the meeting and Spring Conference but that the weather had not cooperated and so he would not be joining us. Gary had emailed a report and Bernie brought a copy that will be attached. The following points were distilled from this report:

- a. the National Council will be meeting in Alexandria, VA from March 27 - 30 for the purpose of interviewing and selection of the Society of American Foresters Chief Executive Officer from the three final candidates.
- b. Gary emphasized the opportunities provided by the upcoming Heartland Leadership Academy, composed of Districts V and IX.
- c. for the first time in five years, the Council approved a balanced budget for 2014.
- d. Council created the Magic Force Task Group and temporarily shifted the charters of the following committees: Communication, Cultural Diversity and Leadership Development, to work together with HSD during 2014.
- e. Gary stressed that "it is critical that the membership assist in disseminating information of the SAF Brand: Thriving Forest. Essential Resources. Strong Communication."

District V Council Representative Gary Vander Wyst closed by inviting the members to contact him by phone or email with any questions or comments and he would respond as quickly as possible.

Bernie mentioned that Gary stated that being council representative is a full-time responsibility and like having a second job. Bernie reported that Region 9's Hartland



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Leadership Academy would be held in an Iowa state park resort conference center this summer. Bill Cook is the academy's communication person, Georgia is on the committee and Ernie Houghton is finding financing as there is a \$30,000.00 budget to hold the training. There is no charge to participants to attend; they only pay for their travel expenses. In the past, all of the participants have learned a lot and had lots of fun as well. It is well worth the time and investment.

6. LP Chapter Report

Jason reported on the continuation of the regeneration topic for the next conference. He said things are gearing up and they are considering the following: red pine regeneration, site preparation and other silvicultural practices, disease & insects sites such as ash & beech salvage locations. He hopes to incorporate the research of MSU Forestry Professors, Mike Walters and Deb McCullough. Meeting locations being discussed are the University of Michigan Pellston biostation, Mackinaw City or Petoskey. Scheduling was then discussed.

7. UP Chapter Report - Andy Van Dyke

Andy reported that the conference is going great and thanked everyone for all of his or her help. Next year is already under discussion, they will try to hold it at the same time, perhaps in Marquette or Houghton and that it is important to have strong student population attendance. Don Howlett mentioned there were about 100 participants here now.

Andy Van Dyke reported that there was not a whole lot of new news as he has been real busy planning the spring conference program for tomorrow. Chris Hohnholt has guaranteed that there will be a profit of \$1500.00 or he will make up the difference – Andy says he is fairly sure that there will be a profit. The chapter is looking for a summer event topic to have a meeting in UP.

UP Chapter would like to split Secretary/Treasurer position into two, as that will allow another body to assist with the work. They are looking forward to the conference...there will be 2 buses – 55 passenger/47 passenger -- 1 bus would save costs so they will take a head to see who is planning to attend the field portion. Some field stops needed to be cancelled due to weather, there is too much snow. Chris Hohnholt mentioned they have a unique problem as eighteen students have registered, but that it is a good problem to have.

8. Other committee reports – Bill Cook

Bill reported that he has nothing new to report.

9. Old Business:

a. Forester / Surveyor Update – Bernie Hubbard

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Bernie recapped and updated the situation surrounding the forester occupational code and the surveyor issue. He informed us that several foresters have received 'cease and desist' letters warning the foresters against running property lines and even timber cutting lines. Bernie said we think they (the surveyors) will back down over this issue but several U.P. foresters have been affected. He added that it is important to remove any references to running property lines from any advertising – we must not advertise that service, as we are not surveyors. Bernie relayed that Brenda Owen; a member of the Michigan Association of Timbermen (MAT) and SAF has been working to alleviate the situation.

Paul Drysdale, the current president of the Michigan Association of Consulting Foresters clarified the situation further by stating that a few years ago, some MACF members received letters concerned with foresters doing surveyors work. There was a good meeting between both professional societies (MACF & the Surveyors) and their executive director said "we got the wrong people" and there was a great meeting this January and that Brenda has done great job. In summary: the surveyors had a file of unlicensed activity complaints, 2 against foresters, and that the surveyors are not targeting the forest industry. He cautioned that connecting the dots is a touchy issue – do not set corners! Be careful of declination and set corner mistakes. They will not get upset if you paint timber cutting lines, that is fine, but do not 'break out parcels'. We are not licensed.

This then brought up a discussion of our occupational code and forester registration. The surveyors feel that we should be licensed but that is a whole different issue and improving our occupational code, including certifications and continuing education credits and they support us having it defined. Paul cautioned us to be careful making & titling maps, use Timber Sale, Timber Stand, Stand and Timber Types, make sure to have a title, Proposed Harvest, etc. He reiterated that the meeting in January was a good meeting and there is more common ground than not, they support registration etc. The MAT has done good job in moving us forward with the update of our occupational code.

b. Michigan Forester Timeline – Tori Irving

Tori spoke of increasing the distribution with an additional two pages of newsletter. She mentioned the Consulting Forester advertising and the possibility of increasing the publication from 3 to 4 times annually. She also asked the student chapters to please get more involved with the publication.

c. Auto Tour – Glen Moll / Don Howlett

Bernie gave us a quick update: Don said there has been some delay in getting the app done, a student has been asked to finish up and it is very close to completion but the professor wants to compensate the student. The executive team has approved the expense, when the app is ready, news releases will sent out. This is an android

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app, and IOS app will be next. The cost will be financed with a grant from National. Glenn said we are about to have new Auto Tour brochures printed but we are trying to figure out QR code and how best to print it. Glenn also said we are looking into whether the state societies are allowed to have a Facebook page, if so Tori Irving will set it up.

10. New Business

a. Future Conference and other Meetings Planning / Scheduling

i. Strategic Planning Committee

Bernie reported that the Executive Committee set up a committee in February to develop a strategic plan: Lee Mueller, Doug Heym, Georgia Peterson and Bernie Hubbard will be working towards that end. In the past, he said, we have always had a one-day policy meeting in a central location during the summer; any one else who may be interested should contact one of the committee members. Past sessions have looked at what the society wanted to accomplish – the leadership is two terms and by the time the person had figured out exactly what to do, the term was over and it is their hope that a strategic plan will help provide continuity. There has not yet been too much forward movement so new members will not have missed anything, again please let someone know if you want to be involved.

b. Awards and Nominations

Bernie let us know that SAF, both the state society and the national organization give out numerous awards and that at the state level, we have been having difficulty getting nominations for the following: Fellow, Retired Forester, Field Forester. The nomination period will be listed in the Michigan Forester so please think about those foresters you know whose efforts need to be recognized. Some of the awards include travel stipends to travel to national conventions and meetings. Last year, our district did not nominate anyone, so please remember to submit a name of someone to honor.

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

Lisa distributed copies of the last Business meeting minutes for approval and revisions. No edits were taken.

Jason Darling made a motion to approve minutes.

Second: Don Howlett

Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.

Don Howlett made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Jason Darling

Motion passed with a chorus of ayes.

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