

Michigan Society of American Foresters
State Business Meeting
Traverse City, Michigan – Great Wolf Lodge
Thursday, October 03, 2013
APPROVED

Attendance: Approximately 25 people.

Call To Order: 10:08 AM - Bernie Hubbard brought the meeting to order.

1. Anti-Trust Statement

Bernie reviewed the antitrust statement and reminded the committee that there will be no discussion of timber prices.

2. Secretary's Report, approval of last meeting minutes – Lisa Parker

Jason distributed the minutes from the last meeting at Treetops Resort in Gaylord MI. Edits were taken.

Motion to approve the minutes as edited was made by Bernie Hubbard.
Second: Don Howlett
Passed with a chorus of ayes.

3. Treasurer's Report – Lee Mueller

Lee reported that our costs are as projected and revenues are larger than expected.

A motion to accept the report was made by Shawn Hagan.
Second: ?
Passed with a chorus of ayes.

4. Education Fund Report – Chad Fate

Chad reported revenues of \$750.00 from raffle tickets sold at the last banquet. We gave 2 - \$250 scholarships to the student chapters chairs from MTU & MSU. The fund balance is now \$1097.68 and there will be donations and raffle income from this conference.

Discussion:

BRockwell = balance is low as we send 2/3's to National, any way to change this?

Chad Fate = it must be voted on

BRockwell = so a motion would need to be made

LMueller, CFate, BRockwell = let's table this topic until Business Finance Meeting

Chad said regarding the budget for Project Learning Tree (a program of the American Forest Foundation) that he never received a bill (Bill Cook asserts that MSAF receives money from PLT for MSAF services) for the \$650.00 expense in 2012. Also, he is not sure if we sponsored anyone this year for the Michigan Forests Association (MFA) Teacher Program.

Discussion:

Chuck Olson = Michigan Envirothon is the largest North American environmental quiz competition, in 2012; myself (Chuck Olson) & Bill Botti were involved. Each state winner competes with international teams – there are some 350 high school kids quizzed on forestry,

wildlife, soils & geology, ecology, agriculture. Competition is run thru County Conservation Districts (CD). They need resource professionals to train high school teams – and that is how SAF can help! Check the Envirothon website, it lists the requirements for international competition – one thing is that each team must have community service project. Don Howlett = It is a great national program to raise awareness (of forestry), however the schools must adhere to standardized requirements, so any Michigan SAF high school team trainer must tie into these.

Committee formed: Lee Mueller, Don Howlett, Joyce Angel.

Motion to approve the report was made by Bill Rockwell.

Second: Don Howlett

Passed with a chorus of ayes.

5. Council Report/Presentation – Ernie Houghton – District V Representative

Ernie reminded us of the election, we should have all gotten an e-ballot. For District V representative there are two good candidates, Don Howlett is present here. There is also a proposal to reincorporate SAF in District of Columbia as they revised laws (by-laws?)...new law allows business flexibilities...e.g. constitutions not required, Council is asking members to approve measure...as SAF needs to inform District of Columbia in January.

In other news, Executive Vice President Michael Goergen's last day will be October 15, 2013. Roger Dziengeleski is leading the search; they have hired a consultant to help with the search & vetting of candidates. This should be a budget neutral process, as Goergen's surplus salary will fund process. Louise Murgia is the Interim Executive Vice-President.

Regarding the Leadership Academy, it will be jointly held with District 9 next summer 2014, maybe July or August, no date has yet been set. An Iowa venue (Honey Creek Resort State Park) has been chosen and there is a need for organizers. Ernie will email members; the Iowa State Chair is the contact. Hoping for the same as in 2011, with no cost to attendees, now they must raise enough funds.

Next, Ernie spoke on the Certification Review Board proposal. This would be a new pathway for Forest Technicians to become SAF Certified Foresters. They would have to pass the same CF test.

The National SAF property in Bethesda, MD has been sold. The headquarters retained ownership of the building & footprint, parking rights, but sold 35 acres. They have received two payments and the closing date is set for May 2014. The bulk of proceeds from the sale will fund the endowment fund and long-term investments.

Also, SAF National is seeking to formalize the Accreditation of Terrestrial Ecosystem Management.

Discussion:

Don Howlett = the Certification of Forest Technicians is sending a strong message that SAF wants to broaden its message, my question is: what are we doing to broaden membership?

Lastly Ernie mentioned the Forester's Rings for graduating seniors and stated that this is his last meeting as the District V Representative, he is rotating off in December and that it has been quite an experience.

6. LP Chapter Report – Jason Darling

Jason reports that the Lower Peninsula (LP) Chapter needs a Vice Chair and asks that we please submit nominees. The Executive Committee is looking to update the LP bylaws to align with existing Upper Peninsula (UP) and National by-laws. He requested that any ideas for a summer meeting should be sent to Jason Darling. Additionally he mentioned the need for coordination of UP & LP meeting agendas.

7. UP Chapter Report – Andy Van Dyke

MSAF UP Spring conference tentatively scheduled for the last two weeks of March. It should be held in a central UP location such as Marquette or Escanaba. The topic will be along the lines of “Why Regeneration Fails”.

Discussion:

DNeumann = DNR would support

Jason Darling = LP thinks it should be a 2 part topic thru 2014 year – (see LP notes)

A committee was formed: Chad Fate, Lee Mueller, Jack Penegor, Jason Darling, Bill Cook, Dave Newmann

Jason = LP needs help with Field Sites to ensure appropriate field tours

Michigan Association of Timbermen should be involved with the conference planning.

Chad Fate = we should also reach out to Association of Consulting Foresters.

8. Other committee reports – Communications, Memberships, Awards

a. Science and Technology Vacancy

This position has been vacant for some time. Please contact Bernie if you have nominations.

9. Old Business:

a. Michigan Forester Timeline – Tori Irving

Tori was unable to join us.

10. New Business:

a. Policy/Position Statement discussion – Bernie Hubbard for Doug Heym

b. Spring conference

c. Leadership academy

It was felt that these first three items had been already been covered earlier in the meeting.

d. Auto Tour Update – Glenn Moll

Glenn has nothing new to report.

e. Auto Tour App Update – Don Howlett

Don informed us that the app is near the beta-testing stage and reminded us that an MTU professor is creating this for free – 90% developed...

f. Forester Registration – Bernie Hubbard

Bernie briefed us on the proposal by the State of Michigan Legislature to abolish the State's professional designation of "Registered Foresters" and informed us that the Executive Committee voted to take "No Action".

Discussion:

Dissenting voices were heard

Denny Renken = we need protection against timber jockeys.

Bill Rockwell = no political chance in hell to change current law – State of Michigan Registered Forester requirements fail in comparison with SAF Certified Forester standards...there are other solutions available.

Much membership discussion followed.

State of Michigan professional description is only one short line – some members think this is very important..."of interest to landowners as costs will increase".

Regarding surveyors...

Joyce Angel = "acceptable for foresters to run timber sale lines". Look at the Munising case – Forester was advertising to run property boundary lines and the issue was taken up by Association of Profession Surveyors...

Bernie brought it back around to a place where the group was OK with the Executive Team vote but put forth that as a group SAF needs to look at something similar to what other states are doing as we must protect our profession. There should be licensing requirements. For instance, in California they are very strict! Foresters must pass a comprehensive exam in order to practice forestry in the state. John Barnwell of the SAF National office is willing to help Michigan set forth requirements.

g. Leadership Succession – Lee Mueller

There is nothing new to report at this time.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jack Penegor.

Seconded: Shawn Hagan.

Passed with a chorus of Ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.