



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 20, 2015

Location: Pyramid Mountain Lumber Conference Room, Seeley Lake, MT

In Attendance: Jason Parke (JP), Gary Ellingson (GE), Jared Richardson (JR), Dylan Brown (DB), Tim Love (TL), Steve Hayes (SH), Gordy Sanders (GS) -present 2nd half, Brad Shoemaker (BS) *via phone*, Rebecca Hendrix (RH) *via phone*, Jim Thinnes (JT) *via phone*, Liam Hassett (LH), Charlie Wentz (CW), Josh Smith (JS)

Call to Order – Chair Jason Parke called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

Introductions: JP welcomed those in attendance; introductions were made by all others present

Approval of Past Minutes

Minutes from the December 9th 2014 (composed by Bev Yelczyn) Meeting were reviewed. Motion made to approve minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

JR made unofficial treasurers report based upon available information; will submit official treasurers report upon receipt of US Bank records which had been recently transferred to JP & JR. JR will email to Exec. Com. Members for review. (see attached-JR now has access to US Bank account & has updated Treasurer's report)

Chair Report:

JP discussed conference call with GE & JR, went over MT SAF Goals for 2015:

1. Develop a budget for 2015 (and beyond)
2. Recruit a Communications Chair
3. Update the MT SAF Website
4. Reinstitute the "MT Forester" Newsletter
5. Encourage Student Mentorship Activities
6. Develop a "Manual" of Executive Committee positions (TL may have something from when he was Chair, he will follow-up)

National Board Updates

Jim Thinnes discussed updates to National since last meeting. Matt Manashes is the new CEO of SAF. Council is no more, it is now called the Board. They have not had any meetings since December, 1st meeting is schedule for March. The Board is having discussion about how to position SAF for the future. They have budgeted \$250k to updating the safnet.org website.

SAF is discussing reaching out to other natural resource professions and how those positions relate to natural resource policy, there is a ballot measure this fall to allow other professions to join SAF.

National is developing templates ("In a Box") for positions/programs that can be applied to other chapters/positions throughout the country IE: Mentoring, committee positions, newsletters, etc.

JT also discussed the potential to standardize state chapter/local chapter dues throughout the intermountain region (particularly Co & WY); also the thought is that chapter financial responsibilities will all be run through the state level.

Committee members discussed opportunity to do this in MT, was realized that only the smaller chapters (Libby, Eastside) would maybe do this. *Discussion Tabled.*

Old Business:

JP provided a synopsis of the joint MT/IESAF Leadership Conference held at Camp Lutherhaven in Coeuer d'Alene, ID. IRS tax exempt notification to National required by 2/28/15. JR to file.

Discussion of Liability Insurance for State Chapter for field trips-can be obtained through national office.

JP discussed goal of developing State budget prior to State meeting; budget committee members include: Jason Parke, Bob Castenada, Jared Richardson, Bev Yelzcyn, Bob Logar, Scott Keuhn. Gary Ellingson and Liam Henson volunteered to review the proposed budget. Bob Castenada volunteered to draft the initial budget and distribute to all.

Committee approved purchasing accounting software through Techsoup.org (Quicken vs. Quick Books vs. Excel). JR felt Excel was sufficient for the limited accounting needs at this time. *-Discussion Tabled.*

New Business:

DB provided update of Missoula Chapter's most recent meeting, GS was guest speaker.

BS provided update to Eastside Chapter's most recent meeting & field trip.

Libby Chapter-not present

RH provided update to State Meeting Planning Committee, regarding donations, speakers, topics.

RH also provided update of Flathead Chapter's most recent meeting.

GS provided synopsis of State Policy Committee and how they develop policy positions vs. policy statements in letters & who to engage at the state and local level.

TL gave updates from the National Policy Committee and discussed how any policy positions must be in line with SAF's national policy positions and endorsement/support for a State Chapter's position must be run through National.

JT reiterated discussions from CO & WY Chapters regarding elimination of local Chapter treasurers and running all State finances through State Treasurers. This eliminates the potential problem National has been having with local Chapters with small memberships writing and/or receiving checks of very small \$ amounts, IE <\$10. There is support for this in States with smaller memberships. See the above notes for how this relates to MT. - *Discussion Tabled.*

JP brought up potential to use SAF Northwest Office (NWO) for handling clerical duties, website maintenance, advertisements, etc. instead of local/state chapters handling. WA SAF, IE SAF & OR SAF utilize NWO. This would require a dues increase at the State level (Approx. \$30 required/individual) to cover the costs of NWO. GE pointed out NWO may be available to subcontract specific services in the future to help "lighten the load" of State officers, instead of fully engaging at the increased State dues cost. As an example they may be able to handle registration and collect fees for the State Conference and costs for this service could be built into the conference costs and paid for by registrations. Lori Razor with NWO may be available to provide a "prospectus" as to what NWO can provide, costs, and also costs of subcontracting specific things. JP to make contact and request.

JT reiterated the "In the Box" templates National is working on. JT also brought up that CO & WY have used National in the past to collect Credit Card payments for conferences. Seems to be an opportunity for MT SAF to use other resources for Conference registration/payments to ease the clerical burden on Conference Committee members.

JP, SH, TL brought up proposal from Ron Buntmeyer (RB) for a poster/plaque honoring MT SAF Fellows. Further discussion by those present that a plaque would be more practical/honorable and could be in shape of MT with nameplates engraved and attached. It could be a traveling trophy and live with the most recent fellow. MT Fellows date back to mid-1970's and may be around 30 total. National & GS have a list of MT Fellows. Lorrie Woods (LW) to check on possibility of such a plaque and cost. Motion made to approve, motion received a 2nd and motion passed.

TL brought up effort by Burt Lindler to produce a video to honor and recognize Bud Moore and his contributions to forestry and forestry in Montana. TL will provide more information (see attached) TL made motion to request \$500 from MT SAF for supporting the video and being recognized as a sponsor. *-Motion Tabled*

Eastside Report:

BS provided synopsis of Eastside's latest activities. 10-12 people attended the last field trip; Chapter is currently working on the next field day agenda.

Chapter currently has a balance of \$4,000 with no outstanding bills.

Primary Chapter goal(s) for 2015 are to increase membership and have more active membership.

BS was also able to get CFE credits approved for the upcoming June I&D class/training in Red Lodge. (Additional Class to be held in Seeley, also a Root Disease class to be held in the Bitterroot).

Flathead Chapter:

RH reviewed most recent activity. At December meeting had dinner & silent auction, raised \$1,200 which covered scholarships to FVCC & SKC students. RH gave brief review of January meeting. At February meeting Rick Trembath spoke on his topic which he will also present on at the State Meeting (practice run).

March, 19th meeting is scheduled; essentially a working meeting for the Family Forestry Expo.

Libby Chapter:

Not Present

Missoula Chapter:

DB went over newly elected officers, DB is Chair and Sec/Treas.

Currently have balance of \$2,100, fast dwindling to \$1,700 due to outstanding debts. DB analyzed costs/trends as to where the \$ goes in Missoula Chapter. Realized 25 people/meeting is required to break even, need to increase attendance at meetings to remain in black. DB discussed opportunities for increasing recruitment and cash reserves. February Meeting is scheduled, April is off for State Meeting, May begins summer meeting hiatus.

Student Chapter:

JS Discussed fund raising for students to attend National Convention (4) and State Meeting (>4). Chapter is looking to send students to local forestry workshops for learning experiences. Marshall Canyon project to start again soon; students getting High School kids involved also. CW is newly elected Chair. Discussed what recruitment/membership offers to prospective members. Discussed increasing opportunities for students to attend workshops and gain certifications, tree climbing is most recent. Always looking for future opportunities. 1st Meeting of semester for week of 2/23, always looking for more speakers. Currently soliciting donations for State Meeting Auction (fundraising). GE offered to allow students to hold fundraising raffle @ Helena Landowner's Conf. Also currently planning Spring BBQ @ Forestry Days @ Fort Missoula.

Awards:

BY not present. JT reminded that 2/28 was cutoff for Chapters to advance award nominations to National. Membership pins will be available @ State Meeting.

Membership:

SH reviewed current membership stats. 290 total members in MT SAF, approx.. 60% have paid dues, 40% have not. These stats. are typical.

Communications:

No Chair. JP discussed need to do Press Release for State Meeting & need to coordinate with BY; LH volunteered to produce Press Release, LH will coordinate w/BY.

Historian/Forester's Fund:

Scott Keuhn (SK) not present. JP discussed that Sk was to apply for \$1,500 FF grant for addition to pole barn @ Museum @ Fort Missoula. Need cover for growing display of old iron. Missoula College of Tech. was to do Dirt work, other mills and companies were going to donate materials. If SK misses current deadline for FF grant app (3/15), 6/15 & 9/15 are also possibilities. Sk followed up with email, see attached.

Policy:

GS & TL discussed MT SAF's position on transfer of Federal Lands to State & recent letter stating position. MT SAF does not support this land transfer and feels it is a distraction from the real issue on a state and national level. SAF National does not have a position but GS drafted a letter & sent to SAF National for review/comments.

GS&TL discuss how policy positions are developed both locally and nationally with particular focus on the local (state) level.

A new policy handbook is being developed by National for use by state/local chapters to help guide their positions. Upcoming Nat. Policy Meeting on March 5-6, TL will attend. Topics to include: priorities and plans for the year, Federal taxation of forest land, Federal agency funding, & SAF's role in spending CFLR \$. JP requested TL or GS post some info regarding structure & role of the MS SAF policy committee on the website. LH asked if there was a way to sit in on meetings, GS doesn't think current structure allows for that.

State Meeting:

RH discussed possibility of Rep. Daines to speak @ State Meeting, requires further investigation. Group reiterated that Business meeting should be held @ 4PM on Thursday of State Meeting.

Closing:

JP requested that Chapter & Committee Chairs send in reports via email prior to meetings so topics can be attached to agenda's & folks can review prior to meetings. This will allow more discussion, less review in meetings and allow for meetings to flow faster/more efficiently. JP to send reminders prior to next meeting.

Meeting adjourned @ 3:27PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jared Richardson, MT SAF Secretary/Treasurer