

MT SAF Executive Committee Meeting

@ Forestry Days in Missoula, Montana

Minutes - Saturday, April 26, 2008

Attendance: Craig Thomas, Cindy Bertek, Sam Gilbert, Dave Atkins, Dennis Davaz, Holly McKenzie, and Larry Westcott.

Call to Order – Craig Thomas

Approval of Minutes – 3/5/08 minutes reviewed and approved with edits to the spelling of Larry Westcott's name.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Pursell – Submitted via e-mail prior to the meeting. The group unanimously approved the Treasurer Report and financial statement. (see attached).

East Side Report – *The April 15th meeting was on the Detrimental Soil Loss (monitoring protocol) with speakers Tom Maffei and Meredith Webster of the USFS. They spoke about the new monitoring protocol on line with new standards to be adopted soon. Dennis Davaz said the Mount Helena days has been pushed back to the Fall (September 17 & 18th. Bob Oldenburg is heading up the Clean up day adjacent to Brewery Flats Trail in August (date to be announced). An upcoming meeting will feature Brad Osler with his Chipper for fuels reduction work.*

Flathead Chapter Report – *No official meetings held since the State Meeting in Polson. Two Flathead Chapter members joined the Libby Chapter for a joint meeting in April. See Libby notes. Many of our members are involved in Family Forestry Expo which takes place the second weekend of May in Columbia Falls.*

Libby Chapter Report – Submitted via E-mail by Dave Marsh.

Our chapter helped out planting trees along Libby City streets last Saturday. This is one of the projects Russ Gautreaux initiated with help from the Forester's Fund. It's been a great way to contribute to our community.

We enjoyed a nice presentation on April 17th by Mark Mathews. He discussed some of the books he's written, along with a power point presentation of his research on the Mann Gulch tragedy. We held this meeting at the Fisher River Volunteer Fire Department, Battalion One station at Happys Inn. We were joined by some Flathead chapter folks as well. It was a nice way to show our members what an important service the volunteers provide. We recognized April Rainy for receiving the Montana Forester of the Year award and Russ Gautreaux for receiving the Libby Chapter Citizen of the Year.

In March, our chapter participated in a joint presentation for the community of Libby, with the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition. Speakers were Russ Grahm and Terri Jane, Research Foresters from the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Moscow, ID. The topic was geared towards managing forest fuels in the wildland urban interface. This presentaion was well attended and a great way to bring information on forest management to our local community.

We plan to host Chris Keyes (U of MT professor) as our guest speaker this May. Additionally in May, We're planning to conduct our annual Fith Grade Woods Tour in both Libby and Troy.

Missoula Chapter Report – *Greg Jones spoke about bio-ethanol conversion for units of energy converted. Next month (May) will feature a BBQ at Fort Missoula with Sean Cleveland, an Agency Elk Tracker working in the Grant Creek area. He'll talk about changes in animal use.*

Student Chapter Report – *Kyle is flipping burgers at Forestry Days during the meeting.*

Past Chair Report – Peter Kolb is out of touch on sabbatical in Germany.

Awards Committee Report – Tim Love –

Policy Committee Report – Gordy Sanders –

Communications Report – Jason Brandt –

Newsletter Report – Cherri Hartless –

Membership Report – John Casselli –

Mentor Report – Vacant - No Report

Foresters Fund Report – Gordy Sanders –

Historian Report – Scott Kuehn –

Science and Technology Report – John Goodburn –

CFE Report – Pat Heffernan –

Website Report – Sherri McWilliams –

Education Report– Cindy Bertek – *Project Learning Tree is being revived in Montana by several interested groups. Cindy gave a brief introduction about the organization and the groups planning to sponsor it here in Montana. She outlined the plan at an upcoming stakeholders meeting on May 13th in Missoula. This would tie in well with the USFS emphasis to start "Place Based Learning:" and "A Forest For Every Classroom". A brief discussion followed and members wanted to offer full support from SAF to help with P.L.T. in future efforts (as a State Sponsor, as volunteer facilitators, as resource experts to help teachers too). We discussed the idea of helping with monetary support from the Chapters and State level as well. Stay posted for future updates or contact Cindy Bertek or Holly Mckenzie to get involved.*

Old Business

- **State Meeting Report (Polson 08 event)** *from Holly McKenzie. The meeting was well attended by 125 individuals and we have a good write-up in the Forest Resource. We are still waiting for some bills to come in for the busses on the field trip. The total balance after bills are paid from the meeting is estimated to be slightly over \$2,000 which will be split between the State and Chapter SAF. Thanks for you attendance and hard work if you were involved!*
- **Nominations for Fellow** *(turned in on April 1st and sent to National SAF).*

New Business

- **Student Mentoring - Dennis Davaz** discussed a unique and fresh concept for mentoring our students. The idea of past mentoring has resulted in a few "rides in the pickup truck" for many students says Dennis, but this could be enhanced by mentoring them in a way that does so much more:
 - **1.) Lends financial support - offers a scholarship that pays for several days of paid work to come out and job shadow different agency foresters, company foresters, consultants, etc.**
 - **2.) The Student gains experience and it gives them something to put on a resume for future job applications.**
 - **3.) Gives them a reason to have allegiance to SAF as a group that took interest in their career goals and concerns about finding the right job in an area they like. SAF would be investing in the future of good forestry students as candidates for future SAF members.**
 - **4.) They could earn credits (Need to talk to Ron Wakimoto about this). Only selected junior and senior students would be candidates for this scholarship opportunity after submitting a resume. Would be subject to approval from the SAF executive Committee.**
 - **5.) The SAF would help pay for travel expenses and housing during student breaks (Christmas, Spring, and Summer) so students don't miss additional school.**

- **Next State meeting theme, location, dates, for Eastside Chapter to Plan.**
- The Eastside Chapter is planning to host the next State SAF Meeting in early March in Bozeman. On the committee are Bob Logar, Bob Oldenburg, and Dennis Davaz. They are working with different Motels and Conference Centers to see what prices might be. The plan is to send out an e-mail from our State Chair, Craig Thomas, soliciting input on the Event Theme. The meeting may emphasize Bio-Energy, bio-fuels, Fuel Reduction, Global Warming, etc. The State Executive Committee was asked to help by working with Perry Brown, Peter Kolb, and Gordy (as academia reps) to help us plan this event. The meeting is for the State Members therefore, they should all help with planning and recommending speakers.

- **Lubrecht (Natural Resources Youth Camp) sponsorship:** *Cindy handed out some brochures for the upcoming Youth Camp so we could bring those back to our Chapters. Larry Westcott is the Chairman for the Board of Directors this year. Aleisha Vanderheiden is in charge of contributions and donations may be sent to her. As a group, we moved to contribute some money to the camp this year. Approved was whatever amount we have given in the past up to a cap of \$500 if the Secretary / Treasurer deems it prudent with our current funding situation. (After note following the meeting.....Bill Pursell said he already gave Peter Kolb a check for \$500 to help with Natural Resources Youth Camp on behalf of SAF in February.....has not been cashed yet??)*

- **Other Items?** *There was a motion to shorten these meetings by soliciting information and Chair / chapter reports one week ahead of a State Executive Committee Meeting. Chair reports would be compiled and sent back out as part of the meeting agenda so that the E.C. would read them ahead of time and save some time at the meeting. Additional conversation regarding a report is welcome, however, reading a lengthy report would be frowned upon.*

- *We all agreed that with rising fuel prices, we should reduce the number of meetings and make them shorter so that it is easier to sit in on a conference call when possible. Conference calls aren't bad when they last less than an hour but the 2-3 hour meetings are painful.*

Adjourn – *The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 P.M. The next meeting will be held in September to help firm up the details of the 2009 State Meeting in Bozeman.*

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Holly McKenzie in Bill Pursell's absence.