



Society of American Foresters

Montana Chapter, Established in 1971

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 14, 2016

Location: Radisson Colonial Hotel, Helena, MT

In Attendance: Gary Ellingson (GE), Ed Levert (EL), Steve Hayes (SH), Henry Fassnacht (HF), Jason Parke (JP), Cindy Peterson (CP), Jared Richardson (JR), Brad French (BF), Clay Stephenson (CS), Bob Alverts, Owen Retzlaff (OR), (BA), Jim Thinnes (JT), Russ Gautreaux (RG), Sam Gilbert (SG), Dale Kerkvliet (DK).

Call to Order: Chair Gary Ellingson called meeting to order at 4:14 PM

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

Past Meeting Minutes: GE conducted brief review of February 2016 Meeting Minutes, A few typos were mentioned and addressed. SH made motion to approve minutes, JP seconded and motion passes.

Treasurer's Report: JR conducted review of April Treasurer's Report, JP discussed Missoula Chapter dues distributions. Motion was made to approve Treasurer's Report, motion seconded and passes.

2016 Annual Budget Review: JR conducted review of draft 2016 budget, GE explained some finer details. Another review of 2016 Budget will be conducted in 4/15 Business Meeting. Jim Thinnes made suggestion of reviewing and balancing the proposed budget.

Group made suggestions for trimming budget and made changes, to revenue and expenses. JR will make changes prior to Business Meeting and have Powerpoint Slide ready.

2016 Leadership Conference Statement and Review: GE gave rundown and explanation of statement, budget, and synopsis of topics and event. Leadership conference in 2017 will be in ID. Group beat up on UM Student Chapter for missing the Leadership Conference. BF inquired about how to boost attendance in this event and when planning starts; is there a way to drum up more interest earlier? This is tough as "earlier" late in previous calendar year and chair positions are changing, likely scheduling hasn't occurred yet. RG asked if membership and recruitment are topics at this event. GE encourages more to attend, especially younger members. JT states that membership is constantly developing; also suggests that planning be delegated to others, perhaps prior to year-end. GE suggests that if National Office had a leadership conference template and a template for payment system that would be appreciated. JT says new and improved SAF website and database is potential for future registrations.

State Meeting Update: GE gave update, 120 total registrations with distribution about 50/50 between SAF Members and Landowners. There is about \$4,000 in sponsorships this year and cost/revenue distribution is 50/50 between MT Forest Landowner Conference and SAF State Meeting. GE very pleased with Northwest Office (Lori Rasor), about 23 speakers are signed up, some walk-in attendance is expected.

Communications Chair: This position is still vacant, GE did a press release for the Landowner Conf./State Meeting. Others present threw around ideas for who could fill Communications Chair but nothing was resolved.

Old Business: Libby and Missoula Chapters were awarded Forester's Fund Grants although no official correspondence has been received yet; no letters or checks. RG will contact Lori Rasor to confirm Grant awards. RG also described Libby Chapter's FF Grant request which was to do work in Libby's City Parks such as planting trees, this works in conjunction with Libby's "Tree City USA" Designation. SAF gets good press and Arbor Day recognition also.

Missoula Chapter's FF Grant Award is for Scott Kuehn's Fort Missoula Museum.

Flathead Chapter is applying on June 15th deadline for Herron Park Project.

RG and EL will do a FF Grant request for their Libby Community Forest Project which was reviewed at the February Executive Committee Meeting. JP reiterated that this project would be a good HSD success story.

New Business: Eastside Chapter needs help from State with Treasurer position; DK volunteered to fill this position in Eastside Chapter. DK will contact Brad Shoemaker.

TL inquired about SAF State Chapter sending \$500 check for Bud Moore video; check has already been sent.

Eastside Chapter Report: Brad Shoemaker not present.

Flathead Chapter Report: BF gave updates about recent activities and upcoming FF grant request for Herron Park. Also gave updates about firewood cutting/sales program.

Libby Chapter Report: EL discussed receipt of thinning grant from DNRC for an upcoming project. Presentation topic at last chapter meeting was "Forest Nutrients" presented by Kootenai Tribe. Libby Chapter looking for an opportunity to do a joint meeting with either Flathead Chapter or Selkirk Chapter. Libby Chapter also looking to sponsor new members, perhaps by covering 50% of silver level membership cost.

Missoula Chapter Report: HF gave updates, Forestry Days at Fort Missoula is upcoming.

Mentorship Report: OR gave updates; nothing new to report.

Student Chapter Report: GE gave updates, 5 new student members have signed up. Students will host silent auction at State Meeting. Student Chapter appears to be full of enthusiastic members.

Awards Report: JP reiterated who will be receiving awards at State Meeting; additionally there will be 4 50 year Members. This precipitated a discussion about whether total years on list are actually "active" and paid membership years. No resolution to this discussion point.

Membership Report: SH gave updates, he has been continuing to notify people who are behind in their dues. There has been a net increase of 5 paid members since last meeting to a grand total of 270 Montana Members. SH asked JT about effective date for change of membership; it should be date payment for membership renewal is received.

Foresters Fund Report: GS had no updates to report, other than what was reported earlier.

Policy Report: GS has no new updates to report.

Natural Resources Youth Camp Report: GE gave quick update, no change from last meeting, NRYC needs more money otherwise future of camp is in jeopardy.

Education/Outreach Report: CP provided updates, nothing new to report.

CFE Credits: DK suggested outgoing Chapter Chairs make packets for new chapter chairs detailing info about how to submit for CFE's. GE gave quick update of OR's CF Candidate presentation from February Meeting.

Science Chair Update: Nothing to Report

Historian Chair Update: GE reminded everyone about Forestry Days at Fort Missoula on April 30th.

Website Update: GE gave Sherri McWilliams kudos for a job well done.

Closing: Need to schedule next Exec. Committee Meeting, suggestion made for 8/31ish either in Seeley Lake or on a Conference Call; GE to send out Doodle Poll near end of August.

JP made motion to adjourn, RG seconded and motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jared Richardson, MT SAF Secretary/Treasurer