

**Society of American Foresters**  
**Montana Chapter**  
**Executive Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** June 17, 2015

**Location:** Pyramid Mtn Lumber Conference Rm, Seeley Lake, MT

**In attendance:**

Jason Parke (JP), Gary Ellingson (GE), Dylan Brown (DB), Brad Shoemaker (DS) *by phone*, Rebecca Hendrix (RH), Owen Retzlaff (OR) and Gordy Sanders (GS)

**Call to Order:** Chair Jason Parke called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

**Approval of Past Minutes:**

Minutes from the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Treasurers Report:**

The committee reviewed and discussed the 2015 State Meeting Treasurers Report dated June 16, 2015 and the Montana State Chapter Treasurers Report dated June 16, 2005 (see attachments). One small typo was noted in the spelling of Bev Yelczyn's last name in the State Chapter Report (remove the "t"). The State Meeting generated a profit of \$2,802.70. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Reports (with typo correction to be made). The motion was seconded and approved.

**Review of SAF Board Meeting Talking Points:**

JP summarized the Talking Points (*attached*) from the June 2015 meeting of the SAF Board of Directors. The group requested that JP relay a concern to the board that the issue of "rebranding" would not resurface with SAF. There was also a sentiment amongst the committee that the SAF website is in need of improvement and hopefully the changes can be implemented in a timely manner.

**Chair Report:**

JP reviewed the goals he had outlined for the year.

Goal 1 – Develop a 2015 budget. This had been completed.

Goal 2 – Recruit Communications Chair – Liam Hassett with Student Chapter Chair Elect has volunteered to fill the position. The board agreed to have Liam fill the position if still interested. JP will make contact with Liam. Communications prepared by Liam will be reviewed by members of the board prior to distribution.

Goal 3 – Update MT SAF Website – Work is in progress being led by John Goodburn and Sherri McWilliams. A goal is to have meeting minutes posted to the website and presentations from the State meeting.

Goal 4- Newsletter – This goal been determined to be less important than getting the MT SAF website up and running. Hopefully the improved website could provide many of the same functions as a newsletter.

Goal 5 – Encourage Student Mentorship – Owen Retzlaff has accepted the position of Student Mentorship Chair. Owen will work with the Student Chapter. There is a need to recruit new student members as many student members recently graduated and the SAF student member ranks have diminished.

Goal 6- Develop a Manual of Executive Committee Positions - JP and GE will work together to develop a manual and calendar of important calendar dates. There is good information available on the SAF National website.

#### **Old Business:**

College of Forestry Display – No additional action will be taken at this time.

Bud Moore Video - A pledge of \$500 was made by MT SAF to support the video if the project moves forward.

State Meeting Wrap Up - General discussion was that the meeting was a success and many positive comments were received. Reservations for the 2016 State Meeting will be confirmed at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena, MT for April 2016.

Dues Discussion - National SAF had requested that State Society Dues be increased from \$4 to \$5 per year. After some discussion a motion was made to increase dues by \$1 to \$5 per year. The motion was seconded and approved. JP will ask the State Treasurer to reimburse the Missoula Chapter for Missoula Chapter dues which have been collected by the State Chapter but not redistributed over the past 2 years.

#### **New Business:**

2015 HSD (House Society of Delegates) Success Stories – There are 3 potential success stories from MT that can be prepared and submitted. 1) Scott Kuehn and the Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build, 2) Josh Smith and the Student Chapter Marshall Canyon Project, 3) Libby Chapter Alvord Lake Community Forest Project. The success stories are due by the end of July 2015. JP will provide reminders to those who might contribute.

2015 HSD Issue Statements – There is an opportunity to submit issue statements to HSD for discussion at the SAF National Mtg. No action taken.

Supporting Members to Attend National Convention – JP (MT Chair) and GE (MT Chair Elect) will be attending the SAF National Convention with \$1000 of financial support each from MT SAF.

**Missoula Chapter Report** – DB reported that the chapter is on summer hiatus. The current Secretary Treasurer will be vacating his position as the result of a new job offer. The current Vice-chair is also going to have to relinquish his position. There will be a challenge to fill these positions. The chapter is in good shape financially.

**Eastside Chapter Report** – BS reported the newsletter is going well. Eastside Chapter is considering sponsorship of the Northern Rockies Tree School. Plans are underway for a fall technical workshop for SAF members.

**Flathead Chapter** – RH reported that the Chapter was very active with the Annual Family Forestry Expo held in May. 1500 fifth graders attended on one day and over 800 people on the following Saturday. SAF members manned a Forest Management Station and supported the event in other capacities. The chapter is also working on two interpretive signage projects for Herron Park outside of Kalispell in cooperation with Brian Sugden's son's Eagle Scout project. A September field trip is being planned.

**Libby Chapter**- Several members attended a field tour of the West Kootenai WMA project in May and participated in a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class tour.

**Student Chapter** – No report

**Membership Report** – The National website indicates there are 260 current members with 20 expiring and 24 overdue.

**Foresters Fund** – Coming application deadlines are Sept 15 and February 15. Scott Kuehn is completing the pole barn project.

**Awards Chair** – Bev Yelczyn sent an email reporting on the status of recently submitted nominations. She forwarded national award criteria and the names of SAF folks she thought would be good nominees. She is encouraging Montana Society to submit nominations for national awards.

**Policy Report** – GS reported that there has been a lot of activity in the House of Representatives on the Congressional level with several bills addressing stewardship and restoration of National Forests. The Senate is less focused but some bills may come through as attachments to other bills. There is some optimism that changes can be made in the near future. Tim Love's term on the National Policy Committee will be expiring in the coming year and we hope to replace him with another representative from Montana.

**MT Natural Resources Youth Camp** – OR reported they are addressing issues associated with obtaining financial support to cover the cost of sending campers. Campers pay a fee that covers part of the expense for camp but the rest has been historically subsidized with outside funding support. Some funding sources has been dropped so there is a need to locate additional financial support.

**Next Meeting Date, Time and Place:** October 15, 2015. 2 pm Pyramid Lumber Conference Rm., Seeley Lake, MT.