



## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 20, 2015

**Location:** Red Atlas Conference Room, Helena, MT

**In Attendance:** Jason Parke (JP), Gary Ellingson (GE), Jared Richardson (JR), Brad Shoemaker (BS), Chris Keyes (CK), Jim Thinnes (JT) *via phone*, Owen Retzlaff (OR) *via phone*,

**Call to Order** – Chair Jason Parke called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

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

### Approval of Past Minutes

Minutes from the previous Executive Committee Meeting were reviewed. JP made motion made to approve minutes, SK seconded, motion passed.

### Treasurer's Report:

JR made treasurers report since last Executive Committee Meeting, revenue included a final accounting from the State meeting; Expenditures consisted of State Meeting Revenue Disbursements to Chapters and Registration for GE & JP for National Conference.

### National Board Updates

Jim Thinnes discussed updates from National Office with immediate focus on upcoming National Convention. MT SAF Executive Committee has three delegates going: GE, JP, & SK; some Student SAF Members are also attending. JT asked if folks are getting support from their employers to attend, most people are getting support, with the exception of federal agency employees. JT indicates this trend is seen nationwide.

New SAF Website development is ongoing, and rollout of the new website is anticipated early 2016. New website will have an updated look and be easier to navigate.

Membership division is going through some updates also, this should make membership information easier to find and update on a more regular basis.

“Issues and Advocacy” Newsletter to rollout soon also.

New communications initiative by National: “Evolving Forestry”; intent is to show that the flavor of forestry is changing throughout the US, highlight stories about this. BS made a comment about this also regarding the demographics of attendees of his recent “Northern Rockies Tree School” Conference in Livingston; out of 177 attendees, only 3 were SAF members, despite CFE’s being offered by plenary sessions. As a side note, BS indicated attendance was up 60% over last year’s conference.

SAF election ballots are out, a new VP needs to be elected. Elected positions serve for 3 years; there are 14 total comprised of 11 representatives of geographic areas and 3 officers (President, Vice President, President-Elect) Please vote if you have not already.

### Chair Report:

JP gave update to goal list:

- 1- Develop a budget for 2015 - *Complete*
- 2- Recruit a Communications Chair - *Ongoing*
- 3- Update the MT SAF Website – *(CFC hosts and has updated their website but not SAF’s)*
- 4- Reinststitute the “MT Forester” Newsletter – *This has been placed on the back burner*

- 5- Encourage Student Mentorship Activities – *Owen Retzlaff is the student advisor and has been providing student support*
- 6- Develop a “Manual” of Executive Committee positions - *JP has started and has a sent a version for review.*

#### **Old Business:**

JP provided updates

SK getting an award at National Conv. for Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build as an HSD Success Story.

No issues or statements for HSD, JP looking for topics

At June Executive Committee Meeting, motion was approved to increase dues to \$5.00 annually, this will go into effect next year for new and reinstating members. \$5.00 annual dues is the minimum National will allow.

Communications Chair Position is still open, those interested are encouraged to contact JP.

#### **New Business:**

GE gave updates to the 2016 Leadership Conference he is organizing. Conference will be at Lubrecht on February 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This two day Conference is more like a “retreat” where attendees stay overnight and fun activities are scheduled. GE is looking for suggestions for a theme and suggestions for speakers; pressed JT for suggestions from his end. JT said he would get back to GE. GE’s thought is that getting some speakers from outside of forestry arena would be a good twist to this conference; Greg Gianforte (from Rightnow Technologies) and State Senator Pat Connell were potential thoughts. SK voiced a common misconception that the Leadership Conference is often thought of as a workshop for incoming SAF Executive Committee members when in fact it is open to all. Renaming the conference was also an idea that was tossed around. CK brought up Student SAF Participation and help with cost, those in attendance agreed that helping students was generally a good idea and a \$ amount for assistance would be agreed upon later. The topic of farming out registration and payment to the Northwest Office (NWO) which is an SAF affiliate was brought up again and it was generally agreed that this should be followed up on.

GE also gave an update on the 2016 State Meeting, which will be held in Helena on April 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, with the Executive Committee Meeting preceding the conference on the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup>. The State Meeting will be held at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena and will once again be a joint symposium held in conjunction with the Montana Landowner’s Conference, co-sponsored by the Forest Stewardship Foundation and Northwest Management, Inc. This event also needs a theme, speaker ideas, and committee members to volunteer and coordinate; it was brought up that Rebecca Hendrix put together a manual for State Meeting coordination based on the 2015 State Meeting. Potential theme ideas were suggested: “Portrayal of Forestry in the Media/Public Perception” and “Forestry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. Potential topic ideas that were thrown around were Silviculture (always popular), tales of loggers and foresters, and what makes a good timber sale administrator. Registration and payments for this event could also be farmed out to NWO.

GE’s first order of business for the 2016 State Meeting is to appoint committee members.

Missoula Chapter is next in the rotation to host the State Meeting for 2017 and also to provide a State Chair. CK indicated he would like to see some more support from the University side of things. SK will talk to Gordy about approaching potential new Chairs as Gordy is good at asking people about this sort of thing.

#### **Mentorship:**

JP reiterated the ongoing search for Mentorship opportunities and encouraged folks to reach out. OR has been spending time with student chapter and hosting field trips for John Goodburn’s and Beth Dodson’s respective classes on harvesting and roads. JP suggested that OR attend a Student SAF Chapter meeting. Hosting a workshop was a suggested method of mentorship, basic field skills was a suggested topic, the idea was tabled for a time. GE suggested getting students involved in planning the upcoming leadership conference. JP discussed a leadership packet distributed by the CO/WY Chapter, JP was planning on presenting on this topic at National Conf. along with Chris Stahl and JT.

#### **Eastside Report:**

BS provided an update to Chapter’s latest activities:

Northern Rockies Tree School Conference synopsis (see above)

Eastside is looking for a new Treasurer.

NRCS has a new Forester, Matt Rickets

**Flathead Chapter:**

Not Present

**Libby Chapter:**

Not Present

**Missoula Chapter:**

SK provided Chapter updates:

Annual Fall BBQ to be Held @ Fort Missoula

Upcoming Chapter Meeting on 10/19 to feature speaker Mark Finney from the Missoula Fire Lab.

Dave Stack and Jim Arney are up for 50 year member awards, Bev is aware to coordinate.

**Student Chapter:**

CK provided Chapter updates:

Membership is in a rebuilding year, there was virtually no carry over from last year for membership. This is a typical cycle with Students. Currently in an aggressive recruitment campaign focusing on the "Freshman Forestry Skills Class" (which replaced forestry camp).

About 4-5 students are planning on attending the National Convention and are fundraising. It costs about \$1,000 per student to attend.

Chapter is trying to be more forward looking and plan farther ahead, this is difficult with membership turnover. Students are planning on attending 2016 State Meeting and trying to budget/plan for that.

Students are not doing a display at the National Meeting but are in charge of arranging food for the Alumni meeting at National. Students seeking some financial assistance from the State Chapter for attending National Meeting.

The CFC is looking for a new Dean, the goal is to have one in place by summer of 2016.

Need to make arrangements to get Student Chapter meeting Agenda to JP in advance of meeting so someone from Exec. Com. could attend.

**Awards:**

BY not present, JP gave updates. Gordy was submitted for Pinchot Award, he was not selected but will be up for nomination again in 2017. SK suggests that MT SAF nominate someone from MT annually for Beal award (due by end of February each year) SK to talk to Bev about this. John Goodburn was suggested for Karl Schenk educator award in past years. SK nominated John Ottman for fellowship award. JP suggested that now is the time to think about awards to be given out at State Meeting, send emails to him about possibilities.

**Membership:**

JP reviewed numbers, MT SAF has 263 active members currently, this is down from about 300 at this time last year. Decline is due to a few factors: National purged membership lists of old/inactive/non paying members and this resulted in a decline in membership #'s nationwide. Also 17 students who were MT SAF members last year are no longer members. JP has reached out to other non-paying members, some forgot, others were unresponsive. More reachout is planned to try to re-recruit. Some non paying members have retired and no longer see the need to maintain membership. JP also asked other non dues paying members why they let membership lapse; some questioned what value they were getting from membership. This discussion is ongoing.

**Communications:**

*Chair position remains vacant.*

**Historian/Forester's Fund:**

SK provided update. The display shed addition at Fort Missoula is complete, this is what SK received a Forester's Fund grant for. Other, additional maintenance on the display shed was completed also. The Forester's Fund committee from National was asking each state chapter to bring a donation to the National Convention for an auction/drawing.

**Policy:**

Not Present.

**Youth Camp:**

Not Present. SK indicated Amy is looking for a replacement for Youth Camp chair position or to have a committee formed to manage this activity.

**Education:**

Not Present.

**Closing:**

JP made motion to approve \$500 to Student Chapter for assistance to send students to National Conference; BS amended motion to donate \$ to students with the stipulation that they give a presentation based on their experience at National Convention; presentation should be sent to chapters and Exec. Com.

JR seconded motion.

Motion Carries.

**Meeting adjourned @ 4:35 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by Jared Richardson, MT SAF Secretary/Treasurer