



Society of American Foresters

Montana Chapter, Established in 1971

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 2, 2016

Location: Radisson Colonial Hotel, Helena, MT

In Attendance: Gary Ellingson (GE), Ed Levert (EL), Steve Hayes (SH), Jared Richardson (JR), Owen Retzlaff (OR), Tim Love (TL), Brad Shoemaker (BS), John Goodburn (JG), Jason Parke (JP), .

Call to Order: Chair Gary Ellingson called meeting to order at 8:32 AM

Past Meeting Minutes: GE conducted brief review of April 2016 Meeting Minutes, SH made motion to approve minutes, EL seconded and motion passes.

Treasurer's Report: JR has not provided an updated TR or a final State Meeting report, JR will complete ASAP, GE mentions it appears that the State Meeting was in the black, JR concluded that meeting was in the black but did not know by how much.

Chair Report: GE discussed upcoming national convention in Madison Wis., GE planning on attending, JR planning on attending, SH & other BBER staff attending.

GE discussed Diversity & Inclusion Report sent out by Matt Menashes recently, MT Exec. Com. provided comments. This policy statement was the result of a "Joke" at the convention in LA; the joke was apparently tasteless and prompted an examination of SAF's policy. Comments from MT were mixed and not sure if policy was really necessary or whether SAF's existing code of ethics were sufficient. Members felt that comments had been made and we would see what the outcome was.

GE brought up SAF Membership Survey Report; results of report indicate that a large percentage of SAF members are aging/retiring and once these folks are gone there will be a membership vacuum. SH comments that this isn't a surprise but quantifies what is already known. SH asks JG whether students are interested, JG states that jobs & networking for jobs is primary reason for student involvement; projects and education are secondary reason. Currently most of membership are Graduate Students and they are trying to entice other members/younger members. Students are becoming more involved with Freshman field skills class and are making freshmen aware of SAF. GE asks whether Forestry Club and SAF are the same, JG explains they are different clubs but he expects more cross-over during this year's Forester's Ball, which marks the 100th anniversary. OR states he has received positive feedback from students and an increased interest from the mentorship program. GE asks if there are other opportunities to interact with younger generation at other events, maybe chapter events. EL states that Libby chapter now pays 50% of membership reenlistment cost for those inactive members who come back and participate in projects.

GE, SH, & OR will work together on a brainstorming project to get younger members.

TL asks if there is a way for individual chapters to cover membership fees; SH states that other chapters have done this in the past with limited success. BS tried something similar in the past with Eastside chapter and funding CF certification, had only 1 response and participant did not follow through.

Old Business: GE comments that Flathead Chapter was awarded a Foresters Fund Grant, JR described what project was (Heron Park) GE described Heron Park itself.

New Business: GE states that State Chapter Budget is in slow decline, currently have money but at the current expenditure rate the chapter will run out in time; chapter needs to consider additional fundraising opportunities. OR suggests selling firewood, SH suggests finding ways to cut expenses, JR conducts quick review of State Budget and state that there isn't much room to cut anything else from the budget.

GE reminds everyone & chapters to recruit new people for upcoming different positions.

BS brings up that he doesn't feel like he is living up to the responsibilities of Eastside Chapter Chair, he is looking for another person to fill this role for upcoming year; GE & BS will discuss later.

TL brings up Montana Forest Collaborative Network meeting on December 5-6th in Helena, this is a new organization that is forming; the purpose is to engage other collaboratives statewide with Federal agencies. There are currently 36 different collaboratives in MT, MFCN will provide support and services to other organizations, rather than be a leader. TL solicits a few hundred \$ from MT SAF as a sponsor for this meeting, he would like to have SAF's name on the sponsorship banner. JG voices support, EL makes motion to approve \$250 donation to MFCN, JR seconds motion, motion passes. TL thanks group and asks about putting together a FF Grant request for cost of printing & distributing results/minutes/newsletter from meeting.

Eastside Chapter Report: BS gave updates, DNRC has new forester that took Brad's position. Dale Kerkvliet is acting as treasurer.

Flathead Chapter Report: Brad French not present, JR gave updates; FF Grant for Heron Park was discussed earlier in the call, firewood cutting and sales happened earlier in the spring, raised \$800ish, have a few more loads left to sell. Allen Chrisman received Presidential Field Forester award, more details pending.

Libby Chapter Report: EL discussed upcoming "Walk in the Woods" in late September and upcoming speakers for Alvord Lake dedication & projects.

Missoula Chapter Report: OR is vice-chair, welcome back BBQ is September 20th.

Mentorship Report: OR gave updates, he's taken some students out recently and done field skills; glad his employer gives him the opportunity to work with students.

Student Chapter Report: GE gave updates, recapped how he and OR did interview technique workshop last year and had a great response; would like to do more of that type of thing, JG agreed.

Awards Report: JP discussed John Ottman fellowship, Allen Chrisman award. GE is sending JR the certificate to take to frame shop.

Nominations for Chapter awards are due February 28th, 2017, chairs should get awards in before then as they take time.

100th Forester's Ball is upcoming, in February; Forestry Scholarship Association (body that guides students/foresters ball) has meeting in Missoula on September 10th. The FSA is looking for more members.

Membership Report: SH gave updates, he has perused new SAF website and found it better than the old for the most part. It has an interactive feature for membership which is good, but it no longer shows recent members who are not current on dues, the spreadsheets that came from national used to show that. There are currently 238 active Montana members.

Foresters Fund Report: See earlier, Flathead Chapter award and possible forthcoming request from MFCN.

Policy Report: TL gave updates for Gordy, Gordy has been visiting with John Barnwell. Gov Bullock is chair of WGA, SAF appreciates Gov's support of Forestry.

See previous about Policy Statements.

GE brings up that new round of FF Grant requests are available.

Natural Resources Youth Camp Report: Cindy Peterson not present.

Communications: No Chair.

Closing: Need to schedule next Exec. Committee Meeting, GE will send out Doodle Poll, possibly for week of 11/14.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Jared Richardson, MT SAF Secretary/Treasurer