

MINUTES
Wisconsin SAF Executive Committee Meeting
Schmeekle Reserve Conference Room
Stevens Point, WI
Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Attendance (**Bold** = present):

OFFICERS		CFE	Melinda Vokoun
Chair	Julie Peltier	Forest Science & Tech	Brad Hutnik
Chair-Elect	Jeff Kante	Foresters' Fund	Ray Perry
Immediate Past Chair	Tom Hittle	For/Cons Hall of Fame	Tom Albrecht
Secretary	Jerry Van Cleve	Historian	John Kotar
Treasurer	Valerie Johnson	NRCS	John Kotar
District V Rep	Gary Vander Wyst	CHAPTERS	
Council on Forestry Rep	Jim Kerkman	Chippewa	Valerie Johnson
COMMITTEES		Fox River Valley	Anthony Rynish
Membership	-	Mid-Wisconsin	Joe Kies
Program	-	Northeast	-
Policy & Legislation	Tom Hittle	Southeast	Laura Giese
Communications	Anthony Rynish	Southwest	Brad Hutnik
Education & Training	Brian Spencer	UW-Madison	Megs Seeley
Awards	Gary Vander Wyst	UW-Stevens Point	Jacob Lueck

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. Roll call and introductions.
2. Anti-trust statement was reviewed by Julie Peltier.
3. **Agenda Repair:** Motion to add "Open Discussion" following item 13 - Quick Updates. Motion by Vander Wyst, 2nd by Kerkman, motion carried.
4. **Minutes:** Draft minutes from the June 29, 2016 meeting were sent to Exec Committee ahead of meeting. Two strike-outs suggested, items 5 and 9a, and one correction to item 9-1 changing "Melinda" to "Laura." Motion by Vander Wyst, 2nd by Kerkman, motion carried.
5. **Chair's Report** – Julie Peltier
 The National Convention in Madison was a great success! Volunteers were where they needed to be, on time. People stepped up to be Moderators. Awards presentations were well-received. Matt Menashes was ecstatic how it all came together. They liked Monona Terrace. National may wish to try again in 2022! Gary V. has a written letter of commendation for Valerie's work at the silent auction & raffle. Thank you to Julie & WI SAF. Final count was 1,754 registrations, they had been shooting for 1,500. Silent auction brought in more than \$6,000 (for Kurt Gottschalk fund, matched by a generous donor). One minor flaw: final drawing of raffle tickets should have been earlier to allow for pick-up of items, and for take-down. UW Madison won the quiz bowl.
6. **Treasurer's Report** –Valerie Johnson
 Valerie did not have copies of treasurer's report due to computer issues connected to her recent job change. **Valerie will send electronic copies of treasurer's report to Exec Committee.**
 Dues reimbursements have been sent to Chapters.
 Expenses have been for website updates.
 \$10,000 payment from National SAF for convention is coming—more later.
 - a. 2016 Audit. **Chapter treasurer's reports are needed ASAP.** Thank you to Chippewa, Mid-WI, Fox River Valley, plus another chapter for submitting your reports. Waiting for 2 more. Audit committee is Gary Vander Wyst, Jay Gallagher, & Jerry Van Cleve.
 - b. 2017 Budget. Will be addressed under New Business.

7. **SAF District V Representative Report** – Gary Vander Wyst, written report.
Don Howlett is our new Rep, Gary is giving report.
Representatives Johnson, Duffy, and Baldwin are each supportive of SAF policies and the state of forestry / forest industry in WI.
SAF Board & Nat'l staff impressed with convention in Madison.

8. **Council on Forestry Report** – Jim Kerkman, written report
Governor's Council website currently has their old position paper on Deer Management. The Council has a DRAFT position paper on this issue which should be finalized soon.
Economic Summit, WI Forest Practices Study—looking at revising sideboards for MFL owners for rotation ages of red pine and aspen, and revising silvicultural guidelines for northern hardwoods. Mike Demchik, Terry Strong, Tom Hittle, and Matt Dallman on team to complete work by May 18th.
Economic Summit Goal 7- see written report.
Invasive Species Council – Jim Kerkman is serving but is looking for a replacement. **Valerie Johnson will check with her new supervisor about serving on Invasive Species Council.**
Paul Cigan is hosting an EAB quarantine workshop in Hayward on January 25th.

9. **Committee Updates**
 - a. **Membership** – vacant
Julie reports current WI SAF membership at 342.
WDNR is holding a Consulting Foresters Meeting on April 5th in Wausau (Stoney Creek Inn). Don Peterson coordinates the meeting. Jim Kerkman suggest bringing our new SAF banner and table runner to the meeting, along with membership information and application forms. Val Johnson has the banner. **Someone going to the meeting should get the stuff from Val.**

 - b. **Program** – vacant
Upcoming statewide meetings:
2017 Chippewa / NE Chapters host.
2018 Fox / Mid-WI
2019 SE / SW

Potential topics for 2017 include GNA (Good Neighbor Agreement between WI DNR and USFS), tribal issues, climate change & private owners. Leaning toward GNA, in the fall.

 - c. **Policy & Legislation** – Tom Hittle
High grading – do we need or want a position statement? Nat'l contacts are John Barnwell and Danielle Watson. This would be good topic for Nat'l HSD. Consensus to survey membership (Survey Monkey) to see if we want to move forward. **Tom Hittle and Brad Hutnik will discuss & get back to Exec committee.**
Deer – We don't want to pit trees against deer. Our last WI SAF position statement on Deer Management from 2007 needs updating with more facts, supporting information. WI Council on Forestry has a draft position paper (November 2016) on "The Relationship Between White-tailed Deer Management and Wisconsin Forests," & how CDAC members need to be cognizant. Some companies/ownerships are issuing nuisance deer permits, that they received from DNR, but in conflict with CDAC recommendation. **Once finalized, Tom Hittle will send the Council on Forestry position paper on Deer Management to the WI SAF Exec Committee. Tom Hittle will also send us a listing of open seats on CDAC committees.**
WI Young Forests Partnership – handout, minutes from their 10/19 meeting.

 - d. **Communications** – Anthony Rynish
Website – no news. Haven't been in contact w/ Kirsten. Get chapter updates to Kirsten Held, who will forward to Anne Lupton for updating. Quarterly batches are more efficient for her and more cost effective for us.

Joe Kies suggests that we leave the specific number of WI SAF members off of our webpage. Val made a Facebook page for the convention, Nat'l put it on their Facebook page, too.

- e. **Education & Training** – Brian Spencer absent, no report
Julie mentioned on Brian's behalf the Sustainable Forestry Conference to be held in Florence at Encore on Central, April 20, 2017, hosted by UW Extension. & Lumberjack RC & D.
 - f. **Awards** – Gary Vander Wyst
Golden Members: Will Kiefer, Gerald Vande Hei, Bill Shirley
Certificates should be presented at statewide meeting so golden members can be recognized, then delivered personally if they can't make the meeting. Also small write-up in local paper.
Field Forester – we do have a nominee for 2017 and for 2018. State nominates through committee to Nat'l.
Fellows – one candidate nomination in process. Chapter, State, & National SAF activity needed.
John Macon – we have one nominee for this, too.
 - g. **CFE** – Melinda Vokoun, written report
Event sponsors may submit agenda and list of attendees after the event, within 3 weeks.
New Nat'l SAF website is a bit slow for CFE updates, will improve.
 - h. **Forest Science & Technology**—Brad Hutnik
Brad Hutnik, Greg Edge, Colleen Matula, Christel Kern, and Terry Strong took an SAF Silviculture Educators group through the cutting methods study at Argonne EF just prior to National convention. Signs along walking trail are in disrepair, new posts needed. Perhaps would be good Foresters' Fund project. Begin with a cost estimate.
Gary: Nat'l gave \$60k in FF grants last year.
UAV (drone) demonstration, coming to Madison, for SW Chap mtg. Note about it in Forestry Source, Brad called them up to set it up (date not set, yet).
 - i. **Forester's Fund** – Ray Perry absent, written report
Update from Julie: the Aldo Leopold Memorial Site Interpretive Signage project is now completed. This was a \$1,500 regular grant. **Julie will close it out.**
 - j. **Forestry Hall of Fame** – Albrecht absent, written report
Nominations are due April 1st.
 - k. **Historian** – John Kotar
Tasked to compile the 2011-2020 decade, similar to previous decade that Will Kiefer assembled. **Please submit chapter & WI SAF meeting minutes, etc. to John.**
Oral histories that Will Kiefer collected have all been transcribed. Julie has the recording equipment in her office.
 - l. **NRCS** – John Kotar
First meeting coming up in March. Questions about CSP or EQIP should go to Valerie Johnson. CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) has been revamped this year with many new changes.
10. **Chapter Reports**
- a. **Chippewa** – Valerie Johnson
Jerry Van Cleve will join Valerie Johnson as Chippewa Chapter members of program committee to work with Northeast to plan the fall meeting.
NC has new program with some new SAF members who would like to get involved. **Jerry Van Cleve will contact Northland College students/advisor.**

- b. **Fox River Valley** – Anthony Rynish
Joint meeting with GLTPA was held September 22, 2016, topic Annosum Root Rot. Kyoko Scanlon, WDNR pest specialist, presented.
Funded two students from chapter to Madison convention. They each applied for USFS jobs through Pathways, one got hired.
Accreditation from SAF being sought for Fox Valley Technical College, two-year program.
- c. **Mid-Wisconsin** – Joe Kies
Last chapter meeting was attended by 10 or 12, toured TNT sawmill in Spencer. Next meeting will be just before student banquet in February.
- d. **Northeast** – Tom Hittle
All officer positions in Chapter are vacant.
- e. **Southeast** – Laura Giese
Main activity lately has been preparing for National convention.
- f. **Southwest** – Brad Hutnik
UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) demonstration planned for next chapter meeting.
- g. **UW-Madison** – no report
- h. **UW-Stevens Point** – Jacob Lueck, written report
UWSP Forestry Banquet February 9, 2017.
UWSP will host the 2018 Midwest Forestry Conclave.
16 students attended convention in Madison.

Old Business

- 11. **2016 National Convention HSD Recap** – Jeff Kante
 - a. Recent membership study, demographics, average age 60-65.
46% of members do not feel engaged.
 - b. Iowa desires a Position Paper regarding loss of forests, especially riparian forests, to agricultural lands. Commodity prices partly/mainly to blame. Sent to Forest Policy Committee.
 - c. California desires lifting of 30” diameter limit on harvesting which impedes ability to regenerate stands. This is part of their Region 5 Planning Rule which has public approval. HSD (vice chair Greg Russell) sent to Forest Science & Technology board, which sent to SAF Board (formerly Council). The Board has sent this to a committee to investigate.
 - d. Clark Seeley sent a thank you letter to Fred Souba for all volunteers, may take a while to reach you.

New Business

- 12. **2017 Budget** – Valerie changed jobs last week, temporarily unable to print budget sheets. She read through the budget sheets for us today. Abbreviated budget process, subject to later review. Income & Expenses should be similar to last year **except**:
 - National SAF has promised to pay WI SAF \$10,000 for hosting the convention.
 - Statewide meeting in 2017 will have income & expenses (no statewide in 2016).
 - No Hall of Fame pass-through as in 2016.
 - Election of officers in fall of 2017 will entail some additional expense.

Julie will locate the letter from National SAF that promised the \$10,000. She will send a letter to Matt Menashes with a cc to Fred Cabbage to follow up.
Val will send budget sheets for current year and last year for Exec committee to review.
Exec Committee will have seven days to respond.

13. **Quick Updates**

- a. Ironwood survey – Brad Hutnik – survey out right now. How are people controlling ironwood? Cut low, cut high, herbicide? Survey will be out for three weeks. Studies or trials may follow.
- b. Camp LeFeber – Tom Hittle was contacted by individual wanting to have some type of forestry education at this former Boy Scout camp, in NE WI. Needs further investigation. Current owner may be seeking to justify recent high-grading of stand.
Tom Hittle will follow up with the individual.
- c. High Grading (see Policy & Legislation above)

14. **Open Discussion**

Kante & Kies – revised Oak Wilt Harvesting Guidelines have been out for several months. Kyoko Scanlon (WDNR) desires feedback if you've used them, effective or not, etc. Also, same for the Annosum guidelines.

Jeff Kante was contacted by someone concerned about declining funding at UW and whether forestry programs will be able to maintain accreditation. Each forestry dept (UW Madison and UW Stevens Point) has lost one position, so far. Enrollments are down, tuition rates are frozen.

Julie Pelier & Jeff Kante will write a letter to the Governor's office with a cc to the Joint Finance Committee regarding the necessity of maintaining support for UW forestry departments to support the number two industry in WI.

Jim Kerkman will forward letters from the Governor's Council on Forestry about funding forestry programs at UWs.

Gary Vander Wyst

UWSP Forestry Banquet, Feb 9, 2017

Future conventions

Canadian Institute of Forestry 150th Confederation 9/24-30/2017 in Ottawa

Habitat for Humanity

Oregon Natural Resources Education Fund

Don Howlett is new District V Representative to the Board (formerly Council)

15. **Next Meeting** – to be determined

16. **Adjourned** at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Van Cleve

Items underlined in bold are action items.