

APPROVED MINUTES
Wisconsin SAF Executive Committee Meeting
Schmeekle Reserve Conference Room
Stevens Point, WI
Monday, June 15, 2015

Attendance (Bold = present):

OFFICERS		CFE	Melinda Vokoun
Chair	Tom Hittle	Forest Science & Tech	-
Chair-Elect	Julie Peltier	Foresters' Fund	Ray Perry
Immediate Past Chair	John Kotar	For/Cons Hall of Fame	Tom Albrecht
Secretary	Jerry Van Cleve	Historian	-
Treasurer	Valerie Johnson	NRCS	Laura Giese
District V Rep	Gary Vander Wyst	CHAPTERS	
Council on Forestry Rep	Jim Kerkman	Chippewa	Jay Gallagher
COMMITTEES		Fox River Valley	Anthony Rynish
Membership	Will Smith	Mid-Wisconsin	Ron Schneider
Program	-	Northeast	Haakon Hagemeister
Policy & Legislation	-	Southeast	Randy Cooper
Communications	Anthony Rynish	Southwest	Mark Heyde
Education & Training	Brian Spencer	UW-Madison	Logan Wells
Awards	Gary Vander Wyst	UW-Stevens Point	Nathanael Braatz

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.
 Roll call and introductions.
 Anti-trust statement was reviewed by Tom Hittle.

Agenda Repair: No changes.

Minutes: Minutes from the March 27, 2015 conference call had been emailed to committee members prior to the meeting. One error needed correction: Sand Hill Designs' bid for website redesign was \$3,600 instead of \$6,600. *Motion to accept minutes as corrected made by Smith, 2nd by Peltier, approved.*

Chair's Report – Tom Hittle

MFL Cutting Notice—Tom worked with Danielle Watson, Policy--Nat'l SAF, to craft a letter to Paul DeLong, State Forester--WI DNR, in response to proposed legislation that would exempt some cutting notices from the need for DNR approval. WI SAF's position is that cutting notice approvers should meet minimum competency requirements such as SAF Certified Forester or DNR Cooperating Forester.

Tom will discuss the broader topic of whether or not there is a need for State Licensing of foresters in Wisconsin or elsewhere with Matt Menashes, SAF CEO, later this week on a conference call.

Vacant positions:

- Laura Giese would like to step down as NRCS Chair.
- Program, Policy & Legislation, Historian, Science & Tech are all currently vacant.
- Some Chapters have vacant Chair and/or Chair-Elect positions.
- State Chair-Elect candidates are needed. Info needs to be submitted to National by Sept 1.

WI SAF support for student chapters to attend National Convention should be added to September meeting agenda. Currently, WI SAF contributes \$50 per student, up to a \$500 cap per student chapter, to help students attend the national SAF convention. Is this amount adequate, sufficient, excessive, miserly?

Treasurer's Report – Julie Peltier (outgoing) and Valerie Johnson (incoming)

Written report submitted. Income to date: \$2,075.96; Disbursements: \$2,753.52. Motion to accept treasurer's report made by Kerkman, 2nd by Rynish, approved.

SAF District V Representative Report – Gary Vander Wyst absent, submitted written report

- District V Fellows Committee evaluated seven Fellow nominees, and forwarded two of these (one of whom is from WI SAF) to the Board for approval.
- Several ACTION ITEMS for State Chairs listed in Gary's report:
 - University Student Representative
 - Regionalization (i.e. multi-state societies able to hire professional staff)
 - Another Leadership Academy in the works for 2016 or 2017.

Council on Forestry Report – Jim Kerkman

- The Governor's Council met June 11th, Jim provided written report. Many budget items were addressed:
 - MFL changes and associated reductions in personnel.
 - MFL Certification now goes from "automatic in unless you opt out" to being the reverse, "you're out unless you opt in."
 - Good Neighbor Authority agreement with Chequamegon-Nicolet NF.
 - Various fee increases and/or service reductions.
- Economic Summit, Goal 7--Jim is Chairing our subcommittee trying to "Foster a relationship between forest industry and landowners..." Tom is asking if anyone has time or interest to help Jim on this subcommittee. Jim or Tom will send more information to WI SAF Exec Committee members.
- Governor's Council encourages forestry community to send letters of support when the Chequamegon-Nicolet NF seeks public comment on NEPA projects. Van Cleve will send to the Exec Committee a link to the NEPA Quarterly where they may learn more about ongoing projects, and submit comments or letters.

Committee Reports

Program – Chair position is vacant

Fall 2015 WI SAF meeting will be hosted by Fox River Valley and Mid-Wisconsin Chapters.

Date: September 22-23, 2015, Location: New London, WI, Theme: Quarantines & EAB.

Hosted in conjunction with GLTPA.

Day 1 indoors, day 2 field trip. Many speakers and sponsors already lined up.

Top raffle prize will be a Stihl chainsaw.

Tom Hittle will send a "Save the Date" email blast to WI SAF membership.

Contact Anthony Rynish or Ron Schneider for more information.

Communications – Anthony Rynish

Website re-design—Anne Lupten of Sand Hill Designs, Appleton, has been hired to re-design our WI SAF website. It should "go live" sometime this fall. A credit card is needed to acquire and pay for periodic hosting and analytic fees. WI SAF does not currently have a credit card. Motion, to authorize the WI SAF Treasurer to apply for a credit card at the First State Bank of Park Falls, made by Heyde, 2nd by Albrecht, approved. (Our checking account is also held at this bank.) Signatory authority can be transferred when new Treasurer and/or Chair are elected.

Forester's Fund – Ray Perry absent, submitted written report

Three grant proposals submitted by WI SAF on June 12:

- Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame Display Panels, regular grant, \$900. Panels to replace the faded old photos of forestry and early logging that grace the interior walls of the Forestry Hall of Fame display have been developed by design students at UWSP. Tom will send versions of these panels to Exec Committee to edit/verify wording. Grant money is for professional printing and mounting.

- Aldo Leopold Memorial Site Interpretive Signage, regular grant, \$1,500.
- WI SAF Web Site Development, special grant, \$3,600.

Forestry Hall of Fame – Albrecht

Two Hall of Fame nominees were elected at recent committee meeting: Al Barden and Rachel Jordan. Induction will tentatively take place at WWOA meeting in Marshfield, September 19th.

Membership – Smith

390 WI SAF members.

Education & Training – Spencer

DNR held a Forestry In-Service in March, 250 foresters, two days.

NRCS - Giese

Laura needs to step down and is looking for a replacement. John Kotar may be willing to take this on, and will speak to Laura.

Old Business

2016 National Convention – Julie Peltier

Nov 2-6, 2016, Madison, WI

Julie has participated in two conference calls with planning committee.

Need help with:

- Tours
- Foresters' Fund raffle & silent auction
- On-site registration

There will be a booth at the 2015 convention in Baton Rouge to generate interest in the 2016 convention in Madison. Volunteers are needed to man the booth in Baton Rouge. Let Julie know if you are attending the 2015 convention.

New Business

Trees for Tomorrow Forest Fest—This is about the 5th year for the Forest Fest. Northeast Chapter was involved in the past, during years 1 or 2, but has not been involved lately. Tom will send note to NE Chapter.

HSD Success Stories—are due by 7/31. Categories include communication, cultural diversity, and leadership. Possible WI SAF success stories: Website re-design, Economic summit Goal 7 activities.

Chapter Consolidation—Tom wants to keep this idea floating for now. Possibilities include having one State society with NO chapters, in which case there would be larger pool of members from which to select chairs and committee members; or we could combine our six chapters into three, similar to how we have teamed up for hosting State meetings the last few years; or ?? The point is that chapters need to be fully functioning, with officers in place and holding at least one meeting annually. We need ACTIVE chapters. Bounce these ideas off of your chapter membership and be prepared to discuss at September statewide.

Chapter Reports

Chippewa – Jerry Van Cleve

Setting up July meeting. Reaching out to Northland College members.

Fox River Valley – Anthony Rynish

Working on planning statewide meeting and Anthony provided up date on Fox Valley Tech possible SAF accreditation.

Mid-Wisconsin – Ron Schneider

Tree planting at Habitat for Humanity in Tomah, got good press.

North East – Haakon Hagemeister absent

No report.

South East – Julie Peltier

Six members toured the Forest Products Lab on April 17th.

South West – Mark Heyde

Thanks to Ray Guries for helping with the Foresters' Fund grant application for the Leopold Memorial.

UW-Madison – Logan Wells

Student Chapter Advisor is now stationed at Kemp Station (near Lake Tomahawk), so Madison student chapter now being advised by committee. Officers are planning a summer meeting at Kemp Station to discuss Baton Rouge and work on quarterly newsletter.

UW-Stevens Point – Melinda Vokoun

Paul Doruska is coming back to the faculty at UWSP.

Next Meeting will be Monday, September 21, at 6:30 p.m., in New London, prior to the WI SAF meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Van Cleve

Items underlined are action items.

Items underlined and in italics are motions.