**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Wisconsin SAF Executive Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017**

**Conference Call**

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

712-775-7031, Passcode 460-042-342

**Attendance** (**Bold** = present)**:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 | Don Howlett | **CHAPTERS** |  |
| Council on Forestry Rep | Jim Kerkman | Chippewa | **Valerie Johnson** |
| **COMMITTEES** |  | Fox River Valley | Anthony Rynish |
| Membership | **Laurie Gharis** | Mid-Wisconsin | **Joe Kies** |
| Program | Paul DeLong | 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 |

**Action Items are underlined in bold.**

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. Roll call and introductions.
2. Anti-trust statement was reviewed by Julie Peltier.
3. **Agenda Repair:** *Motion* by Vander Wyst to accept without changes; 2nd by Kante; motion carried.
4. **Minutes:** Revised DRAFT minutes from the January 18, 2017 meeting had been sent to Exec Committee ahead of meeting. One additional correction suggested by Vander Wyst regarding duplicate sentence in Item 12—2017 Budget. *Motion* by Vander Wyst to accept minutes as amended; 2nd by Kante; motion carried.
5. **Treasurer’s Report –** Valerie Johnson

Income and expense sheets for the 2017 WI SAF budget had been emailed to exec committee members prior to the meeting. Jerry Van Cleve noted the rather large discrepancy between anticipated income and planned expenses. Discussion pointed to reduced yields from investment accounts being a major reason for the shortfall. *Motion* by Vander Wyst to accept Treasurer’s Report; 2nd by Perry; motion carried.

1. **Updates and Discussion Items**
   1. **Money from National for hosting National Convention**--Julie Peltier reported that WI SAF received $10,000 from the national office for hosting the 2016 National SAF Convention. The money is in our account. What shall we do with it? One idea is to distribute the money to the Chapters. Another idea is to replenish the Vanguard accounts from which we have been borrowing the past few years. Discussion followed. Most were in agreement that we should replenish the accounts, but which ones exactly? *Motion* by Vander Wyst that **Julie Peltier research how the $10,000 should be invested, into which accounts, and email her findings to the executive committee**; 2nd by Spencer; motion carried.
   2. **Mill Tax Letter**—Tom Hittle sent the approved letter to all of the members of the Joint Finance Committee at the end of March. He also sent it to John Barnwell and Danielle Watson in the National SAF office who may include it in an upcoming Policy Update. Tom has also sent the letter to other interested groups. Do we need to do more? Should we distribute the letter to other media outlets? Note: WI SAF also signed on to WWOA’s position statement on the same topic.
   3. **2017 Statewide Meeting**—Valerie Johnson reported that the fall meeting is set for September 13-14 (with WI SAF Exec meeting on the evening of the 12th) at the Flat Creek Eatery in Hayward. Topic needs a name but relates to Partnerships & Working Together Across Boundaries. The program committee is working on the menu. 7 or 8 speakers are already committed, representing WWOA, WI Consulting Foresters, The Nature Conservancy, NRCS, WI County Forest Association, WI DNR, & USFS.
   4. **Challenge Pledge to other State Societies (Kurt Gottschalk Science Fund)**—Gary Vander Wyst reported that there is a $250,000 matching grant in place for donations to the Kurt Gottschalk Science Fund. Kurt Gottschalk was a past chair of SAF’s Forest Science and Technology Board. The fund supports science and research by helping graduate and undergraduate students who are giving presentations or posters at the national convention. Gary suggested that WI SAF contribute to the fund, and challenge other state societies to do the same. *Motion* by Ray Perry that **WI SAF donate $500 to the Kurt Gottschalk Science Fund to take advantage of the matching grant, and furthermore that WI SAF challenge other State Societies to also contribute to the Fund**; 2nd by Kante; motion carried.
   5. **Possible topic for meeting**—Julie Peltier has been contacted by a company representative involved with RotStop C, a fungal stump treatment to prevent spread of HRD (*Heterobasidion irregulare*) a.k.a. Annosum, that is newly-approved for use in Wisconsin. Julie has his contact information. Joe Kies suggested that another possible topic would be the new Oak Wilt Harvesting Guidelines. Gary Vander Wyst added that EAB would also make a good meeting topic. Perhaps these three insect/disease issues together could be the tentative topic for the 2018 statewide meeting, to be hosted by the Mid-Wisconsin and Fox River Valley chapters.
2. **Open Discussion**
   1. Gary Vander Wyst inquired whether there was a NE Wisconsin Chapter representative on the program committee planning the fall statewide meeting in Hayward. Answer: no.
   2. Gary also requested **Valerie send the 2016 Audit Report to the Executive Committee**.
   3. Gary further asked if anyone who volunteered at the 2016 National Convention had received a letter of thanks from SAF Immediate Past-President Clark Seely. Answer: no. Clark sent the letter to Fred Souba, but that’s as far as it went.
   4. Tom Hittle needs a roster of NE WI Chapter members so he can recruit a chapter chair. New Membership Chair **Laurie Gharis volunteered to help**, and sent her contact information to the Exec committee immediately. **Jerry Van Cleve offered to help Laurie navigate the national SAF website to pull the membership information**.
   5. Jeff Kante is seeking candidates for Chair-elect for WI SAF.
   6. Julie Peltier reports that our fall elections will need to be done via overland mail rather than email this year, due to National SAF not holding electronic elections this year.
3. **Next Meeting**—September 12, 2017, evening, Flat Creek Eatery in Hayward, details later.
4. **Adjourned** at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Van Cleve