Minutes Fox River Valley SAF

**EAB Guidance: The Current Status, Markets, and Future Outlook**

October 2nd, 2018

8:30am-3:30pm

The chapter business meeting was held prior to the joint meeting with the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association. Meeting called to order by Nick Holmes Chapter Chair. Before the 2 groups split for their business meetings Nick provide the anti-trust guidance and reminder to the attendees.

Ten chapter members present; Steve Barczi, Nick Holmes, George Howlett, Ron Jones, Jim Kostrzewa, John Lubbers, Bill Ruff, Anthony Rynish, Dave Stoiber, and RJ Wickham. Overall 37 attendees signed the roster for the joint meeting.

1. A brief summary of the memorial service for DNR forester and past State Chair and Treasurer, Julie Peltier was given by those that attended. A condolence card on behalf of the chapter was available for attendees to sign.
2. Nick announced the 2019 State SAF meeting will be hosted jointly by our chapter and the Mid-Wisconsin chapter. One planning meeting was already held with another scheduled for October 26th. He is looking for a few chapter members to assist in planning. At this time, there is a theme of "Boards, Cords, and Beyond". The tentative dates are set for October 1-3, 2019 in the Rothschild/Wausau area.
3. Secretary/Treasurer John Lubbers gave the chapter Treasurer’s report. Report was accepted as presented.
4. Awards for the Fox River Valley Chapter Field Forester of the Year and the Fox River Valley Chapter Young Forester of the Year were presented.

The criteria for the FRV Chapter Field Forester Award followed the same criteria as the WI SAF Mike King Field Forester of the Year award. The forester selected for this award will be our chapter nominee for the Mike King Field Forester Award given out by the state executive committee. The criteria for the FRV Chapter Young Forester of the Year Award is the forester must be under the age of 30 who is doing something extraordinary in the field of forestry; whether it is being active in SAF or being active in their job or business.

There were 2 nominees for the Field Forester award; Bill Ruff and RJ Wickham.

Bill Ruff, is the DNR service forester for Door, Kewaunee, and Manitowoc Counties. Bill works to meet his landowners needs and implement sustainable forestry on the ground every day. Additionally, he does the same for DNR property managers and the state lands within those 3 counties. He has been in the forefront of assisting landowners with beech bark disease and EAB outbreaks in Door County. Bill is an excellent technical forester for over 30 years.

As the DNR Tax Section Chief R.J. spends much of his time in Madison, but still having a great impact in field forestry. With the MFL program being a large part of private lands field forestry in the state of Wisconsin, R.J. plays an important role with the implementation of the program.

RJ Wickham was selected for the 2018 Field Forester award.

There were 2 nominees for the Young Forester award; Garrett Lubbers and Nick Holmes.

Garrett Lubbers started in February 2018 as a LTE Forester for WI DNR in Lakewood, WI. He helps establish and administer Good Neighbor Authority timber sales on the CNNF and assists Langlade County with the implementation of their forest plan; establishing timber sales, updating forest recon, eliminating garlic mustard and other invasive plants. Garrett graduated form UWSP in December 2017. During the summer of 2016 Garrett was a WI DNR Forestry LTE on the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. In the summer of 2017 he worked as a forester for the Langlade County Forestry Department. Garrett was just recently selected for a permanent forester position with the WI DNR. He will start work at the Pembine Ranger Station the second week of November.

When Nick Holmes first started working for Rynish Forestry, Inc. he stated very clearly that he did not want to be a leader, just tell him what to do and he would do it...However, time changes us and our beliefs. Now, Nick is the chapter chair for the Fox River Valley chapter. He led the planning for the 2018 fall chapter meeting and has been the driving force behind WI SAF revitalizing their newsletter. Nick is a December 2013 graduate from Michigan Tech with a BS in Forestry. In the summer of 2014 he worked for the Forest Service in Montana. From fall 2014 to fall 2015 he worked in Keysville, Virginia as a forester for a logging outfit, WST Products. He is now employed by Rynish Forestry since August 2015.

Nick Holmes was selected for the 2018 Young Forester award.

1. Nick handed out and discussed the WI SAF white paper on Chapter Reconfiguration. The introduction from the white paper states;

“The WI Society of American Foresters (SAF) State Executive Committee has taken up the task of examining the geographic configuration and number of state chapters to determine if an alternative exists that would enhance SAF’s ability to be more robust and better serve its members and Wisconsin’s forest community.”

Other info from the white paper includes; Currently there are 6 chapters in the state and 2 student chapters. Each chapter needs to have at least one meeting per year to retain authorization and be governed by officers: Chair, Chair-elect, Secretary and Treasurer. There are challenges in the local chapters to recruit members to fill officer positions. Due to open positions and struggling chapters, local WI SAF activities are limited, and member enthusiasm can suffer.

The main recommendation in the white paper is to reduce the number of chapters from 6 down to 2 (north and south with boundaries to be determined). Required chapter officers would only be the Chair and Chair elect. All chapter treasuries would be moved to the state level.

See the white paper for full information. Next step is for a statewide membership vote, possibly in November.

1. Anthony Rynish as State Chair-elect for 2020 is working to put together a leadership seminar. He attended a National Leadership academy in 2014 and found it very useful. He hopes to inspire others to develop leadership skills.
2. The WI SAF website was recently revamped. Check it out.

The business meeting adjourned for the start of the day’s joint program focusing on the new EAB guidelines and an afternoon field trip to examine local ash stands to discuss the guidelines.