

Executive Committee Meeting
Washington State Society of American Foresters
December 5, 2006
WA Forest Protection Association Offices - Olympia, WA

SUMMARY of ACTIONS and MOTIONS

1. **See actions and motions noted in the text, in bold.**
 2. **NEXT MEETING.** WS SAF on January 19 in Hood River, OR at the Hood River Inn in conjunction with the 2007 OR/WA Leadership Conference.
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I. Opening

Chair Don Hanley opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. Self-introductions were made (see attached list).

- Chair Hanley noted to the committee that John Bergvall has been accepted as an SAF Fellow and presented him with a letter from SAF President Marvin Brown.
- Minutes from October 11, 2006 meeting (held in Tumwater) were approved. **MOTION** to approve from Scott Swanson and a second from John Bergvall. Motion carried.

II. Chapter Updates

A. Longview – Zoanne Aylesworth

1. 2007 chair will be Cesar Carrion (DNR).
2. Wreath making planned for 12/8.
3. Forestry days planned for the fair.

B. South Puget Sound – Scott Swanson

1. Mentoring night held in November with Green River Community College.
2. All leadership positions filled for 2007.

C. Southwest WA – Gretchen Nichols

1. Evergreen advisor seems excited about the chapter.
2. New officers for 07 – chair elect: John Hotvedt; Nathan Davis: treasurer
3. Christmas meeting December 14 in Chehalis. Auction to be run by Nancy Peckman.
4. Maybe an SAF legislative session.

D. Bart Ausland – student involvement from Central Washington University is dormant at present.

E. Green River Community College - Dick Hopkins and Rob Sjogren sent an e-mail saying they have finals this week and so will not attend.

III. Northwest Office – Lori Rasor (handout)

A. *Western Forester (WF)*

1. Went through last issue of *WF* (Nov.-Dec. 06) and themes of upcoming issues (See handout)
2. NWO committee meeting – revised *WF* publication schedule to take hiatus on 11/12 07 issue.
3. John Bergvall suggested and “emerging issues Jan/Feb 08 issue, based on the National Convention.
4. Change the invasive species issue date to Jan/Feb 08.

B. Data base

1. About 95% done.
2. Need information for the media.
3. Need to link categories within the data base and verify information.

- C. Newsletters – helping chapters as requested.
- D. NWO meeting
 - 1. Updates strategic plan (Will be available at the 07 OR/WA Leadership meeting)
 - 2. 06 budget reviewed and agreed to 07 budget.
 - 3. *WF* discussion (see handout and notes from 11/8/06 meeting).
 - 4. Positive response from AK and Inland Empire (IE) sections on potential subscriptions increase from \$1.13 to \$2 (per issue per member) in 207.
 - 5. Could use another page of advertisements.
- E. Finances
 - 1. Lori walked the group through “The Northwest Office – A Financial Primer” (part of the handout).
 - 2. Don Hanley – Use the “Primer” in *WF* and to come from the committee rather than strictly Lori.
 - 3. John Bergvall – Develop a *WF* article on early volunteers and workers at the Northwest Office.
 - 4. John McMahon –
 - a. Has donated in the past to the World Forestry Center and maybe that donation could have been designated for the Northwest Office. Maybe others could do this, also.
 - b. *WF* in the 07 convention packet – as advertising and also to show the model that OR and WA societies have an office they fund together.
 - c. **ACTION** - Lori will get cost information to Chuck on getting about 2,000 ‘over-run’ copies of *WF* for the 07 convention.
 - 5. Budget impacts discussion
 - Golden members and students do not pay state dues, therefore discretionary dollars are limited. Two years ago Nancy Peckman and Dave Yates solicited golden member contributions, but we cannot go back to the well, too many times for more funds. D. Hanley pointed out that membership needs to know this. Bill Horn said when we think budgets, we need to remember the impacts of students and goldens not paying.
 - 6. Deficit projected for 2007 - \$4,721. Will likely come in slightly under this projection.
 - a. John Bergvall – maybe an annual contact with goldens giving them the opportunity to give.
 - b. **ACTION** - WS SAF Foundation (Don Hanley) – Contact Kelley Duffield McCarter who will send Don the OSAF Foundation brochure and we can use it as a model.
 - NOTE – Don Hanley will work with Dave Yates and Foundation next year.

IV. Council Update – John McMahon

- A. Executive vice president Michael Goergen and his wife have a new baby girl – Maria Goergen Alvarez. 53 cm.
- B. Finances
 - 1. After 10 months - \$76,000 ahead on revenue and almost the same on underpayments. (\$3.3 million in 07 of which \$1.35 million will be from dues). Good returns from the endowment and Foresters Fund (Estimate \$80,000 though the end of the year based on the 10 months just passed).
 - 2. Approved 2007 budget. Revenues forecast at \$3.32 million (down \$58,000 from 06). On the spending side – it was reduced \$77,000. Net revenue for 07 - +\$18,000. Reducing expenses by less travel and better alignment with 2006 actual expenditures.
 - 3. Foresters Fund.

- a. SAF careers brochure to be expanded in 07. Cost will be about \$10,000 and paid for, probably, by the FF.
- b. End-of-the-year projection - \$1.53 million. Year to date earnings of about \$80,000.
- c. Look again in mid-term and adjust as needed.
- C. Strategic Outcome – engagement in forest policy.
 - Task force of SAF and National Association and State Foresters (NASF) looking at what “policies” to advance/retard in sustainable forestry. Sense is to do more in sustainable forestry and a key part is to get policy.
 - a. Lyle Lafferty is the SAF co-chair. He is retired FS in CO.
 - b. 12/4 meeting to bring in others of the forestry community but SAF and NASF want to retain leadership.
- D. VOS Report (Released in December of 04)
 - 1. Most recommendations were structural (i.e. reduce districts, realign committees, regionalization, etc.)
 - 2. Council did not go along with all the recommendations but did do some – i.e. how students participate at national and select student representative to council as a non-voting member.
 - 3. Preamble to VOS brought up two questions: Who are we and where should we be headed?
 - a. Council: “Who we are” is described in the mission and values statement.
 - b. Future direction is the strategic plan and the annual updates.
 - c. Council feels it is important to discuss how to be more effective. We will gather data and have more discussion on this.
 - d. Council approved (June and October meetings) membership analysis – too hard to become a member? Too many categories of membership? Too complex a dues structure? Established focus groups to narrow the questions that will be sent to all members. Charlene Schildwachter to coordinate out of National. Will require close council engagement to assure process is objective and answer the question – Are we pursuing the right strategies and are we missing opportunities?

John McMahon’s concern is that we do not water down professional and accreditation credentials (and there are a range of opinions from doves to hawks on this.)

 - 4. Council approved process for accreditation for urban and city programs. Will likely expand the number of colleges and universities that can be covered.
 - 5. Accreditation of technical programs. Right now we simply “recognize programs (21 in the US and 3 in Canada) and there is interest in having them accredited and not just “recognized”. Council has approved, in principle, the intent. Terry Clark will be organizing a group to flesh this out.
 - 6. Strategic Plan (6 outcomes and strategies) is updated annually by Council
 - a. Changes from 06 to 07: A few “fine tuning” changes.
 - b. By 08, make document more precise and hard-hitting (Council chair – Fred Cabbage of NC State).
 - 7. Expectations for 07.
 - a. Now bold new initiatives as we have a lot of momentum (e.g. task force on sustainable forest policy).
 - b. Want to strengthen external communications (esp. as state level). Want to “bench mark” best practices and move ahead from that base.

- c. Develop an effective working relationship with 10th Congress. Have had good relations over the past 3-4 years and we want to establish reputation that SAF is the “go to” organization for forestry.

Comment from Scott Swanson: concern that SAF may have a position at variance that of individual member and/or their employer.

- d. Information/Education – continue activity in threats to sustainable forestry (be the threat invasives, land conversions, catastrophes, etc.) Note: SAF has a position statement on this.
- e. Need fresh ideas for membership.
- f. Keep financial house in order.

V. More National – Chuck Lorenz (Chair, HSD)

A. Fellows.

- Each local unit makes recommendation to District council. (Our committee is 2 from WA (Ann Forest Burns and Pat Cummins), 2 from OR, and one from AK.)
- Concern that we might be numbers drive. Goal nationally is to have about 5% of the members as fellows- but it's more about qualifications and criteria.
- Discussion

John McMahon: By-laws say criteria is service to forestry AND SAF.

Don Hanley: rank and file do not realize that anyone can make a nomination. Maybe an article in the *Forestry Source*.

Chuck Lorenz: Asked Kirk David to write an article on this for *WF* so members will understand the process.

14,878 national memberships as of October 2007

B. Unit Assessment (How National can help local units)

- Louise presented a draft to HSD on how to move forward. Information to be distributed after the first of the year. About 100 local units around the country - some places just have the state society or a division (i.e. regional).

C. Leadership Academy

1. We in OR/WA will have been doing this for 32 years.
2. National direction is how to run the organization and processes.
3. Financial concern – it takes 80 attendees to break even.
4. No National academy in 2007.
5. Discussion
 - a. Networking is important.
 - b. Needs to pay for itself.
 - c. May be hold jointly with a Council meeting.

D. HSD. Sent six recommendations to Council at the 06 National Convention in Pittsburgh.

1. Membership. First airing; more discussion in March, 07.
2. Re. Sustainability – look at how the National Office operates relative to sustainable business processes.
3. Students – National Student conference chair remain part of HSD.
4. Students – better coordination between student chair and HSD chair. Need formalized process to bring forth issues.
5. Forest Science and Technology Board to develop position on invasive species.
6. HSD change charter regarding leadership to elect chair and vice-chair for two years (rather than the current one year). Vice chair would be chair-elect with for one year and then move to chair for the second year. Would provide continuity.

- E. USFS "Conflict" with SAF – John McMahon
 - Chapter chair and SAF leader could have "alleged" conflict. Has to do with how the USFS "ethics officers" interpret conflict and so the USFS is not consistent across the country. A concern is that an FS employee with fiduciary responsibilities and also being an SAF leader with similar responsibilities could be conflicted.
- F. Membership
 - 1. Charlene Schildwachter came on staff at National in March 06. She has sent information to all local units proposing membership changes.
 - 2. She found the membership process confusing:
 - a. Too many categories (p. 18).
 - b. No mention on application of local units (it's a national application).
 - 3. Schildwachter proposed two categories (member and student) and identify on the application there will be local unit fees (145 local units nationwide) when you join and then it'll be adjusted at your renewal date.
 - 4. Member categories (and in some other areas) would require by-law and constitution changes.
 - 5. Endorsement by existing member does not mean much as many are "endorsed" by National office staff. Council moved at the October 06 meeting to eliminate the endorsement and at the January 06 meeting to eliminate the \$5 application fee.
 - 6. Dues schedule - Schildwachter proposed to have a flat fee no matter what your tenure. Would be a gradual move towards full fee from student rate.
 - 7. Years as member - propose to include student years as part of the "years as members".
 - 8. Provision to charge goldens \$25 for *Journal of Forestry*.
 - 9. Allowing all members to vote and hold offices.
 - Describes who can vote for what and who can hold what offices.
 - Total members as of 10/10/06: 14,878. 84% can vote and 10% are students and can only vote locally.
 - 10. Chuck Lorenz has contacted Schildwachter and the committee to clarify meanings and intent.
 - 11. Discussion
 - a. Recommendations need widespread discussion. We need to think through the consequences.
 - b. Chuck is preparing an article on membership for *WF*.
 - c. Each chapter should have this as an agenda item since that is probably the best place for discussion.
 - d. Page 17 – John Bergvall suggested a table with WA state numbers.
 - e. Craig Vollmer is chair of HSD for 2007.
 - f. Observations from Chuck Lorenz
 - Having attended 7 of 8 Council meetings, they are making decisions w/o adequate evaluation of materials. Does not do justice to the membership.
 - Strategic Plan – budget needs to fit with what you are trying to do.

VI. Science X Project (Handout from Paul Adams at OSU)

- A. See about George Ice and Paul Adams being part of the project.
- B. Important (controversial) issues need to be addressed by SAF.
- C. A subject of the 07 OR/WA Leadership Conference.
- D. Ad hoc committee to meet January 22.
- E. SW WA chapter legislative days potential, but need organization.
 - 1. We will want to have SAF foresters from various chapters.
 - 2. Invitations to legislators should come from within their constituency.

3. Target new legislators and also those on natural resources committees.
4. Have talking points prepared ahead of time.
5. Apply to Forester Fund for support.

VII. 07 National Convention Update – Gretchen Nicholas

- A. Passed out brochures on the 07 Portland Convention and call for papers.
- B. H/O of organization - Chairs for all technical sessions.
- C. Program: Richard Louv of “Last Child in the woods” fame will keynote.
- D. WES SAF annual meeting coordination – TBD. Need to find a reasonable “slot” for about a two hour meeting that doesn’t pull away from the main convention. Don Hanley to coordinate with Gretchen Nicholas and Mike Cloughesy by 12/15 to work out details.
- E. Council meeting in afternoon of 10/23 from 1-5 pm.
- F. National Association on University Forestry Programs meeting afternoon of 10/23.

VIII. Financial Update – Zoanne Aylesworth (handout)

- A. Missing a check for 7/1-9/30/06 from the National Office. It will be re-issued.
- B. \$4,600 deficit (as of today) but two checks coming in (about \$3,400 each).
- C. Chuck Lorenz will be 07 WS SAF treasurer.
- D. **ACTION** - Zoanne will present budget at January 07 meeting in Hood River for consideration and, hopefully, approval.

IX. Committees – No reports except Education, from John Bergvall.

- A. Natural Resources Youth Camp application form handout. Starts 6/24 and some schools may have an issue because of having to make up snow days.
- B. Puyallup Fair – Bill Horn represented SAF as John coordinated the Outdoor Building. Bill will also lead for 2007.
- C. **ACTION** - Wildfire Display – should be at National Convention in 2007 in Portland. John will contact arrangements group or those in charge of hospitality rooms or poster (don’t have to pay if it’s a poster) or registration area, or whomever he needs to talk with to be able to display the display.
- D. Emerging issues in education
 1. Need to package, deliver and communicate to members.
 2. Does SAF need to keep its traditional approach or try something new?
 3. Think about opportunities for involvement.

X. Awards – D Becker

- A. **ACTION** - For chapter of the year, each chapter needs describe accomplishments and give to D.
- B. Don Hanley will provide quarterly reports to D.
- C. **ACTION** - Don Hanley asked D to get out awards schedule to members.

XI. Miscellaneous and Wrap-up – Don Hanley

- A. Election ballot deadline is December 20.
- B. For 07 OR/WA Leadership meeting, if Baird cannot attend, possibly Norm Dicks who will be important in committee.
- C. Chair Hanley mentioned the 2006 WS SAF Annual Report showed lot has been done.
- D. Per cent of non-e-mail members. About 127 in WS SAF without e-mail; therefore 127 letters (May be a budget add?) We cannot communicate as much with these members as we could if they had e-mail.)
- E. List Serves.

1. **Ex Comm list** is unmoderated – as long as you respond with the e-mail you signed up with, you will be able to send e-mails to ex comm members using the list.
 2. **Membership List** – (500+) goes to the general membership. D. Hanley is moderator. He will see about getting Doug Rushton authority to also be moderator for 07. **ACTION** - Hanley will update the 07 list-serve.
- F. Website
1. Need to update and keep current (but still does not reach non-electronic members).
 2. **ACTION** - Lori will send 07 OR/WA Leadership registrations to webmaster Leslie Batten.
- G. How things get done – members do not know the organization and who does what.
- Need general communications e.g. HSD, Council, NWO, CFE's, etc.
- H. For 2007 – Doug Rushton
1. Next WS SAF meeting is in conjunction with the 07 OR/WA Leadership meeting.
 - a. Doug will bring a proposed meeting schedule.
 - b. Members bring ideas for emphasis in 2007.
 2. Will be adding a "leadership education" for each ex comm meeting (so the rest of the meeting will have to be quicker in order to get this done and have the meeting begin and end at the same time as tradition).
 - SAF organization, for example: continuing education, HSD, Council, CE's.
 3. Partnering with non-traditional partners.
 - a. Joint meetings with such groups as The Wildlife Society, Society for Range Management; Washington Environmental Council; Washington Association of Conservation Districts, and probably others.
 - b. Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Washington Association of Conservation Districts.
 4. Students.
 - a. Plan for WS SAF and for each chapter for student involvement and recruitment.
 - b. Ask at each meeting – what have you done since the last meeting to encourage, assist, or gain a student?
 5. Strategic Plan
 - a. For WS SAF
 - b. For each chapter
 6. Membership
 - a. Plan for WS SAF and for each chapter.
 - b. Work with Student chapters.
 - c. Ask at each meeting – what have you done since the last meeting to increase membership?
- I. Don Hanley thanked the entire membership and especially the ex comm for their participation and hard work this past year.

XII. Upcoming WS SAF and other meetings

- WS SAF ex comm in conjunction with the OR/WA 2007 Leadership Conference at Hood River on January 19 and 20, 2007. See Nov/Dec 06 issue of *WF*.
- 2007 National Convention in Portland; October 23-27, 2007.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Doug Rushton, secretary.