

Executive Committee Meeting

Washington State Society of American Foresters

March 16, 2007

WSU King County Extension – Renton, WA

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS and MOTIONS- noted in bold in text

- I. **Opening-** Chair Doug Rushton called the meeting to order at 9:05PM. Self-introductions were made. Attending: Bill Horn, John McMahon, John Trobaugh, Chuck Lorenz, Doug Rushton, Zoanne Aylesworth, George McFadden, John Bergvall and Scott Swanson.
- II. **Agenda Additions/Changes-** Roundtable will include discussion on electronic voting issue.
- III. **MOTION to approve the minutes** as submitted from the January 19, 2007 Executive Committee meeting was moved by Chuck Lorenz and second by Zoanne Aylesworth. Motion Carried.
- IV. **General Announcements-**
 - A. **National office news-** John McMahon announced that two staff members have left the national SAF office: Barbara Whitezer (Executive Assistant) left her position as did Rita Neznak (Policy staff). Rita took a position with the House of Representative Agriculture Policy staff. She will be working immediately on the Farm Bill.
 - B. **Council Meeting-** March 24, 2007 with a full agenda. They have invited the new USFS Chief Forester to join them for lunch.
 - C. **Mid-Columbia Chapter-** donated \$200 to Green River Community College forestry students to help students attend the National Convention.
 - D. **Award-** John A. Bergvall was presented the designation as **Fellow** by the Society and was presented the award by Doug Rushton to an ovation from the rest of the executive committee.
- V. **Chapter Updates-**
 - A. **Longview-** Zoanne Aylesworth
 - i. Last Saturday was the FFA Knowledge Bowl.

- ii. The next chapter meeting will be March 22nd.

B. South Puget Sound- Scott Swanson

- i. The chapter will be in Issaquah at Blakely Community Center on April 19th and have a panel speaking on Urban Forestry.
- ii. The chapter will vote to sponsor a camper to the Natural Resource camp.

C. SW WA- John Trobaugh

- i. The chapter hosted a legislative reception during February. Over 60 people were in attendance including 7 legislators.
- ii. The chapter will take a vacation during March (first month since the beginning of 2005 without a meeting).
- iii. The April chapter meeting will cover Bio-Energy.
- iv. They plan to move to an e-newsletter. There is still discussion on having hard copies available for retired members without email capabilities.

ACTION- All Chapters should review how they will continue to communicate with their members. Doug Rushton will send an email to each Chapter Chair reminding them of the NWO urging to switch to all electronic communication (effort to reduce the \$1500/month bulk mailing cost).

ACTION-George McFadden will prepare a short PowerPoint Presentation on electronic communication.

VI. Northwest Office- Lori Rasor (handout) read by Doug Rushton.

- A. **Western Forester** – May/June issue will cover the upcoming 2007 National Convention in Portland, OR. July/August edition “So You Want to be a Forester”. September/October will be on Environmental Education. There will not be a November/December edition this year. January/February 2008 will cover Invasive Species.
- B. **Expert Speakers List-** They are still searching for someone to help clean up this list.

VII. WSSAF Financial Update- Zoanne Aylesworth and Chuck Lorenz

- A. **Chapter Dues-** First pass-through has occurred from national office.
- B. **Credit Card charges-** Flat fee on credit card charges- now 3 _ %.
- C. **Past Due members-** have been reduced drastically during this past month.
- D. **2007 Proposed Budget-**
 - i. **Budget presented-** discussion occurred.
 - ii. **ACTION – Motion by George McFadden to approve the budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Bill Horn. Motion carried.**

VIII. **Committee Reports**

- A. **WSSAF Foundation-** No report.
- B. **Membership-** Rob Sjogren
 - i. Students that have not renewed their membership to date were contacted and some improvement has occurred.
 - ii. A list of recommendations was prepared by the committee and read:
 - 1. Alter methods used to keep graduating student data.
 - 2. Strengthen relations with employers.
 - 3. Aggressively pursue professors and ask them to improve awareness of students of SAF membership.
 - 4. Introduce the idea of a bulk membership discount (i.e. if members of an organization have a certain number of SAF members then reduce dues for each of those members).
 - 5. Subsidize first year dues.
 - 6. Emphasize mentoring of younger members.
 - 7. Increase energy to recruit new members.
 - 8. Personally recruit a new member.
 - 9. Talk about current research more often at meetings.

- iii. Non-renewed memberships have decreased from 150 to 84 during the past month. A phone-a-thon will occur soon and additional members will be contacted and asked to become current.

C. **Communications-** A discussion occurred covering the need from time to time to create press releases and webpage updates. Dave Malsed and Peter Heide will be contacted and asked their opinions on how to proceed.

D. **Education-** John Bergvall

- i. **Natural Resource Youth Camp-** John Grose has been given the camp lead and the theme will be "Tree Tops to Laptops".
- ii. **Stewardship & Education-** John has been active with the planning of the new Life Science building for North Thurston/Olympia/Yelm and Tumwater School Districts' combined alternative high school.
- iii. **Western Washington Fair in Puyallup-** Bill Horn will again coordinate our volunteer efforts.
 - 1. **Hands-on Activities-** we expect greater participation this year.
 - 2. **Natural Resource building-** will be coordinated by John Bergvall again.
 - 3. **SAF Booth-** will be moved between the Puyallup River Watershed display and the Washington Audubon booth.
- iv. **University of Washington 100th Anniversary-** proposed that SAF membership use these educational events during this year to help promote forestry.
- v. **Cowlitz County Fair-** SAF state fire display will be used.
- vi. **Fire Awareness Week-** Natural Resources building-Olympia.
- vii. **Ideas for new outreach-** Local fairs and Wolfhaven.

E. **Policy-** Doug St. John (no report) - See separate actions on policy later in minutes.

F. **Foresters' Fund-** Joe Heller (no report) - See separate actions later in minutes.

G. **Science & Technology-** George McFadden

- i. **Fall 2008 Workshop/Seminar on science & technology-** WSSAF will coordinate with WF&CA's Richard Zabel for this seminar. It is hoped that the seminar will provide a forum for different perspectives from legislators, reporters, scientists and managers.
- ii. **Journal of Conservation Biology-** Science, Policy and how it is used- steering committee.

H. **Historian & Tree Farm-** Don Theoe (no report). Don is chairing a WFFA meeting today.

I. **Continuing Education-** Zoanne Aylesworth reported for Ellie Lathrop that the website may include a CFE site.

IX. **Strategic Plan for Washington State SAF-** emailed from President John McMahon.

ACTION- It was moved by John Bergvall and seconded by George McFadden that a strategic plan be developed for WSSAF within the context of the national strategic plan (2007-2011). This should be a facilitated process. Doug Rushton will appoint a sub-committee to work on this strategic plan. Peter Heide will be asked to chair the sub-committee. The sub-committee should include a newer/younger member and a student member. John McMahon stated that some state societies have adopted their own plans. The current strategic plan may be too voluminous for our needs. It was suggested that action areas, though useful, could be kept in an appendix.

X. **Membership-** Chuck Lorenz

A. **National membership proposal-** A PowerPoint presentation by Charlene Schildwachter was shared electronically and made available at the meeting.

- i. During the past three decades, we have had at least two separate discussions on membership categories and both times it became a divisive discussion to the membership.
- ii. Should we maintain a professional forester category? We now have 12 different membership categories.
- iii. Discussion on the need for different categories occurred.

ACTION- Letter to each chapter will be sent requesting that each chapter appoint a liaison to discuss membership.

MOTION-As recommendation to G. Kirk David, the WSSAF Executive Committee proposes that the Society should have categories of membership consisting of full member, certified member and student member. It was moved by John Bergvall and 2nd by Chuck Lorenz. Motion carried.

- XI. **Unit Assessment-** 2006 local unit assessment was circulated. A new process is necessary to see which chapters are inactive within our state. Who is responsible if a local chapter is inactive? The state society should be but the national society should be there for support.
- XII. **Quarterly Report-** WSSAF accomplishments for 3rd quarter and 2006 annual report were discussed. We will need to complete the 2007 1st quarter report soon.
- XIII. **Policy Issues-**
 - A. **Licensing of Foresters (SB 5834) - A Task Force will be formed with the Inland Empire to discuss this issue. A timetable will be developed to introduce the SAF position by next fall for the 2008 legislative session.**
 - B. **Quick Response to position requests-** should occur through the executive committee, with policy committee participation.
 - C. **Review and Assess Updates to the WSSAF Policy positions-** policy committee will be asked to address this update need.
- XIV. **Forester Fund Application review-** two separate applications were presented.
 - A. **Forest Landowner Field Day sponsorship-** Mid-Columbia requests \$5,000 for this event.
 - B. **SW WA Chapter Legislative Dinner-** request for \$1,500.

MOTION- Recommend that the National office grant SW WA \$1,500 for the February 20th, 2007 legislative dinner. It was moved by Bill Horn and 2nd by Chuck Lorenz. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION-Recommend that the National office should grant the \$5,000 request for the June 23, 2007 Forest Owners Field Day. It was moved by John Bergvall and 2nd by Chuck Lorenz. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION- ask applicant to correct/add location of the event and applying chapter name to the applications.

XV. Roundtable-

- A. **Chuck Lorenz-** should consider changing the term of the chair to a 2-year term. This would take a By-Law change. A state-wide vote of the membership would be necessary. Could include both the chair and the chair-elect positions.
- B. **John Trobaugh-**Webster Forest Seedling Nursery will celebrate its 50th anniversary on April 4th. All are invited to attend. 790 million seedlings have been grown.
- C. **George McFadden-** Center for Intensive Planted Silviculture has started with Doug McGuire assuming a coordinators role.
- D. **John McMahon-** Electronic voting- After last fall's national vote, we changed to a Washington, D. C. based organization. With that action, we can now use electronic voting. However, not all members have electronic capabilities. It was suggested that a laptop with Wi-Fi capabilities could be made available at chapter meetings in the fall for voting purposes.

ACTION- Doug Rushton will report to G. Kirk David after talking to Lori Rasor of NWO on implications of this suggestion.

- E. **Doug Rushton-** will renew the website domain name with Leslie Batten.
- F. **Doug Rushton-** Memorandum of Understanding with the Washington Association of Conservation Districts. A draft MOU will be circulated. We should consider other agreements with the Washington State Grange, Society of Range Management, and other organizations.
- G. **John McMahon-** G. Kirk David wants to re-visit the question of the future of the National SAF Leadership Conference. Let Kirk know your feelings.

XVI. Future Executive Committee Meetings-

- A. **June 1st-Location TBD. Becky Kelly of the Washington Environmental Council will be a guest speaker.**
- B. **July 20th-Longview**
- C. **October 5th- Olympia**
- D. **December 7th- Webster Nursery-Olympia**

XVII. Adjournment- Meeting was adjourned at 1:58PM

Draft 5/15/2007

Minutes are respectfully submitted by
Scott Swanson, WASAF Secretary