

Annual Business Meeting: NESAF: March 22, 2000; Lowell, MA [Two Trees Hotel]
[Corrected at the Business Meeting of March 14, 2001]

1600 - meeting called to order by NESAF Chair Bob Ricard

This is the 80th Annual Business Meeting. To have a quorum we need to have 5% of the membership present [55 members]. It is determined that we have more than the required minimum of 55 in attendance.

The Anti-trust statement is visited. New officers are introduced: Bob Ricard (2yr), Bob Edmonds (2yr), Fred Borman, George Frame, Charlie Levesque (3yr), Raymond Toolan, Leo Leferriere, Bob Burt and Jeff Ward. Also had two guest; Jim Coufal and Amie Brown. It was mentioned that Dick Watt has been gone for a year and the Executive Committee appears to be running well. It is Bob Ricard's feeling that the 2-year terms softens the turnover of leadership.

Amie Brown, Systems Analyst for SAF National is introduced: She joined SAF in June 1999. The Federal government keeps her busy with making responses from SAF on items such as road issues and the EPA issue. Appropriation issues such as SIP are also worked on. This far there is no SIP for this year. She also works to encourage research, forest inventory and analysis. She feels that state position papers are good but individual contact from constituents is better. State position papers should be sent to National. An example is the Canadian Lynx issue in Vermont and elsewhere. A Question was asked on the EPA exemption issue. They (National) had 30,000 comments [TMDL issue]. The comment period has gone by. SAF is active with State Foresters and others to give testimony. There is a lot of activity. No one knows where the EPA is at right now. The issue is an easy one for the SAF to take a strong stand on. "Senator Gregg got a letter from the EPA... states with strong BMPs were not to be enforced." There was a lot of cynicism amongst those present. This issue will affect forestry, agriculture, aquaculture etc.

Jim Coufal brings up the subject of money. "I have been disappointed" about fund drive. This was in reference to the Centennial project. A 14-minute video was made up (which won 5 awards) for high schools, colleges and etc. The Centennial "coffee table book" is available as is two reprinted classics. Only 3½% of the membership have contributed. Jim makes reference to other organizations that receive member donations. It has been 25 years since the last fund drive. Jim wants us to consider giving to this fund. He would like to see 50% of the membership donate to this project. Jim was also disappointed by the response to the Habitat for Humanity project. It is a project that is good publicity and a good deed. Someone needs to take the initiative in each state.

The Centennial fund is used for a variety of things including some endowments. A donor may specify where their donation will be used. We have \$700,000 of which ½ is from industry and the rest is from individual members.

A question was asked about whom manages the money and who benefits from it. Jim Coufal states that there has been no increase in SAF staff due to this. The money is used for a variety of things including educational initiatives such as Project Learning Tree (PLT) and Project Wild.

Minutes from the Annual Business Meeting of March 23, 1999 were read, amended and accepted.

Fred Borman goes over the financial statements. Fred goes over the reason for the large balance in the checking account. He then goes over the NESAF Budget Worksheet. Bob Ricard interjects that we had a special meeting just to deal with the budget issues. Fred points out the footnotes and then goes over

some of the associated items. He explains the increase in the Awards budget and covers the various issues responsible such as the need for new plaques etc.

The Plaque and Stone for the Pinchot memorial have been begun and the retainer has been paid. A question was asked about the Pinchot fund. Fred indicated that the answer was on the 2000 budget.

Gibb Dodge would like to do something with the money saved from not having to pay an Executive Director. Bob Ricard indicated that would be covered in the 2000 budget. Some items will go up which will use up the monies saved.

Russ Reay wished to know when the 1999 books would be audited. Bob Ricard mentioned the missing records issue. Russ Reay made a motion to accept the 1999 actual, seconded by Brad Wyman and passed unanimously.

Fred Borman went over the 2000 budget. He explained some of the increases such as Chair travel expenses, awards and other items.

Bob Ricard interjects that some line items are going up because previously certain expenses were buried in the Executive Directors budget.

Fred Borman goes on to describe the Grants (Pinchot and Maine). All of the Pinchot grants money will be spent in this year. The "negative bottom line" is due to the spending on the Pinchot grant money and is not deficit spending.

Jim Wilkinson made the motion to accept the proposed 2000 budget as amended and Russ Reay seconded.

Discussion followed. There is some discussion on the particulars of the Pinchot donations and expenditures. It was mentioned that there is \$14,000 +/- in the fund. The stone and plaque will cost about \$8000. The plaque is being cast in Texas. It is a 6 to 8 month process.

Gibb Dodge had a question on the Centennial fund. Bob Ricard and Fred Borman indicated that it would show up in the 2001 budget. The monies will be pledged now and paid out of 2001 budget.

Motion is called. Passed unanimously.

2001 proposed budget discussed by Fred Borman.

Gary Salmon will be retiring as the editor of the NESAF Quarterly in January 2001. Fred Borman explains the changes in the budget caused by this event. Fred Borman also goes over some other details. The proposal is brought forward to provide \$1000 from NESAF to go to the Centennial fund in 2001 budget under the General Operations budget.

Money in the Grants account rolls over each year. There is a potential for a deficit but if not all of the grant money is spent there will be no deficit. We have also not projected any earnings from this meeting. This was done, as we are not really sure how much, if any, profit we may obtain from the meeting. It is not good to get too dependent on this money, as we never know how much to expect. The primary goal is to provide a quality meeting and not simply turn a profit. We will probably make \$3000 to \$4000 on the Winter Meeting next year.

A question on the Pinchot fund money and how it is accounted for was asked. Bob Ricard explains the aspects of the Grants budget: "still got to report"; "cash basis accounting". The issue seems to be how the money is shown on the report.

Fred Borman needs to change the accounting method so that money that is encumbered goes into the debit column.

A motion to accept the proposed budget with the \$1000 item for the centennial project is made by Tim Hawley. It is seconded by Russ Reay.

Discussion: A question is raised about the Quarterly editor position. Bob Ricard goes on at length about why we don't raise the stipend. It has not been discussed but will be discussed more. He doesn't want to get into a debate about paying market value.

Motion is called. Passed unanimously.

9a Chair report: Bob Ricard: The Pinchot project has consumed a lot of his time. The Foresters Fund Grant was a big help and kept it all within our organization. Our last grant request was 15 years ago. He goes over the major contributors. \$14,300 +/- was collected. The July issue of the NESAF Quarterly will come out early to announce the ceremony, August 11, 2000. This is the 135th anniversary of Pinchot's birth and the 100th anniversary for SAF.

Question to Bob Ricard: "Will you report on the by-law changes?" Bob: "Yes"

The Granite State Division is working on getting a bus to go to the celebration.

Ken Laustsen on the by-law revisions: The by-law revisions will not be voted on at this meeting. He shows the 4th revision and explains that there are two basic kinds of changes: grammatical/technical and substantial (comities, etc). Ken Laustsen goes over changes:

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| Article 5 | adds state representatives |
| Article 6 | add, state reps, creates standing committee for elections and Teller responsibilities. |
| Article 7 | Elections; got rid of extraneous language and defined what the Secretary is to do. |
| Article 8 | Standing committee eliminated Teller, Audit and Distinguished Award. Nomination committee now includes Tellers. Chairs of standing committee now have vote on the Executive Committee. |

Question: Who does the oversight on auditing. Answer: Ken Laustsen; It is found in article 9.

Question: Do we have more appointed voting members on the Executive Committee than elected?

Answer: Bob Ricard; No, we don't.

Bob Ricard: National wants all of us across the country to standardize. He encouraged everyone to read the proposed changes and to ask questions.

Question on the Distinguished Award Committee, which is slated to go away. Bob Ricard explains that the duties will all be covered by the Awards Committee. The criteria remain the same. The

