

Approved Minutes 1-13-2010



New England Society of American Foresters (NESAF) Executive Committee (EC) Meeting Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Location: Conservation Center, Concord, NH

Members present:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Deborah Boyer | Website Administrator |
| Andrew Fast | Secretary |
| Peter Greeno | Membership Chair |
| Dana Hachigian | Treasurer |
| Mel Harder | Connecticut State Representative |
| Ron Lemin Jr. | Chair |
| Scott Machinist | Co-Editor of NESAF News Quarterly |
| Spencer Meyer | Maine State Representative |
| Ed O'Leary | Vice-Chair |
| Randy Stone | Massachusetts State Representative; Awards Chair |

Guests:

None

Members not present:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Paul Dolan | Rhode Island State Representative; Nomination Chair |
| Don Floyd | Canadian Representative |
| George Frame | Immediate Past Chair |
| James Harding | Forest Science Coordinator |
| J Peter Howland | New Hampshire State Representative |
| Margaret Machinist | Co-Editor of NESAF News Quarterly |
| Carol Redelsheimer | Council Representative |
| Kurt Zschau | Vermont State Representative |

Meeting opened by NESAF Chair, Ron Lemin Jr. at 9:27 AM

A. Standard items:

Sign in sheet (Fast) - verify contact information: The standard sign-in sheet was circulated.

Welcome: Ron L. welcomed Mel Harder, the new Connecticut Representative and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Mel H. introduced himself to the EC.

Antitrust statement: The antitrust statement was presented. Ron L. can provide a copy of the antitrust statement to members of the EC upon their request.

Add/Adjust agenda: Under Old Business, Ron L. added Joint NESAF - NYSAF Winter Meeting. Under New Business, Budget Report was moved to the topic of the agenda since Spencer M. had to leave at 1:30pm.

Approved Minutes 1-13-2010

Corrections/Additions for the December 17, 2009 EC meeting minutes (Fast): There were additions to the membership section of the minutes provided by Peter G. The membership section was read by Andy F. as amended. [A motion was heard from Ed O'L. to accept the meeting minutes as amended; a second to the motion was heard from Peter G. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.](#) [Andy F. will email a copy of the approved minutes to the EC.](#)

In order to make sure a vote from the December 17, 2000 meeting was recorded correctly, Andy F. asked whether the Website Administrator is a voting member of the EC. Andy F. did not see any indication in the by-laws that it was a voting position. Spencer M. reviewed the by-laws. The website coordinator is not referenced in the by-laws as a voting member. Spencer M. suggested it may be a result of the position originally being outsourced. Peter G. read Article 9 of the by-laws. The Website Administrator position falls under this article as an appointment.

There is no reference to the Website Administrator in the Operations Manual, but the Operations Manual was never formally adopted so the position is subject to the by-laws only. Ed O'L. suggested the Operations Manual be finalized and adopted. The Website Administrator job description says the position is a voting member of the EC. Since it is a general appointment, the position should be have voting rights. Peter G. read Article 9, and it does not explicitly discuss the right to vote.

Spencer M. made a motion to address the Website Administrator voting issue. There was continued discussion and there was no second to the motion. The job description was produced before the by-laws were revised and adopted. Ron cautioned against changing the by-laws piecemeal and suggested if there are going to be changes, they should be done in conjunction with by-law changes associated with a future Policy Chair and Communications and Outreach Chair.

Peter G. read article 8, which discusses standing committees and voting responsibilities. The Website Administrator could be added to the existing voting positions. Spencer M. asked whether there should be broad language that would capture voting rights for the Policy Chair and Communications and Outreach Chair.

Peter G. suggested that one option is to separate voting v. non voting members in Articles 8 and 9 of the by-laws

(Scott M. joined the EC at 9:51am)

Spencer M. cautioned against being overly prescriptive in the by-laws or else it may unnecessarily limit the EC in the future. He suggested it would best serve membership take multiple meetings to think about and discuss the issue rather than adding additional EC voting members to the by-laws immediately. Randy S. and others agreed. Dana H. suggested that criteria can be developed in the by-laws for a voting member such as 'you cannot be paid by an organization doing the same job' in order to eliminate contractors from being eligible voting members. It was clarified that only SAF members could be eligible to vote. Ron L. suggested that Deb B. could stand in as temporary Grants Chair. [A motion was heard from Ed O'L. to accept Ron L's suggestion that Deb stand in as temporary Grants Chair until a suitable replacement is found; a second to the motion was heard from Dana H.](#) Discussion ensued in which Spencer M. emphasized that the motion is an effort to include Deb B. as a voting member. By-laws are intended to stop people from making appointments strictly for voting purposes so the motion is not in the spirit of the by-laws. Randy S. noted that procedurally it is allowed. Spencer M. did not see the reason to appoint someone to a temporary position that does not have significant responsibility for eleven months. Mel H. asked whether JP B. occupied the Grants Chair position and the EC responded "yes." Ron L. withdrew his suggestion. [Ed O'L. withdrew his motion and Dana H. withdrew her second to the motion.](#)

Peter G. suggested that discussion should include input from more people. There were a number of EC members who were not present. Spencer M. suggested that the Operations Manual, once it is finalized, is the

Approved Minutes 1-13-2010

sort of document that could provide detail and clarification to these kinds of issues. Ron L. is going to speak with George F. and/or Ken Laustsen about voting and how it is assigned. He will also put the topic on the agenda for the next meeting. It was also clarified that the News Quarterly Editor is a single voting position despite being occupied by co-editors presently.

Treasurer's Report (Hachigian): Dana H. distributed and reviewed the NESAF Net Worth Report as of 12/31/09. Under assets, \$15,827.40 is in total cash and bank accounts. The CD value is \$25,507.44 resulting in total assets of \$41,334.84. Presently, there are no liabilities. A motion was heard from Mel H. to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; a second to the motion was heard from Spencer M. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Old Business:

2010 Winter Meeting Update (Howland - GSD SAF): Ron L. read a 2010 winter meeting update submitted by Peter H. who was not in attendance. It included the following:

The planning committee met on 1/12/10 to finalize loose ends.

The registration form will be out in the *News Quarterly*, *Northern Woodlands Magazine*, online and at the GSD winter meeting on 2/12/10. The online registration still is not up because of a glitch at National. Registration by credit card will be available online through National only; registration at the door will be cash or check only. Keynote speakers will be Dr. David Orwig and a substitute for Erik Assadourian. See program notes.

All sessions have been filled. Poster sessions will be as described previously with electronic, some poster and some oral presentations. There will be outdoor equipment demos on Wednesday and field tours will take place on Thursday. They include urban forestry in Nashua, New England Wood Pellet plant in Jaffery, and Beaver Brook Forest Silviculture tour. Workshops include GIS for pennies, double sampling (prism cruising), and computer and web-based tools for assessing USFS FIA data. Quiz bowl will be in Hollywood Squares format with screens and microphones.

There seem to be more sponsors and fewer exhibitors. Harold feels that may change as the event gets closer, somewhat driven by the economy. Harold is still looking for raffle items. If anyone has anything they would like to donate, please contact him directly.

Spencer M. mentioned that there was an error on the 2010 schedule which had Wednesday coming before Tuesday. Converting the document to a .pdf caused the error and Deb B. is fixing it. Deb B. also informed the EC there was an online registration glitch. Ron L. is planning to attend the last 2010 winter meeting planning committee meeting.

History Project Update - Discussion at March Business Meeting? (Lemin): Randy S. suggested the new, alternative approach to the history project be brought up before membership at the business meeting, i.e. producing the document piecemeal, spreading it out over time by having history project sections developed through self-contained submissions to the *News Quarterly*.

Andy F. commented that he liked the idea, but thought one of the drawbacks of the piecemeal approach may be a lack of continuity between the sections when the final product is compiled. Peter G. emphasized that planning will be an important part of making the sections come together well in the end. Ken L. is going to try and take on the second part of it.

Bulk Mail Permit (Machinist): Maggie M. is paying for the bulk mail permit today. Scott M. brought in a check for Dana H., income from the *News Quarterly*. Scott and Maggie M. will examine future options and costs associated with getting a bulk mail permit. The bulk mail permit gives NESAF its own return address and provides the EC flexibility to move on from the current publisher if rates change.

Approved Minutes 1-13-2010

National Leadership Academy (Lemin): There will not be a National Leadership Academy this year. That line item will be zeroed in the budget.

New Policy/Communications Committee (Greeno): Peter G. distributed the "Final Report of the Subcommittee on Policy Process to the New England SAF Executive Committee." Similar to last EC meeting, he reviewed the structure of the document. Peter G. reviewed the report. The report is available from Peter G. upon request.

Peter G. relayed that members are not looking for policy action that is broad in scope, but communications and outreach, making the policy relevant. NESAF is effective with internal communication but is not as successful with external communication. Once again, it was suggested to update and adopt the Operations Manual.

Peter G., acknowledging that some key members of the EC are missing, wanted to make headway on the topic so the momentum was not lost. Dana H. thought the full discussion may have to wait until another meeting in order to get the full suite of comments from EC members. Peter G. felt it was fully appropriate to bring the topic before membership at the annual meeting even without a full proposal. He emphasized that it was an effort to bring membership into the process. Deb B. agreed that the topic is out there. The EC should include membership and let them know that the EC is following up.

Spencer M. thought there should be an abridged version of the report, an executive summary would be helpful with a rationale for each proposed item. Randy S. agreed it would be helpful while presenting at the annual meeting to have a shorter report with the most salient points. However, he was concerned that a shorter document without the report would not capture all the information. Pete G. also wanted membership to have access to the full report. Dana H. advised that the annual meeting with its time constraints and format was not the best place to digest it all. Peter G. wanted to report on the Policy Subcommittee's final report before membership despite the limitations of the business meeting. He thought it would be worthwhile for membership to know what the policy committee did and encourage comments. A limited comment period for membership would allow the process to keep moving forward. A comments deadline should be a few weeks before the June EC meeting so Peter G. has time to compile comments. Peter G. will present at the annual meet. **Peter G. will develop an executive summary and comment sheet.**

Spencer M. thought that the recommendations will not be enacted until a year from March since it requires by-law changes. The EC should prepare for what it takes to enact the Policy Subcommittee changes according to the by-laws and operations manual, i.e. does it take a mailing to all membership. **Peter G. will incorporate expectations for change into the executive summary he develops. He will take out the word substantial relating to the Policy Chair stipend.**

Scott M. suggested that a copy of the report be available for local unit's annual meetings. Peter G. would like to see a condensed version put online. Any comments from local units are welcome.

Dana H. noted that the one of the biggest issues for membership to know in order to act on the report is what a "substantial" stipend is for the Policy Chair. There was a range of numbers discussed by the policy sub-committee and it can be influenced by membership's input. The sub-committee did not consider \$599 substantial. Nonprofits cannot provide stipends over \$599 unless they file a 1099 misc. The income is taxed and it was generally agreed that NESAF does not want formal employees.

There was discussion about whether to discuss with membership a proposed Policy Chair stipend for 2011. Spencer M. thought it would confuse membership while Randy S. believed it could be made clear within the context of present stipends. Peter G. noted that the sub-committee felt a \$599 stipend was not enough to get the job done that is needed. Again, it was brought up that the most important thing is to let membership have input into the process and understand whether they think it is valuable. Scott M. suggested another term besides substantial could be used; in this context it is inflammatory.

Approved Minutes 1-13-2010

The ideal Policy Chair would be retired or someone with a lot of free time. They may be busy for several days per week over short periods of time. Hiring someone would be cost prohibitive, perhaps \$1000/day for a full day meeting, and the individual would not have a personal investment in the issues.

Dana H. pointed out that ad hoc committees would be doing much of the work. The EC may not want to have a large discrepancy in compensation between the Policy Chair and the ad hoc committees.

The changes recommended by the policy sub-committee are essentially working as a pilot for how future policy issues would be addressed. Dana H. questioned whether the qualifications of the Policy Chair were too exclusive and not inviting of the broader membership. Peter G. responded that there are very specific things the policy sub-committee is recommending in a Policy Chair and it may not be appropriate for many members.

There was continued discussion about presenting the topic to membership, tying the presentation to the membership survey and response, and showing how this is a timely and proactive way to address issues. The next step is to get comments from membership and incorporate them into the comments received from the EC.

Andy F. asked if the role of the Policy Chair could be filled, at least in part, by National. National has full time staff working on policy issues. They could work with local contacts to address policy issues. In response, EC members commented that National should probably be doing more although they have limited capacity and local knowledge. It has been discussed and NESAF could bring these complaints to them.

Peter G. needs 3 weeks for feedback from NESAF. Peter G. will collect comments and hold them for the annual meeting. Peter G. expects to have an executive summary completed by the first week of February. The executive summary will be distributed through the e-newsletter.

(The EC took a break at 11:12am and resumed at 11:23am)

During the break, Dana H. distributed a revised NESAF Executive Committee Expenses Reimbursement Form with a mileage reimbursement rate of \$.50

Membership Budget Proposal Discussion (Greeno): Peter G. distributed a membership overview dated January 2009 and reviewed the report. The goal of the document was to improve membership gains - where were members being lost and where were potential new members. It included a membership summary table with 1-year, 5-year and YTD gains, losses and non-renewals as well as a detailed table with the same categories broken down monthly. In addition, there were charts on inactive members, non-renewals and student retention. Peter G. can provide a copy of the document upon request. NESAF met total membership goals, through new members. Membership losses were greater than NESAF would like. 64% of membership gains were new to SAF. 92% of new members are students but only 2 are currently professional members. 84% of membership losses are due to non-renewal purges and only 22% of purged members return. Another finding was that there is little distinction in non-renewals until 30+ years of age except for students. There is tremendous opportunity for sustained membership growth if SAF can retain student members. Over 60 new students are joining every year and almost all of them are lost. That is the area to focus on. Peter G. is focusing on the overall membership picture rather than delving into refined demographic data.

Peter G. distributed a membership report which included the following:

Membership Dashboard - The Dashboard is an easy-to-create, single face page source of critical membership statuses, trends, and indicators.

Leadership Tools - The first edition of the Leadership Tools section will be in the January *News Quarterly*. These are short 200 word submissions that relay some of the 'fixes' that we've been finding from online registration, phone conferencing, accepting credit cards, webinar tools et cetera.

Available Volunteers - Crystal Gauven (MA but lives in CT) and David Mausel (VT but works in MA) have both indicated interest in volunteering.

Approved Minutes 1-13-2010

Student Membership - Students will be meeting with Peter G. in Nashua to discuss a student congress; he does not have a room reserved yet and is being asked for the Nashua volunteer contact.

MA Credentialing Update - No news from Matt Kelty; last contact was this week.

Student Non-Renewals - Peter G. has sent student non-renewals to faculty representatives; 35 have renewed since January 1st. Those students that joined after September are automatically renewed; those that join earlier in the year have to renew.

Membership Plan - This is in progress. It will be a single page framework that will help guide budget, budget requests, and will be based in part off of the Membership Dashboard.

Budget - At the December EC meeting Peter G. spoke about our need for a commitment to recruitment and retention. There are a number of key opportunities that he would like to pursue for the benefit of our membership that have costs associated with them.

There was discussion about the membership budget. Options are formally laid out in the membership report and consist of an annual membership line item (CF program scholarship, student transportation to the annual meeting, membership booth printing costs, email list clean-up, getting a student chair representative, and an additional mailing) and membership drive line item (SAF merchandise at the annual meeting membership booth and membership drive). The membership drive has a couple different options that cost approximately \$3,300 and \$3,650. Once the membership drive is complete, the line item should be zeroed but retained in the budget in case there is a future membership drive need.

Once a student has graduated they can become a candidate CF but cannot take the test for 5 years (in subsequent email correspondence, it was clarified that Candidate Certified Foresters can take the exam at any point but must have 5 years professional experience before qualifying as a CF). At the point of becoming a candidate CF, he/she must pay for the study materials and test. The candidate CF student scholarship would assist with these costs.

Dana H. asked whether the scholarship could go towards state licensure or only the CF license. Peter G. suggested that the EC focus on building SAF and NESAF programs at present. Spencer thought NESAF can provide leadership but the SAF Certification Review Board (CRB) should be involved. In addition NESAF should look to National for the \$500 scholarship before funding it.

Mel H. mentioned that New Hampshire Licensed Foresters get a seal made to stamp their work. He made up a similar stamp that identifies him as a SAF CF. It might be worthwhile for SAF to produce a SAF CF seal. Spencer M. recommended consulting Ken L. and Carol R. about these ideas since they have been active with the CRB.

The membership drive is an appropriate project to seek a Foresters' Fund grant. If the grant is not awarded, NESAF can still fund the drive to the level planned, which is \$1,500.

Dana H. asked about liability associated with funding travel. Liability is addressed by the university associated with the student chapter awarded the scholarship. Scholarship money is based on average travel costs researched by Peter G. Peter G. would like to a student member join EC meetings.

Foresters' Fund Submission for February (Lemin): If Ron L. and Peter G. write a Foresters' Fund grant, NESAF will need to show matching funds equating to \$1,500. Peter G. will try to stay below \$3,000 for the membership drive. Spencer M. suggested that the \$1,400 annual membership budget get increased to 1,500 resulting in two \$1500 membership line items. If one is not funded the other can be used as the match to the Foresters' Fund grant; it will provide more flexibility for the EC.

George F. sent an email to EC members discouraging projecting a giant deficit like the \$11,000 deficit projected last annual meeting. There was additional discussion about the importance of keeping separate membership line items for the one-time and recurring membership costs. Peter G. wanted to keep the line items separate because it is easier to explain the financial return on the expenditures. Ron L. pointed out that there is a \$1,000 deficit from membership income despite a \$3,000 investment in a membership drive. It is important to show membership that the investment is going to result in a return. Otherwise, why

Approved Minutes 1-13-2010

spend the money? Spencer pointed out that membership will see \$2,900 membership expense with a potential of getting \$1,500 back through the Foresters' Fund grant. Peter G. contended that money is going towards building membership value as well. Expenses can be reduced, but the \$2,900 reflects the conversations and up until this point. The topic was tabled until the budget discussion.

\$65 of membership dues does not go to National. NESAF gets \$16 per member and the balance goes to local chapters/divisions.

Ron L. and Peter G. will put together a Forester Fund grant submission for February.

Joint NESAF - NYSAF Winter Meeting (Lemin): NYSAF is interested in another joint meeting with NESAF. It would likely take place when Yankee Division is hosting. Ed O'L. asked for clarification on whether NESAF got the funds from the Saratoga Springs winter meeting. NESAF did but if another meeting takes place, there should be a discussion about how finances are split up. Last meeting revenue was split 3 ways. NYSAF received 50%, NESAF and Yankee Division 25% each. Ultimately, it is the local chapter's decision. One other consideration is the location. Saratoga Springs was centrally located for NYSAF and NESAF members. Ron L. needs to let NYSAF know whether NESAF is interested. Ron L. will contact Chris Monsett, at Yankee to discuss interest.

Peter G. distributed updated contact information for the EC and local chapters and asked everyone to note any incorrect information.

(The EC took a break for lunch at 12:13pm and resumed at 12:39pm)

C. NEW BUSINESS:

Standing Committee reports:

Budget Report (Hachigian): Dana H. passed out the budget report as reported January 13, 2010 which included the "Budget to Date January 1, 2009 thru December 31, 2009" and "Draft Budget Report for Years 2008 through 2011 (inclusive)."

Grand total income for 2009 was \$30,433.68 and total expenses were \$29,066.55.

There was discussion about the membership drive and how that should affect projected income from membership. Ron L. suggested income from membership should be \$13,500. A rationale for projecting less, such as \$11,500 is because of the required dues dispersement to local chapters and divisions. George F., in a previous discussion, said dues dispersement should be kept separate and not incorporated into the income line item. Peter G. pointed out that expenses should show \$1,414.98 going to states and it is not represented on the income side as a line item. Spencer M. encouraged the EC to put the membership line item at \$13,000 minimum citing \$11,700 in 2008 membership dues revenue and an increase in revenue in 2009. Dana H. will use the same formula used in the past to calculate future dispersements. Randy S. emphasized the need to base the membership dues income on projected numbers and Peter G. said his conservative projections are consistent with \$13,000 in income for 2010 and \$13,500 for 2011. The membership drive should continue to provide diminishing benefits for a few years into the future.

All grants are accounted for. A 2011 Regional Leadership Academy will take place although NESAF is uncertain whether there will be Foresters' Fund grant support.

There was discussion about annual income as opposed to an account balance. Ed O'L. and Spencer M. pointed out that NESAF is currently considering money rolled over from a previous year as income and that is not accurate accounting. There was the question: if there is money in the grant fund, why can't it be transferred to another account as income. The reply was that it is an account balance and the unspent money from each year will look like income. The first year, money should be counted as income then that set amount of money should be considered an account balance thereafter. Unspent money from a previous year becomes

Approved Minutes 1-13-2010

an asset. Budgets start at 0 every year and if the expense budget is greater than the income budget in any given year, there is a reduction in assets. Interest from an account should be counted as annual income. There were suggestions that NESAF has been incorrectly labeling what is income and what is carry over.

Peter G. suggested that the budget should show income, assets, expenses and liabilities. Spencer M.'s overall point is the EC needs to understand what is happening in the budget if the EC is asking membership to approve it. Ron L. pointed out that the income/asset questions raised by the EC are answered in the notes section of the Budget Report. The EC can move forward the way it has been done, but it should consider improving the system.

Dana H. reviewed the 2011 proposed budget. There was discussion about whether the Rhode Island grant should be under income. Spencer M. called it an expense and Ron L. said it was pass through funds from the Foresters' Fund grant. Spencer M. asked Dana H. whether there are formulas in the Excel spreadsheet used for the budget. There are not presently. It was suggested that there was not adequate communication when Larry R. moved on from Treasurer. The EC should have helped facilitate that transition better; it is difficult for Dana H. to know Larry R.'s system. Larry R. could be asked to work with Dana H. now, but there has been a lot on input from the EC so there may have already been significant changes from when Larry R. left. Dana H. is now oriented and involved in the process so the issue should continue to improve. Spencer M. noted that he does not have confidence in with the state of the Budget Report and is uncomfortable with presenting it to membership. Ultimately, the EC should be aware of the process and not rely solely on the Treasurer. Ron L. is going to talk to Larry R. about the grant income line.

Randy S. suggests that total income represents \$3,200 of assets and additional income. Income and assets need to be clarified, differentiated and totals corrected. It should be corrected for this year and not go back to previous budgets. Dana H. will correct the budget and clarify income and assets.

Spencer M. offered to Dana H. that one way to handle notes in the budget is to use superscript in the line item text cell and refer to the year in question. There can be two total income columns in the budget worksheet - one is total income the other is asset carry-over.

(Spencer M. left the EC meeting at 1:33pm)

Assuming percentages going to local chapters is the same, if NESAF income from membership dues is \$13,000 in 2010, local chapters should receive \$6,200. If NESAF income from membership dues is \$13,500 in 2011, local chapters should receive approximately \$6,300.

For membership, Peter G. suggested two line items. One annual recurring membership costs, perhaps \$1,000 or \$1,400 for "membership services" and the other the one year membership drive. The membership drive line item would be zeroed in future years. There was discussion about leaving both line items in the budget and membership's response to the proposed expenditures. There was no opposition to leaving both line items in the budget and letting membership decide if the proposed expenses should be reduced. Estimated meeting returns are conservative. National meeting travel was cut back to \$3,750. Elections is set at \$500 and awards was reduced to \$1,200. Policy Committee expenses were set at \$500 with no proposed stipends this year. In all, the budget is close to a \$7,100 deficit. The EC will have a chance to look at and discuss the budget at the March meeting.

Grants (Open): There is no new grants information. Mel H. inquired about the position. He was referred to the website.

Policy (Open): Policy was discussed earlier in the meeting. The Policy Chair position remains open.

Awards (Stone): Randy S. distributed the results from the awards ballot. Randy S. will write a letter asking winners to attend the awards banquet and Ron L. will send Randy S. a scanned signature for the

Approved Minutes 1-13-2010

letter. Ron L. will secure award recipients entrance and free lunch. Guests will be included. Randy S. will verify the name each recipient wants on their reward. Randy S. will speak to Ken L. about how one recipient's title should be presented on the plaque. Randy S. will also be responsible for the Golden Awards. He will frame certificates and include letters. Randy S. explained the voting process to Mel. H.; the state representative from each state votes.

Nominations and Election (Dolan): Paul D. was not present. Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont are looking for EC members. NESAF is seeking a Chair-Elect.

Membership (Greeno): Membership was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Forest Science Coordinator (Harding): Jim H. was not in attendance and had nothing new to report.

NESAF Website (Boyer): Deb B. has put all the information sent to her on the website and updated election results. She is going to send out a large mass email to membership. It will cover information on winter meeting registration, fellows, and more. There have been a number of job postings on the career opportunities section of the website. Deb B. will change the website to show Mel H. as Grants Chair and contact. Ron L. asked for an update on the status of the Massachusetts policy information that was going to go on the website. Massachusetts has not moved forward with it yet. There was an issue with website inquiries going to Mariann Johnston's email address. The admin@nesaf email was not working. Deb B. thinks she had resolved that issue as well. A lot of emails sent from NESAF were going to membership's junk mail or SPAM folder since they were coming from a roadrunner account.

NESAF News Quarterly (Machinist): Scott M. reported that the bulk mail permit fee has been paid. The latest *News Quarterly* is hitting the presses. The next deadline for the *News Quarterly* is the last two weeks of May. Issues continue to get larger; the latest issue is 28 pages. If Maggie or Scott M. get changes of address from members, they should keep a copy for themselves and send a copy to Peter G. or Christopher Whited at National. Extra copies of the *News Quarterly* are printed with every print run. It ranges from a half dozen to many dozen. Peter G. would like some extra copies for the membership drive.

State Reports (NESAF State Representatives):

ME (Spencer M.): MESAF had nothing new to report.

VT (Kurt Z.): Kurt Z. was not present and Ed O'L. provided the report for Vermont in his stead. GMD annual winter meeting is Saturday, January 29. The focus will be on GIS. Ed O'L. passed out an agenda for the meeting. There will be potential changes to the state's current use program, which would exclude parcels of 2-5 acres and it would change the method for calculating the land use change tax.

Ed O'L. provided the EC with information on the New England Governors' Conference Blue Ribbon Committee on Land Conservation. A report has been produced. The committee is now a standing committee charged with providing options to 1) keep forests in forests, 2) keep farmland as farms, 3) connect people to the outdoors, 4) protect wildlife habitat, and 5) there is a coastal initiative. The New England Governors' Conference website provides more information (<http://www.negc.org/>). The State of Vermont's legislature is back in session. The state faces a 150 million dollar shortfall. It could impact the state's current use program further.

CT (Mel H.): The State of Connecticut has a large deficit. They are reducing staff and existing staff is spread pretty thin.

Approved Minutes 1-13-2010

MA (Randy S.): Massachusetts will be getting another 41 million dollars from the USDA to combat ALB. The Forest Futures Technical Steering Committee submitted draft recommendations. Comments will be solicited in January and February. Final recommendations will be sent to the Commissioner of DCR.

SAF Council Report (Carol R.): Ron L. passed out a report sent to him from Carol R.

Carol R. is getting oriented to the Council Representative position. Issues with Fellow nominations have been identified and are trying to be resolved. Fellow nominations have to be submitted to NESAF by March 1st, 2010. The Fellows Committee is currently comprised of Bob Ricard, Barbara Burns, Peter Smallidge, and Bill Bentley. There is one vacant seat to be filled by a NYSAF member and Carol R. is working to confirm a Chair for the committee.

EVP Michael Goergen will be sending weekly updates to Council members to keep them apprised of "what's going on." Revenue is ahead of where it was last year. As of January 8, 7,500 people have renewed their memberships. 30 booths have been sold for the exhibit hall at the next National meeting. Shorna B. Allred of Cornell is the new Chair of the Committee on Forest Policy.

Feel free to contact Carol R. with any question, concerns or suggestions. She will be at NYSAF and NESAF winter meetings.

A detailed report is available upon request.

RI - (Paul D.): There was no Rhode Island state report.

NH (Pete H): Pete H. submitted the following New Hampshire update:

1. The 2010 NESAF Meeting to be hosted by GSD, on March 9-11, 2010, at the Courtyard Marriot in Nashua is ready to go with a few minor adjustments.
2. *Good Forestry in the Granite State* has been on the streets for comments for the past few months, with public input sessions, and is preparing to go to the printers. It is the hope to have it ready to hit the streets the first of the year. There were many heated discussions, but as usual in New Hampshire, we negotiated the outcome, that all could live with.
3. The forestry guide by GSD is moving along slowly, due to many of the people involved were already working on *Good Forestry in the Granite State*.
4. The N.H. DES has a new set of wetland rules out for public comment, with some changes that will effect forestry and logging operations. It will be very interesting to see the final report. It could have sweeping consequences for forestry and logging.
5. The GSD winter meeting will be held on 2/12/2010, at Attitash Mountain in Bartlett NH. Theme is beyond brown paper. GSD will be awarding the student scholarships at the meeting, along with Forester of the Year.
6. The White Mountain National Forest projects of all types are still being slowed down by environmental groups.
8. The market situation in the state is still very sluggish for many of us in the field. It is the hope that markets will last throughout the winter and not collapse in February as they did last year. We are all hopeful we will get thru the winter without the shut offs.

Canada (Don F.): There was no Canada report.

Chair Potpourri (Lemin): The EC will need to finalize the list of members lost over the last year at the next EC meeting.

EC members should contact Ron L. if they need name badges. NESAF was awarded a success stories award for the forestry awareness program in Maine. NESAF award winners should have their

Approved Minutes 1-13-2010

applications modified as appropriate and forwarded on to National for National awards. EC members should contact Ron L. with success stories that he can bring to HSD.

Other items for the good of the order: There were no additional items for the good of the order.

Calendar: The NESAF EC will next meet on Monday, March 8, 2010 1:00pm at the Courtyard Marriot, Nashua, New Hampshire.

Friday, June 25, 2010 at Cabela's in Scarborough, Maine: 9:30am

Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at a location to be determined: 9:30am

Wednesday December 15, 2010 at the Conservation Center in Concord, New Hampshire: 9:30am

A motion to adjourn was heard from Ed O'L. A second was heard from Peter G. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Fast, Secretary