

TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

FINAL

1/19/12

Call commenced: 4:07 pm

Members on line:

CI - Sink, Lojewski, Burnside and Nuss
DE - Hauver, Madden, Tuttle, Meunch and Tierney
JU - Nicolls & Sandor
SI - none
YR - KT & Maki
Council - John Walkowiak

Approval of last minutes: Added Meunch to members on line.

Treasurer's Report: Nuss reported the checking account stands at \$4938.60. There are no outstanding obligations at this time.

Council Report:

John reported that this is the first year for the new "tiered" membership fee. Student fee is \$40, Platinum level is \$240, Silver level is \$95, and Gold level is \$145. National Office indicates a continuing downward trend for membership. The membership database is still under construction. The Council of 11 elected District Reps., President, Past President, and Vice President along with representatives from HSD, Forest Science and Tech. Board, and Student council makes conference call meetings a challenge. The 2011 Council was not able to pass a 2012 budget, so it was sent back to the Finance Committee and was approved with a \$374,000 deficit. This is largely due to the contracting of a consultant for \$120,000 and another for \$20,000 to help with the membership problem. John was the only "nay" on the budget vote, citing the need to control costs and not fund outside consultants.

He will be promoting a balanced budget for the future because of the reduced membership. There is much stress in the National Office staff, which is only 12-13 compared to the previous of 20+ just a few years ago – so Council will need to prioritize what SAF should continue doing and what SAF should stop doing. Council plans to meet on March 3rd and 4th in Detroit. There was some previous discussion in regards to joining other natural resource agencies, such as the Ecological Society of America, to enhance membership – much will be decided through Council strategic planning and John will communicate with us.

Chris Whited is the staff member to contact for questions regarding membership.

A portion of Wild Acres where the SAF Office is located in Bethesda, Maryland, is in

Historic landmark limited development and sales options. The Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF) is co-owner of Wild Acres and an agreement is in early stages for possible sale of a portion of the property to a developer.

Committee Reports:

Policy – KT stated that Chris Maisch is in Juneau regarding the proposed Susitna State Forest.

Investment – Roger reported the fund currently stands at \$26,454 at the end of 2011. As of today it stands at \$27,636.

Communications - to be included in the new website.

Membership – several Facebook pages could be used for changes. There will be a State Society page still in the program – it has information regarding the Arbor Day Tree Sale. Need a calendar. Website manager is waiting for a URL. A new address is forthcoming. John says there could be a “member only” page for the website. A Directory offers information.

CFE – we need to send information to National regarding any meetings, seminars, etc. to get CFE credit. National needs this information well in advance.

Science /Technology – John Sandor discussed the need for promoting action on the Southeast Alaska Integrated Resource Plan. The Legislature is interested in how forestry jobs could be enhanced. Boutin has prepared a paper regarding second growth stands. The Regional Plan can be incorporated into resource planning. John and Roger are working on the paper leading to the History Paper. Roger stated that the articles are 20-25 MB in size in the summaries. There are about 250 pages of text. This could be linked to the Forest Service Museum in Missoula, Montana.

Chapter Reports:

Dixon Entrance – the Chapter paid for their annual Christmas dinner.

Yukon River – they had a meeting today. Saturday is the scheduled Firewood Workshop; will follow up with a chili dinner. They are in the process of finalizing the agenda for the annual meeting. A tour is planned of a local greenhouse that is providing tree seedlings for local consumption plus some for the village of Tok.

Cook Inlet - a meeting was held yesterday. They are still planning elections.

Juneau – They discussed programs for future meeting such as Young growth. A Position Paper is in the process of being prepared. Need to get the approval of other Chapters. Senators Murkowski and Begich objected to the Secretary of Agriculture's directive. They wrote to Assistant Secretary Vilsack regarding the withdrawal of authority from the Regional Forester and Forest Supervisor to make any new timber sales. Governor Parnell asked that the authority be replaced.

Calendar: Next teleconference is scheduled for 2/16/12 at 4:00pm.

State Meeting: is scheduled for 4/26-28/12 with a working half-day for computer training. The National Office must approve future meetings for CFE credit. Wayne suggested that the CFE credit be posted on the meeting announcement. Wayne has volunteered to serve on the CFE committee. The Executive Committee approved of this action.

Continuing Business: (previously covered.)

New Business: The Orientation Guide prepared by John and Lori Rasor was well received. Lori has over 25 years with the Northwest Office. The goal of the guide is not only to show roles and services of the NW Office but also to show State Society leadership responsibilities. There is an Annual Action plan for the Northwest Office. There will be a discussion tomorrow based on membership and budget. Next SAF NW Office committee meeting will be on June 11, 2012 at the World Forestry Center in Portland, Oregon and committee attendance will be a combination of in-person and conference calls. The two main member bodies that direct the work of the SAF NW Office are the SAF NW Office Committee and a Financial Subcommittee. They are looking at the size of the SAF NW Office committees with new members of Alaska and Inland Empire, which will be 24 members. The Committee as a whole will need to decide future structure to make things workable. Charles Sink will be a chair of the Financial Committee in 2013. It was emphasized that the Alaska and Inland Empire Societies are coming in as full partners. The future direction of the Northwest Office is in need of input.

The Award Group is in need of Fellow nominations by 2/28/12. The Field Forester nomination is due in by _____. The National SAF meeting will be in Spokane, Washington on 10/24-27/12. The 2013 meeting will be in Charleston, South Carolina and the 2014 meeting will be in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Golden Members should be recognized at each State Meeting.

Teleconference concluded at 5:30 pm.

