

TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

FINAL

1/21/13

Call commenced: 4:06 pm

Members on line:

CI – Winterberger, Sink, Nathan, LaBau, and Nuss

DE –Durland and Hauver

JU - none

SI –Brackley

YR – KT, Maisch & Maki

Council – John Walkowiak

NWO - none

Approval of last minutes: Motion by Winterberger to accept the minutes, seconded by LaBau.
Passed

Treasurer's Report: Nuss reported the checking account stands at \$4932.92. There is an outstanding obligation at this time for Executive Secretary's travel of \$300 and reimbursement the Juneau and Sitka Chapters for dues reimbursement.

Council: John Walkowiak discussed upcoming issues facing SAF Council at their March 9 and 10 Council meeting in Bethesda. Efforts are underway to tie together the 2013-2017 SAF Strategic Plan with Finance Committee Goals and Budget efforts. The SAF budget has been a deficit for the past 4 years, John felt efforts are underway to meet a balanced budget for 2014. John also spoke about the Wild Acres SAF Headquarters and the sale of the land. The sale was very carefully worked by SAF and required negotiations with Wild Acres co-owners Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF). The property is being sold to a Condo developer who has a great environmental record and the SAF Headquarters Building and one RNRF Building will remain with land around them in a way to be part of the condo ownership. SAF got the first of three payments – with the first \$1 million to reduce debt and the second and final third payments over the next couple of years will be invested as an endowment to future SAF management and care of the historic building. There is still a ways to go as the condo development needs permitting from the County and obviously better housing markets – but moving forward thanks to Michael Goergen, SAF EVP. John also announced that SAF has established a revenue development subcommittee of the Finance Committee. The revenue development committee headed by District 2 Council – Bob Alverts of Oregon SAF has established a “Founder Circle” of SAF members willing to contribute \$1900 over 4 years to strengthen the Foresters Fund and help meet needs. The revenue development subcommittee is made up of past SAF presidents and council members, and includes Bob, Dave Lewis District 11 (SE) and John. Efforts on the Founders Circle are strategically identifying willing SAF members to join. One state SAF society, Iowa joined the Founders Circle.

Susitna State Forest: Chris reported. KT got a briefing paper. This is the same bill as last year sponsored by Sen. Menard as HB 79. The governor picked up on the bill. There is some

clarification on five different ways to sell timber. Need a longer term, under-utilized high employment, and the need for a manufacturing facility. This could take a two-year cycle to pass. There will be a hearing in March. They have been talking to other groups. Need to check an old letter.. This could be put on the website. It consists of 160,000 acres. Charles will review the thirty-five recommendations of the Task Force. Report. This should be in a draft form for the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

Website – Ken is working on the website. The progress of the State Meeting preparation could be put on the website. He is investigating on the need for live signup.

Policy – there is a need for a new Committee group to be established. John W. has copies of position papers in the Dropbox.

Investment – no report at this time.

Membership – no report at this time.

CFE – Jim is working on requests such as the State Wildlife Meeting, Meg Burgett's work on Project Learning Tree. Nathan will provide information for grading purposes.

Bu-Laws – Maynard completed his work on the Cook Inlet By-laws and is currently working on the State By-laws.

Fellows: District 1 Fellows Committee Rep. Paul Maki said he received one nominee for Fellow -- Tom Boutin of Juneau. Paul said he already sent the nomination package on to the District 1 Fellows Committee chair, but asked that the Executive Committee confirm the nominee. Charlie Sink called for the vote, and the nominee was confirmed with no dissenting votes. District 1 Council Representative John Walkowiak suggested that the Exec. Comm. send a letter of recommendation regarding the nominee. Jim LaBau offered to draft the letter and send it to Sink, KT, and Maki for their review. Sink would finalize the letter.

Chapter Reports:

Cook Inlet Chapter – the group is working on the details of the State Meeting (4/24-27/13). The Executive Committee and Business Meeting will be combined for the first afternoon of the meeting.

Next teleconference 3/21/13.

Teleconference concluded at 5:31 pm

CFE – Jim reported that Pat Cilay from the National Office is directing that whoever is putting on a seminar, etc., must have the program assessed by National in order to get CFE credits.

KT spoke briefly of the teleconference system advised by Paul Maki. Too early to tell if we will adopt it.

NWO REPORT - Lori brought attention to the Flash Alert News Wire service. It is a useful technique to distribute press releases to local media. She also emphasized the SAF Action Calendar as a useful technique to distribute press releases to local media. She also emphasized the SAF Action Calendar. She mentioned financial contributions from many different sources. The importance of increased membership was mentioned.

They are focused on the Strategic Plan. Much discussion. Keep members on diversity. Budget goal is \$8000. There is a draft budget for 2013. \$5000 to NWO in March meeting.

Website – Roger & Ken getting a website committee together. Eleven have signed up. Will meet 12/11-12/12. They will send out a list of assignments. Need officers. Need topics: physical section, details, activities, parties, dinners, etc. Membership will be password protected.

Legislative Breakfast – Need a theme. Wayne and Tom will talk to the Legislative Staff. Breakfast will be 7:00- 8:30 am. At the Baranof Hotel. Will have “stations” and displays. Meet 12/12/12 to firm up plans. Explain donations. Ron Wolfe says legislators should have access to our Position Papers. Our population in Southeast is declining. Secretary of Agriculture must approve any timber sales proposed on the Tongass. Need to “dust off” our Position Papers.

Policy - need to monitor the Legislature in January. Thirteen interviews. See National website for our Position Papers.

Investment – no report.

Membership – currently have 136 members.

Chapter Reports:

Sitka Chapter –Pat Heuer reported they are meeting monthly. Planning a 5th grade field day.

Dixon Entrance Chapter – met in November –ballots were sent out.

Yukon River Chapter - Jessica reported they had a Burning Workshop. Completing elections.

Cook Inlet Chapter – Charles reported they had a successful Arbor Day Tree Sale. Helping out on the Legislative Breakfast. Holding elections.

Juneau Chapter – they are still working on the legislative Breakfast.

Calendar – next teleconference will be 12/20/12 at 4:00 PM. Details forthcoming.

New Business – Brian Klenhenz nominated for State Chair Elect.

Motion by Nuss made a motion to provide a floral remembrance to any member, or family member, that passes away. Tabled for the next teleconference.

Need Fellow Nominations by 2/15/13.

Maki made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Sandor. Passed.

Meeting concluded at 5:38 pm.

KT discussed Lori's report. There is a need to review the Action Calendar. It is imperative that we seek advertising sponsors to help supplement funding for the Western Forester.

Position Paper: Cal reported the Paper is in draft form and wants the Alaska SAF to support. It will be brought up in the convention in Spokane this Fall.

Alaska Forests Association: Sandor brought forward a resolution asking for the Congressional delegation for support. Question: will our Paper be approved prior to the State Meeting in April? Cal will put out a short draft to be voted on. Ken said there are samples on the Website. John said to keep National SAF in the loop. The State has filed a lawsuit against the Forest Service regarding the Tongass. Have 12 or more interveners at this time. We shouldn't wait for

National to approve. KT will send a draft of the Paper to Kelsey Delaney, John Barnwell and John Walkowiak. Need to address Chairs at the State Meeting. Burnside would like a draft to go to the Legislature.

Council Report: John reported that Council met in Detroit about three weeks ago. President Rockwell was there Council approved three Position Statements. They are:

1. Non-Native species (new)
2. Carbon storage (new)
3. Forest bio-mass for energy (revised/updated)

There was much discussion on SAF accreditation. There is a Committee studying terrestrial ecology and the Natural Resource Programs for possible accreditation.

The dues are currently in three tiers. There has been no loss of revenue so far. Final phase is to look at future direction. The graduate ring program provided 167 for SAF to move from being “good” to a “great” organization across the nation.

There is still consideration regarding the sale of a part of Wild Acres property in Bethesda, Maryland. Questions are still being reviewed how proceeds would be used. The Renewable Natural Resources Foundation owns half of Wild Acres.

Chapters Reports:

Sitka – members met today. They are planning a native plant sales including blueberry, huckleberry. Plants are three years old. Planning on a Forest Field Day in May.

Dixon Entrance – met last week. There are plans for Arbor Day. They will be replacing some trees that weren't doing well. There will be an Elementary School Science Fair for the fifth graders. A plaque will be placed at some of the State Parks. \$100 was given to the City for flowers. They still plan to judge at the annual Salmon Derby.

Yukon River – the chapter had a recent meeting. There was a successful Firewood Program. Working on the Fire Prevention and Education program. Still putting the final touches on the State Meeting.

Cook Inlet – the Arbor Day Tree Sale is scheduled for _____. Forty percent of the 12,000 seedlings are spoken for. The results of elections are due March 16 th. Fifty percent of the votes are in. They discussed progress on the NWO website. They will contact other Chairs to get information for the web site. Ken is working on the web site. Roger got financial reports for the Chapters and Executive Secretary that went to National.

Investment – current balance is @29,211 (\$25,713 at the end of February). The trend is upward. He is not sure at this time if payments can be made electronically. There are two groups to help on sales. There is thirty percent for new purchases.

Juneau – they plan to meet next week. Nudleman to report on the Treadwell mine site

(Sandy Beach) for some planting. Hope to expose old buildings. They are planning a Legislative Reception next year. Need support from other Chapters. Anticipated cost is \$1500. Might get a Forester's Fund grant from the National Office.

Calendar: State meeting is 4/26-28/12. Next teleconference is scheduled for 4/19/12 at 4:00 pm. The Executive and Business Meeting are scheduled for 4/26 after the "Icebreaker". Sandor discussed the need to support SB 159. Chris Maisch endorses this Bill. It would expand State Forests in Southeast from 25,00 to about 48,000 acres.

Forester's Raffle – the Executive Committee will determine how the proceeds, from the raffle, may be spent. Contributions of money or items to be raffled will be encouraged for contribution.

KT would like awards nominations be sent by 3/31.

Web site update – Ken is working with Sam Boggess on development of the web site. The only information on the site right now is the up-coming Arbor Day Tree Sale sponsored by the Cook Inlet Chapter. Ken hopes to emulate the old site pattern. Drop- down plans will include items on forestry in Alaska, awards, Chapter items, and education and policy articles. He will try to have contact with certain members in each Chapter - hopefully someone responsible for items to be put on the web site. Hopefully those Chapter members will meet in Fairbanks.

A vote was taken to support SB 159. Nuss made a motion to approve. Burnside Seconded. Passed. Charley will send a copy to Rep. Menard.

Sink voted to adjourn. _____ Seconded. Passed.

Teleconference concluded at 5:17 pm