

Missouri Society of American Foresters
Winter 2023 Business Meeting Agenda

Date: Wednesday Feb 7, 2024, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Location: MNRC Margaritaville; Osage Beach, MO

Attendees: MOSAF Members, Guests

Purpose

To inform attending members about upcoming events and resolve business items that need to be addressed and to introduce the new Chair Elect, Terry Gordon

Objectives

- Provide verbal committee reports
- Provide updates from agencies/consulting firms/NGOs/universities
- Discuss Spring technical tour

Agenda

1. Welcome: Kristen Goodrich, MOSAF Chair

2. Minutes from last meeting: Angela George read the minutes.

Jason Jenson moves to approve the minutes, Michael Bill seconds. Chapter approves.

3. Treasurers Report: David Vance reports:

- Checking account \$9,800
- Savings \$120
- 6month and 12 month CDs are both at \$19,500 each
- Project Learning Tree money market \$11,500
- Annual financial report was emailed to chapter members a month ago

David Messangale moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Jon Skinner seconds. Chapter approves.

4. Announcements

- Kristen introduced the National SAF board vice-president Rebecca Barnard, who spoke.
 - (After the meeting Rebecca provided her contact information to be put in the meeting minutes: RBarnardSAF@gmail.com 715-572-0040)
 - Rebecca's background: Attended University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point, held a NWTf job, now works for a global company that makes dissolving pulp.
 - She reminded the chapter that Dr. Vic Ford in Arkansas is our district representative, to whom our chapter can reach out to take our ideas to the national board.
 - She brings an international perspective to our profession. There is a lot of international pressure on land near the ports that has a good workforce and growing timber growing sites. USA doesn't compete well. The rest of the world is leaving forest management behind in favor of plantations, which is perceived as "easier." This will affect landowner resource opportunities in the future. SAF has 10,000 members, which can have a credible voice encouraging change in this arena, but is currently silent.

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- The European Union Deforestation Regulation goes into effect in 11 months, which will require GPS points for every plot of land that is in your product. No one knows yet how this will be done for aggregated wood products.
- New member recruitment is something that is being worked on. The recent bylaw change created the new affiliate member category, which loosens the requirements on education credentials and work experience to be an SAF member. Students are one target, but the midcareer professionals are missing nation-wide.
- Member retention is also a problem. New members may not be staying and we're losing members who have been on for a long time. Board is getting data about what's going on.
- SAF's relevancy is a concern. The dynamics of land owners are changing. More and more are retired city folks who do not come from a farming or land management background; how do we reach this demographic? All members need to be ambassadors for SAF, not just the officers.
- Next year is 125th year of SAF. How can we celebrate on the state, district, and national level? We're not in an infancy profession or organization. SAF is looking for ways to celebrate with the greater public.
- SAF is now in charge of the capitol Christmas tree in Washington DC, which serves as good public relations to the public.
- In Minnesota, SAF is involved in "Forest for Humanity" which builds houses for people in need.
- Currently, SAF is composed of 9,300 members, which is down about 100 from a year ago.
- The 2023 National SAF convention in Sacramento had 1,780 attendees, which is much higher than past years. The 2024 National SAF convention will be September 17-20, 2024 in Loveland CO.
- SAF is looking at different ways to get donations. There will be a huge wealth transfer in this country in the near future, which will involve estate planning, etc. There is now a "1900 founders circle" donation category for members who are committed to the long-term success of SAF. For more info, see the society website.
- Forestry Fund grants are available. 20 state societies got money for projects.
- Reminder to submit updated chapter rosters.
- Michael Bill and Kristen Goodrich provided a recap of their time at the SAF National Convention.
 - Attending provides a good feel of how the organization is run nationwide.
 - They both thought it was better than the 2022 Baltimore conference.
 - Encourage everyone to attend the National conventions if they can; Loveland, Colorado is drivable.
 - There were a lot of students in attendance. The current job offers for forestry folks are numerous. New professionals want to be up and running quickly, start doing ASAP, not shadow and learn.
 - New grads are getting upper level jobs that are very high paying. That wasn't always the case, so that's something to share with students.
- Kristen Goodrich presented Michael Bill with an award thanking him for being chair.
- Michael Bill is also now the new MDC State Forester (formal title is Forestry Section Chief).

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- Missouri Consulting Foresters Association is having a technical session Feb 22-23 in Jefferson City. 9.5 CEU are available. Nonmember registration cost is \$90 and includes two meals and happy hour.
- Current Missouri Natural Resources Conference has 12 CFEs available.
- Tree health update from Robbie Doerhoff, MDC Forest Health Specialist, will be held February 19-20 in Joplin.
- A focused conference on short rotation crops at the MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center in May. More info is on the website. This event is expected to have a small attendance.
- University of Missouri Extension reported several upcoming learning sessions, which can be found on the MU Extension website by searching “Missouri Woodland Steward”
 - Feb 29 hybrid. 2 live sessions in Versailles and Rolla, “Keeping forest in the family” which will provide information on land succession. Virtual session to follow.
 - Every Wednesday in March over the noon hour- forest health virtual sessions.
 - 3 field day events around Laurie, Fulton, Rolla in April. Encourage landowners to attend.

5. Committee Reports: Committee Chairs

- Audit (Megan Buchanan)
 - We passed.
- Communications
 - Website (Jon Skinner)
 - Update officers
 - Scholarship info needs to be updated
 - Newsletter (Chris Lohmann)
 - Fall newsletter came out in November. He will start on the spring issue soon. Send any contact to him.
 - Social Media (Tyler Bradford)
 - New Instagram account- @missouriSAF
 - Encouraged everyone to follow the account
- Council, Fellows and Awards (Jim Barresi)
 - Tonight at presentation
 - Outstanding Forester
 - Karkagne
 - Applications were received for the scholarships
 - National SAF has posted their call for award nominations, due March 1
 - Jim has been chair of this committee for 6 years and he is willing to pass on the duty if anyone wants to take it on. Good leadership opportunity.
- Education (Mike Goerndt)
 - If you submit for CFE, don't use Firefox browser, it looks like it works but it doesn't get uploaded. Chrome works.
 - Please provide the agenda with as much details as possible all on one page because he can only submit one document.
- Long Range Planning (Michael Bill)

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- Finished off the updates to the bylaws, but now need to develop an operational manual.
- Long-term strategic plan is from 2014, that should be updated.
- Michael made a call for anyone interested in helping, to let him know.
- Membership (Hank Stelzer)
 - Membership increased from 139 to 145
 - Mid-career, ages 30-39 is still low, but there is a large number of young members; more than the retirees.
 - Hank pointed out his list of lapsed members
- Nominating (Sam Kosark)
 - No update
- Policy and Legislation (Jason Jensen)
 - Nothing that the committee has had to meet or take action on.
 - Potential impactful: chair of Conservation Natural Resources Committee introduced a bill with regard to invasive species. This bill would make it illegal to raise or sell 5 species. Matt Arndt testified. The bill as of now has passed out of committee.
 - ROWA is not dead yet. Has another Senate sponsor. There is also a new bill in the House that would compete with ROWA, which would be better than nothing but won't provide the long term funding that ROWA would.
 - Rebecca Barnard added that National has a forest policy committee.
 - Position statements are kept short, and they've added a purpose and scope to the statements.
 - If our chapter creates our own position statements, they have to be vetted by national.
 - Please forward any new position statement ideas that you feel National SAF is missing.
- Program (Terry Gordon)
 - Terry ran because he liked what we've done in the last few years. Has been a member for 30 years, never wanted to be an officer until recently. The connections are what are great. He finds the personal connections are invaluable in everything we do. There's not that organic connection because people change organizations throughout their career, and SAF can serve that purpose.
 - At least one chapter technical session next year will be held on a Thurs-Fri to better include students.
 - Some ideas for future technical tours:
 - White oak initiative- Brian Schweiss MUE can help partner with this.
 - Ft. Leonard Wood- 60k acres. Can also do a utility component there.
 - Hold a conclave within the chapter.
 - As you go to other conferences, if you see any fun topics or interesting characters, let Terry know. Doesn't have to be core forestry.
 - Highlight a landowner to dovetail a location of another technical tour.
 - Tree ring lab at MU
 - Project Learning Tree activities can be held for chapter member fellowship. "If it works for middle schoolers, it'll work for us."
 - Looking to continue partnering with other organizations.

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- Special Funds (David Massengale)
 - Crater distributing didn't give us a chainsaw this year. May purchase something in the future to replace it.
 - Far fewer silent auction items brought this year. We will send an ask ahead of MNRC this year. It slipped everyone's mind.
 - Blackjack award: David won it last year and forgot it at home, so there were no funds raised for that either.
 - Mike Fiaoni mentioned a small letter used to exist that we can use to solicit donations. It would be helpful to have that again.
- Tellers (Aaron Moore)
 - Not here, but he did a great job assisting Michael Bill with the voting on bylaws and officers.
- Forest Science (Lauren Pile)
- MNRC Steering Committee (Jon Skinner)
 - Reiterate his thank you to the people who helped on the committee.
 - Sam Kosark will be the steering committee chair for the next time SAF hosts.
 - Working on MNRC consists of pauses and flurries in activity; it's not constant. Please offer to help if you're interested.
 - 774 attendees this year.
 - Next year MNRC will be held Feb 18-20, 2025 to avoid MW Fish and Wildlife conference.
 - It was decided that the location of the conference will not move in the foreseeable future.
 - Thank you to Jim Gouldin for the 2 hour session this and every year. If you have any ideas for future forestry sessions, reach out to Jim or Kristen. There is \$1,500 financial support to bring in speakers.
- Historian (Dave Larsen)
 - Anyone want to start working with David and eventually taking the rein?

6. Old Business

- Results of the Member Vote to Amend and Restate the Articles of Incorporation and Adopt New 2023 Bylaws.
 - Passed. Copies will be on our website.
 - Submitted to the state and were accepted.
- Discussion of Fall Technical tour/Fully Mechanized Logging & Shaw Nature Reserve
- Discuss increasing Ed Stegner Scholarship to \$3,000
 - Found out that CFM portion comes from a fund that pays 10 scholarships so they would have to up them all.
 - Could we make up the difference? We will look into that.
- Update from HSD Meeting – Michael Bill/Kristen Goodrich

7. New Business

- Discussion about MOSAF being part of the MO-SIC Implementation Committee
 - Mission is to provide oversight and administration of Sustainable Forestry Initiative in Missouri as directed by SFI Inc.

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- A committee is needed now that it's not just the Missouri Dept of Conservation that is SFI certified in Missouri; Independent Stave and Pioneer Forest now have certified wood products.
- MOSAF's participation is not required but is welcome. Other states have SAF members on their SICs.
- SICs are made up of organizations interested in sustainable forest management, not just the certified organizations themselves.
- Vote: should SAF be involved as a committee member or not?
 - Executive members said we should be involved.
 - Jason Jensen asked who else is on the SIC Implementation Committee: MDC, Independent Stave, Pioneer Forest, MO Forest Products Association, MO Consulting Foresters Association, Tree Farm, US Forest Service, University of Missouri, Missouri State University, and Project Learning Tree
 - Jason suggested that it should be the chair. Michael Bill suggested the member should be chair or selected by the chair.
 - Michael Bill moves that SAF serves as a member of SIC implementation committee. John Tuttle seconded. Motion passed.
 - Kristen would love to see someone else get involved. Ask Marty Calvert if an ask for interest can be put in the chapter newsletter, Facebook, and Instagram page calling for any interest. If none comes forward, Kristen will serve for 2 years.
- Planning for Spring and Fall Technical meetings
 - Let Terry know if you have ideas or he will run with one of the existing ideas.
- Project Learning Tree transition to MSU-Indigo Tran
 - MOSAF has been the keeper of PLT funds but MDC administered. Missouri State University (MSU) now administers the program.
 - Indigo would like to get her funds out of our hands. Seed money originally came from American Forest Foundation given to the states. There is no memorandum of understanding between MSU and SAF. Will work through that process before the next meeting.
 - SIC so far is doing education through Forest and Woodland Association of Missouri (FWAM). The funds could be administered through FWAM.
 - PLT has been dormant for 6 years before Indigo came on. She's working statewide. She teaches these to all levels of students, including landowners. "If you can teach it to a 5th grader then you can show it to a landowner."
- MDC Resource Management Training Conference request
 - This conference will be 3 days here at Margaritaville, and each discipline will have fellowship and targeted training.
 - The committee is asking for funds from all of the societies to fund refreshments which MDC will not pay for. The request is for \$9,000, which is a little over \$2,000 per each of the 4 professional societies.
 - Executive MOSAF committee thought that because it's not open to every SAF member, that it is not a good idea. However, it could be looked at that MDC funds their staff to attend SAF meetings, and this gives back.

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- Multiple non-MDC SAF staff voiced disapproval. There was no motion to pay for a portion of the cost. Kristen will tell the MDC Training planners that MOSAF is not in favor.

8. Agency/consulting firm/NGO/university news

- Mark Twain National Forest
 - New forestry advisor will step in in a few months.
 - New Salem district ranger.
 - 82MMBF sold. \$10 million.
 - 50-60k acres burning this season.
 - Working on/with Ozark Trail
 - Will revise forest plan regarding old growth verbiage now that comment period closed.
 - Updating bat conservation strategy, a crawfish will be listed.
- FS Northern Research Station
 - John Kabrick introduced new staff.
 - Dan Dey is now an ST Scientist. The equivalent of a senior executive scientist.
- Natural Resources Conservation Services
 - The NRCS State forester position was advertised internally with no applicants and offered again externally. Hopefully new one hired in the next month or couple months.
 - Technical assistance agreements funding will be announced. QUWF, NWTF, etc. to get more staff on. Not enough technical service providers to cover the forest management plan requests.
 - Still working under a continuing resolution Farm Bill through March 1.
- University of Missouri
 - Student chapter will reach out to SAF members to attend and visit. Will give Kristen dates.
 - New MU Extension field specialist position in Warrenton.
 - Enrollment is stable.
 - Active forestry club. Conclave will be held at University of Minnesota in April.
 - Hank Stelzer made a motion to have MOSAF give \$250 to each club (MU and MSU) to cover gas for the students to attend conclave. Michael Goerndt seconded. Motion passed.
- Missouri State University
 - 20 students in the forestry program. At least 10-15 in the minor.
 - Forestry Club has about 20 folks, and they have plans for conclave.
 - Expanded silvopasture research on another farm.
 - Ozark chinkapin research ongoing.
 - Numbers in the classes are good.
 - There was a recent realignment at the college. 3 departments became 2 schools: School of Agricultural Science & Conservation and the School of Hospitality & Agricultural Leadership.
- Missouri Department of Conservation
 - The director is retiring, and a nationwide search will be conducted for a replacement.

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- Normally \$10-12 million for landowner cost-share, but currently have over \$30 million available.
- Forestry vacancies go unfilled. There is an effort to beef up the internship options, provide housing and good pay. Closing in April, talk to Mike Keeley for more information.
- There is a new bottomland forest strategic initiative intended to expand and enhance that natural community.
- Missouri Consulting Foresters
 - Lynn Barnickol is stepping down this spring as executive director.
 - Pending formal approval, Bruce Palmer will be taking over.
- Missouri Forest Products Association
 - National campaign “Real American Hardwoods” are running commercials.
- L-A-D Foundation/Pioneer Forest
 - Newly SFI certified.
 - Introduced 2 new staff.
- Missouri Student Chapter of SAF
 - Operating in unison with forestry club.
 - Need to hold elections for SAF
 - Shaun B is president.
- Utility foresters (Crawford Electric)
 - Fully staffed after 4 years. The 30% raise helped, as was an additional week of vacation.
 - Built in downtime to the general foreman job to go work with the crews.
 - Special occasion lunch fund

9. Adjourn- Mixer to follow in the Forestry Suite