

Missouri Society of American Foresters
Winter 2025 Business Meeting

Date: Thursday Feb 20, 2025, 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 current MOSAF Leadership

Objectives

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

Agenda

Drawing for mallard duck and MU barrelhead: Jason Green wins the barrelhead, Matt Arndt wins the mallard

1. Welcome: Terry Gordon, MOSAF Chair-Elect (Kristen is on a mission trip in Costa Rica) Michael Bill welcomes and introduces folks. Specific welcome to the student members in attendance.

2. Minutes from last meeting: Angela George
Motion and second to approve. Minutes pass.

3. Treasurers Report: David Vance- Terry read them in David's stead

Income

\$2,500 from dues

Expenses \$6,600

-\$848 meeting registration for field technical tours

-\$500 awards

-\$170 scholarship donation

\$300 Conservation Federation of Missouri dues

\$5,700 in account

\$20,591 6 month CD

\$20,000 12 month CD

Student sponsorship balance of \$50

\$11,000 Project Learning Tree account.

Move to approve treasurer report.

4. Announcements

- Upcoming forestry related events

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- Tree Farm Conference in Mountain Grove, Oct 3-4
- Forest health training 2/26 in Joplin, CFEs available
- Currently working on a conclave between MU and MSU (April 10-12)
- MCFA meeting in Jefferson City, Feb 26-27
- Walnut council meeting at Pioneer Forest, April 28-29

5. Committee Reports: Committee Chairs

- Audit (Megan Buchanan)
- Communications
 - Website (Jon Skinner)
 - Website is up to date. Traffic is mostly from chapter members.
 - The bylaws and the new handbook will be posted.
 - Newsletter (Chris Lohmann)
 - Billy McCasland and Hayden Dorell will be taking over the newsletter for Chris.
 - Social Media (Tyler Bradford)
 - MOSAF Instagram has 31 followers.
 - 30 followers on Facebook
- Council, Fellows and Awards (Jim Barresi)
 - 2 awards will be given tonight: Karkagne and Outstanding Forester
- Education (Mike Goerndt)
 - CFE system has changed; we have a new contact for proactive CFE approvals. Everything is moving smoothly and approvals are coming back swiftly.
- Long Range Planning (Michael Bill, Tyler Bradford)
 - Operation manual was voted online for adoption by the chapter, with some minor edit suggestions.
- Membership (Hank Stelzer)
 - 141 current members in the chapter. 7 new members joined this last year.
- Nominating (Sam Kosark)
 - Elections will be held this fall for Chair-Elect, which is a 2-year duty before stepping up to be Chair for 2 years.
- Policy and Legislation (Jason Jensen)
 - Federal dollars are uncertain
 - Invasive species bill passed MO Senate today, which covers the sale of sericea lespedeza, autumn olive, Japanese honeysuckle, burning bush, Callery pear, and perilla/beefsteak plant
- Program (Terry Gordon)
 - March 25 catered lunch courtesy of Laclede Electric. Presentation about line forestry, and then a field tour.
 - March 26- Ben Havens will present about the Bennett Springs trout park renovation.
 - Goal is a slower pace tour to leave space for informal networking.
 - Oct 3-4 Fall meeting and tour will be joint venture with MU Extension and the Tree Farm conference.
 - Terry encourages all of us to reach out to your neighbor. Have lunch with no agenda and connect.

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- Special Funds (David Massengale)
 - Hank Stelzer reports \$690 of proceeds from today's MNRC booth.
- Tellers (Aaron Moore)
- Forest Science (Lauren Pile)
- MNRC Steering Committee (Sam Kosark)
 - Jon presented - 437 attendees at MNRC, which is lower this year. Student attendance is higher this year. Many people went to the Midwest fish and wildlife conference earlier in the month.
 - American Fisheries Society hosts in 2026; MOSAF next hosts next in 2028.
 - Special thanks to Jon for putting in effort on MNRC for so many years.
- Historian- Hank Stelzer has agreed to take over as Historian. A lot of our history is now on our website.

6. Old Business

- Discussion of the past Fall Technical tour with American Tree Farm System, Forest & Woodland Association of Missouri, MU Extension, and the Walnut Council with tours at The Oak Cooperage in Higbee and Missouri Pacific Walnut in Fayette.
- Scholarships - Jim Baressi
 - SAF scholarship recipient was in attendance
- Brief Update from HSD Meeting – Terry Gordon
 - Shrinking society: 26,000 members in the 1980s, now down to 9,000.
 - No big issue as of the National meeting to rally behind.
 - Demographics are changing, more diversity.
 - Partnerships are becoming more common.
 - CDLs are a limiting factor in the timber industry; less available to drive log trucks
 - There was a presentation from Indigenous people about our recording of what presettlement condition may not be possible or something we should strive for.

7. New Business

- MOSAF Operations Manual
 - 15 members voted to approve, barring some minor edits
 - A few years ago, National asked all chapters to update bylaws and nonprofit status. Our new bylaws were streamlined, with the details now in this Operations Manual. The Operations Manual will be a living document to update if changes are needed in the future.
 - Executive Council recommends adoption. We ask for 2/3 of attending members today to vote to approve it.
 - Eric Yarnell points out that elected positions heading had the non-elected positions described. Recommend to change the heading to “leadership positions.”
 - Jon Skinner moves to approve it as written with Eric's minor change. Matt Arndt seconds. Chapter votes to approve.

8. Agency/consulting firm/NGO/university news

- Mark Twain National Forest
 - Vince Keeler, forest supervisor, reports. 77MMBF sold last year.

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- Working on this year's goals and objectives.
- CFLRP project was extended 5 more years in Doniphan, which focuses on pine oak woodland restoration.
- FS Northern Research Station
 - Number of retirements in last few years; no wildlife folks on staff at present.
 - Two involuntary departures were noted.
 - Brownheaded nuthatch was found 40 miles north of the release site last fall.
 - Lauren Pile Knapp won the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.
- Natural Resources Conservation Services
 - 42 involuntary departures.
 - Inflation Reduction Act funds are frozen.
- University of Missouri
 - School of Natural Resources is in strategic planning. Will be looking at positional needs.
 - Student numbers are stable.
 - 1 staff tied to a federal grant might be involuntarily reduced.
- Missouri State University
 - Melissa Bledsoe is now the official dean (formerly interim). Reorganization of the departments into 2 schools.
 - University and College legal strategic planning is going on.
 - Student enrolment numbers are stable, even starting to increase slowly.
 - Forestry program website is being redesigned to be more visible.
 - Working on establishing their SAF student chapter; only bylaws remaining
- Missouri Department of Conservation
 - New director and new resource management deputy director.
 - Strategic initiative for bottomland forest management.
 - Strategic initiative for turkey habitat. Forest management benefits turkeys.
 - SFI surveillance audit: Received an "Exceeds Expectations" for combining timber management with fire.
 - Projected reduction in statewide revenues.
 - Timber harvest volume target of 14.5 MMBF will be exceeded again this year.
 - Notable field staff retirements mentioned.
- Missouri Consulting Foresters Association
 - Next week's meeting will have election of officers.
 - Uncertainty about cost-share programs in the future.
 - Currently 2 state bills in Senate to reduce or eliminate state income tax; the revenue will need to be made up somehow, and a bill to place a sales tax on services, which would include consulting forestry.
 - New MCFA website is online, which has an upgraded and streamlined roster, easier to filter and to print results.
- Missouri Forest Products Association
 - Chris Lohmann is now the Certification and Education Manager part time. Duties entail managing the Professional Timber Harvester (PTH) training, Master Logger program, and area meetings.
 - Upcoming PTH training in March in Chillicothe

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- Received a MO grant to promote the Choose Wood campaign, to build domestic demand. Encouraged everyone to interact with the social media campaign
- ‘Real Wood Matters’ podcast coming out soon.
- Lobbyists report- there is a bill to define what a wood product is.
- MFPA was asked to join a lawsuit to sue the Secretary of State to overturn Proposition A on the ballot regarding minimum wage, sick leave, etc., arguing that the petition process only allows for one issue per proposition, and the Proposition had many. The Supreme Court will hear the case in March.
- L-A-D Foundation/Pioneer Forest
 - A plan to develop a shortleaf pine market will be released soon.
 - Ongoing efforts to deal with red oak mortality
 - Passed their SFI audit
 - Now have 16 employees.
- Missouri Student Chapter of SAF
 - Sammie Hentrick is the new president.
 - 40 members in forestry club
 - Attended the student conclave at Southern IL University: MU got second, MSU got fourth
 - MU had a successful Christmas tree sale
 - Goal for the next year is fund raising to send more students to conferences.
- Utility Forestry
 - Crawford electric is fully staffed on tree trimmers.
 - Budget is tight since costs are quite high.
 - Some coops this year are near peak. If peaks are hit, new plants need to be built at great expense. Renewable sources can’t cover the need.
 - Reducing tree work to save cost does not appear to have an immediate effect on power until a few years afterward. Then, problems begin happening.
- Others?
 - MO Sustainability Implementation Committee meeting will be held the third week of April at Pioneer Forest office.
 - Central Harvest Joint Venture
 - hosting a meeting in Arkansas.
 - Just hired their science coordinator.
 - MU Extension is developing “Forestry For the Birds”- a silviculture guide for MO landowners and another more technical version for professionals. They will likely come out by end of the year
 - Chris Lohmann won Conservationist of the Year through Conservation Federation of Missouri.

9. Adjourn-Mixer to follow in the Forestry Suite followed by the dessert social and awards