

Missouri Society of American Foresters
Winter 2021 Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Attendees: 44 members (see last page)

Agenda

2:30

Welcome: John Kabrick, MOSAF Chair

- New members include Sean Zeiger (new faculty member at Lincoln University) and Jim Guldin (retired from Forest Service, Southern Research Station)
- Guest Tim Phelps, District 9 representative

Minutes from last meeting: Ben Knapp

- Minutes available to group prior to meeting
- No discussion – minutes approved

Treasurers Report: David Vance

- Report available to group prior to meeting
- No discussion or concerns

2:40

Announcements

- Congratulations to MNRC award winners
 - Karkhagne – Justine Gartner
 - Outstanding Forester – Michael Goerndt
- SAF Diversity and Inclusion Working Group: Lauren Pile
 - Provided overview of how to access working groups on SAF website
 - Diversity and Inclusion working group charter
 - Diversity Ambassadors Program
 - Comparisons of the working group demographics to our chapter demographics
 - Suggestions for increasing DIE with chapters/membership
- Passing of forestry icons
 - John Dwyer (Jun 26)
 - Scott Brundage (Aug 8)
 - Robert Massengale (Sep 3)
 - Donna Baldwin (Dec 31)

2:55

MOSAF progress on 2020 objectives and objectives for 2021

- MOSAF priorities focus on networking, promoting new technologies to members, promoting profession of forestry, and addressing objectives of SAF national
- Specific objectives in 2020:
 - Make technical tours and travel easier by making local tours or combining with other groups
 - Reach out to non-members to increase membership
 - Work with student groups to increase engagement and get more professionals

Missouri Society of American Foresters
Winter 2021 Business Meeting Minutes

- Get more membership involvement in committee activity
- 2020 was challenging with COVID-19
 - Hard to interact with students and hold meetings or gatherings
- Objectives for 2021 - continue to try to address these objectives
 - Pursue partnerships with other professional societies
 - Work closely with student groups on campuses, try to have some fun activities to keep students engaged and reflect diversity challenges
 - Greatest loss of membership is from student to professional membership
 - Addressing diversity and inclusion considerations
 - MU student body is 41% female
- Comments/Discussion
 - Hank Stelzer: Student chapter of SAF is every other Friday, will all be virtual
 - Tim Phelps: National rep of student chapters is Elliot Smith (Ohio State), one initiative is to connecting professionals with students by having a professional member join meetings for QA
 - Elliot Smith - National Student Congress, Chair
(smith.elliott.13@gmail.com); 614-446-9056
 - Dacoda Maddox: Link students with professionals in similar areas of interest
 - Sean Zeiger: start chapter at Lincoln University?
 - Hank Stelzer - any links to MANNRS?
 - Task for Hank Stelzer - work with Sean Zeiger and Mike Goerndt about connecting student groups

3:09

Committee Reports: Committee Chairs

- Audit (Megan Buchanan)
 - Passed last year (2020) and anticipate same this year
- Communications
 - Website (Jon Skinner)
 - Website has been locked but no other issues
 - Newsletter (Chris Lohman)
 - last fall newsletter is up on the website
 - spring newsletter should be up in March
 - requests for any special topics
 - deadline is February 26
- Council, Fellows and Awards (Jim Barresi)
 - Get pictures of awards to include in newsletter
 - Remember that these awards are only possible with nominations - please consider nominating someone (deadline is mid December)
 - March 15 is deadline for application for SAF Fellows
- Education (Mike Goerndt)
 - CFEs - some things disrupted by COVID
 - Screen share example of process for entering CFEs
- Long Range Planning (Dan Dey)
 - Not present - no report
- Membership (Hank Stelzer)

Missouri Society of American Foresters
Winter 2021 Business Meeting Minutes

- Share screen to show membership data
- Golden members - 50 years+ - do not pay dues
- Down to 129 members, sharing when folks dues are up
- 10 current student members
- Can we make effort to reach out to those close to expiring
- Nominating (Gus Raeker)
 - Not present - no report
- Policy and Legislation (Jason Jensen)
 - Compiled position lists to national SAF
 - Bills introduced related to feral hogs
 - House Bill 508
 - Senate Bill 236
 - Raise penalty for release of swine
 - Definition of feral
 - Confusion in state vs commission authority - these two bills may help clarify that
- Program (Michael Bill)
 - Planning a May/June technical tour - technology advances in forestry - in hopes of being able to do this in person, build on some work with LiDAR and the technology workshop from MNRC
- Special Funds (David Massengale)
 - COVID impacts on special funds this year - more challenging at MNRC but has gone well
 - Thanks to Tod K and Jim G for contributions, as well as others
- Tellers (Aaron Moore)
 - Not present - no report
- Forest Science (Lauren Pile)
 - Planning to put something in the Newsletter
 - Highlighting Graduate Students in the newsletter
 - Upcoming events
 - Timber Management and Prescribed Fire webinar (<https://oakfirescience.com/events/fueling-collaboration-panel-discussion-series/>) on February 18
 - Fire and Fuels Monitoring workshop (<https://oakfirescience.com/events/fire-and-fuels-monitoring-virtual-workshop/>) in June
 - Ecological Drought Planning for Resilience (<https://southernfireexchange.org/calendar/partner-webinar-ecological-drought-planning-for-resilience/>) on February 17
 - Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference (<https://www.cfr.msstate.edu/workshops/bssrc/>) will be held virtually March 16 and 17
- MNRC Steering Committee (Jon Skinner)
 - Costs of MNRC this year have exceeded registration by a lot, if we have a virtual meeting in the future the registration cost needs to be higher
 - Looking for folks volunteering to help with MNRC
 - Expecting MNRC to be in person in 2022, with decision likely made in June

Missouri Society of American Foresters
Winter 2021 Business Meeting Minutes

- Historian (Dave Larsen)
 - Not present - no report

3:48

Old Business

MOSAF forestry student scholarship discussion (Jim Barresi)

- Vote to update standards for standards for scholarship
- Deadline on January 31
- Broadened criteria to attract more applications
- Ed Stegner scholarship got one application
- We had zero applications for our scholarship
- Do we extend the application or not award it for this year?
- Mike Hoffmann suggestion: can we use the funds to assist some of the schools with starting up a student organization?
- Motion: Jim Barresi - extend applications until end of February and otherwise explore options for other schools to use money, Dacoda Maddox seconds - motion passes
- Kabrick - Suggest raising amount of scholarship?

4:00

New Business

Prescribed Fire Liability in Missouri (Jason Jensen)

- Will fall into one of four categories
 - Strict liability - burners liable for damage no matter what action is taken on that burn
 - Simple negligence liability - most common; requires burner to practice reasonable care in applying fire; burner must show negligence in order to be liable
 - Gross negligence - burner would have to follow regulations in the state statute - for burner to be liable they would have to fail to follow regulations and fail to do what a reasonable person would have done; this incentivizes certification for protection
 - Undefined in Missouri - there are options for insurance for contractors but restricted
- Given the importance of fire in our ecosystems, lack of liability is impactful
- High percentage of land in private ownership means we need to increase ability of contractors to conduct prescribed burning on private lands
- Insurance companies will not take risk on undefined liability
- Two bills introduced in Missouri to establish simple negligence liability in MO
- Jason Jensen will draft position statement
- Motion to draft position statement - Motion by Chris Lohmann, Second by John Tuttle, passes
- Tim Phelps - suggests need for outreach to educate land owners; examples of products from southern group of state foresters: <https://www.southernforests.org/resources/media-toolkit/prescribed-fire-infographic-series>

4:18

Reports from National Office

News from Tim Phelps, District 9 Director, Society of American Foresters

- Trend is we are losing 600 members per year, a trend that has occurred since the 1980s; high percentage of Golden members
- Nominations for 2021 Awards open Jan 15 and close March 15

Missouri Society of American Foresters
Winter 2021 Business Meeting Minutes

- Consider applying for a Foresters Fund grant - can be put towards public outreach, education, etc. (deadline Feb 15)
- Investigate the ForestEd platform - New England SAF is using it for a meeting
- The national SAF staff has gotten bigger so we are seeing some improvements in national-level resources
- Lori Rasor is State Society Relations position
- Review of membership options on the website
- Organizational Transparency - there is a link on the website, including minutes and operating budget
- 2021 operating budget: declining membership dues, investment from selling land a few years ago has provided funds to balance budget
- Membership topic: There are efforts to increase membership
 - We don't have a new member orientation
 - There could be a lot of ways to engage with members to make them feel valued
 - Hiring third party to examine demographics to better understand why membership is changing
- Launching strategic plan soon
- Last year for Tim Phelps in this position - need a new representative next year
 - 10 state district

4:48

Reports from Agency Representatives

- Mark Twain National Forest
 - No report
- FS Northern Research Station
 - John Kabrick: Things are humming along
- Natural Resources Conservation Services
 - Joe Alley: Funding for feral hog control through Farm Bill
- University of Missouri
 - Hank Stelzer: Efforts for teaching position with money from Independent State and other industry
- Missouri State University
 - Michael Goerndt: Course offerings are stable
- Missouri Department of Conservation
 - No report
- Missouri Consulting Foresters
 - Lynn Barnickol: Meeting will be on (DATE?), will be 4 CFEs for attending
- Missouri Forest Products Association
 - No report
- L-A-D Foundation/Pioneer Forest
 - Jim Guldin: Jim is a new member on the LAD Board
- Missouri Student Chapter of SAF
 - No report

4:55

Adjourn – Motion from Lynn Barnickol, second from Mike Hoffman, approved

Missouri Society of American Foresters
Winter 2021 Business Meeting Minutes

Attendees

- Joe Alley
- Lynn Barnickol
- Jim Barresi
- Michael Bill
- Megan Buchanan
- Marty Calvert
- Matthew Cruise
- Harold Draper
- Charlie Ducharme
- Mike Fiaoni
- Justine Gartner
- Michael Goerndt
- Kristen Goodrich
- Nate Goodrich
- Terry Gordon
- Jim Guldin
- Trystan Harpold
- Sarah Havens
- Glenda Hefty
- Russell Hinnah
- Mike Hoffman
- Tony Jaco
- Jason Jensen
- John Kabrick
- Tod Kinerk
- George Kipp
- Benjamin Knapp
- Chris Lohmann
- Dacoda Maddox
- David Massengale
- Mark Nelson
- Bruce Palmer
- KJ Petry
- Tim Phelps
- Lauren Pile
- Brian Schweiss
- Steve Shifley
- Jon Skinner
- Hank Stelzer
- John Tuttle
- David Vance
- Sean Zeiger