



East Kentucky Chapter of Society of American Foresters

EKSAF Spring Meeting Blanton Forest, Harlan Co., Kentucky May 13, 2008

Meeting Minutes

Ben Worthington called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. Worthington shared Billy Thomas' regrets for not being able to make the meeting due to his wife's recovery from major surgery. Worthington shared news of the passing of KDF employee Tim McClure, and told the group this was the reason many KDF members could not attend.

Introductions were then made. Present were Chris Reeves, Pat Cleary, Kevin Black, Jared Calvert, John Perry, Pam Snyder, Scott Shouse, Jimmy Guthrie, Bill Knott, Dwight Chaffee, Daniel Bowker, Merrill Flanary, Ron Taylor, and Dick Wengert.

Merril Flanary gave a short introduction to Blanton Forest and the lodge facility used for the meeting. Camp Blanton let us use the facility for the meeting free of charge. Flanary told the group that Camp Blanton was historically a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, then was used by a local Boy Scout troop, and was most recently purchased by the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust. The camp facilities are currently undergoing renovation, with EKSAF the first user of the refurbished lodge.

Daniel Bowker then gave the Treasurer's report. Discussion of changing banks was held, as Peoples Bank of Berea is charging us a yearly account fee. It was decided this was worth looking into. Pat Cleary called our attention to two date corrections in the report. Pam Snyder moved to approve the corrected report, seconded by Scott Shouse. All were in favor of accepting the report as corrected.

Daniel Bowker then shared the minutes of the Fall 2007 EKSAF meeting with the group. Members read through these minutes. Bill Knott moved to approve the minutes, Pam Snyder seconded the motion, and all were in favor of approving the minutes as read.

Ben Worthington then gave the KTSAF update, as Tammy Cushing was unable to attend. Tammy Cushing sent the KTSAF update in an email to Worthington to be read at this meeting. There was a discussion of who is on the member purge list for non-payment of dues, but specific

members were not known by Worthington. Pat Cleary said he would be happy to contact these members if he could find out who they are. Issues to bring to the House of Society Delegates were then discussed. Pat Cleary stated that SAF should work as a clearinghouse for the Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF), rather than having to file all the same forms with both organizations every year. John Perry agreed, saying that SAF had adopted the ACF standards. Following was a discussion of the KTSAF summer meeting to be held June 11-13 in Etowah, Tennessee. May 28th is the deadline for hotel reservations. An email will be arriving shortly with details of the meeting.

Next was a summary of the executive committee meeting held February 8, 2008, at UK. Worthington stated that the policy committee consists of Jeff Stringer, Bob Bauer, Amos Stone, Stewart West, and Ben Worthington, reflecting a diversity of organizational viewpoints. Issues in front of the policy committee include the recent proposed timber trespass legislation. Bowker stated that the timber trespass bills that did not pass this year included a form of intent to harvest notification. Pat Cleary said that KWOA was going to address this issue soon. The Robinson Forest SMZ project was also discussed as a policy committee issue. KTSAF has produced a policy statement about this research project. A policy statement on forest health was also discussed. Doug McLaren could not attend and so could not give the newsletter committee update. Worthington summarized the awards committee report by going through the several awards needing nominations. Please send all nominations for awards to Ben Worthington, and contact him for details about the individual awards. Worthington also stated he would like some help on this committee.

Next was a dialogue concerning the Fall 2008 EKSAF meeting. Berea College forest was mentioned as a possible meeting location, as was a cable logging site on the Daniel Boone NF. The group consensus was that the cable logging site would be a good meeting topic, though Ron Taylor said the job may face an injunction, so that an alternate location for the meeting is needed. John Perry said that Berea forest is available as an alternate location.

EKSAF polo shirts were the next item of business. Daniel Bowker stated that the shirts would cost \$20-\$25 to members, with 25% of the cost subsidized by EKSAF, to a maximum of \$325. A pre-order signup sheet was made available for members. Bowker stated that a minimum of 15 pre-orders was needed to get the shirts made. Pat Cleary mentioned that SAF nameplates would also be a good idea, and that Rick Wilcox ordered these the last time and would be the one to contact about ordering new ones.

Organizational reports were then made. Pam Snyder gave the report for KDF. She said that the recent fire season was not very bad. The state budget is a major concern for KDF presently. Snyder also said that the Division was in shock over Tim McClure's sudden passing.

Ron Taylor gave the report for the DBNF. He mentioned that Heartwood had sought an injunction on the ice damage timber sale on the Morehead District and the upcoming cable logging sale. A series of prescribed burns are set to be implemented along the Zilpo Road. The Morehead District is implementing a trails initiative, and a new Red River Gorge plan is in the works. Most harvesting on the DBNF right now is done on the London and Morehead districts. More than 1000 acres were sold in the ice damage area, but have not been harvested.

Chris Reeves gave the report for UK. The SMZ project is set to begin in the next few weeks. The revised undergraduate curriculum is to be implemented beginning with the fall of 2009. The last summer camp will be next summer, with a spring field semester substituting for summer camp after that. The UK undergraduate degree is up for re-accreditation this year by SAF, but this was pushed back a year for the curriculum changes. The Policy professor position is on hold for now due to budget constraints.

Pat Cleary gave the report for consulting foresters. The ACF will be meeting in Bowling Green soon. The timber markets are the main concern for consultants right now, with this a "pitiful year" to sell timber. It could be 4 to 5 years before the red oak price recovers, if at all. White oak is the current bright spot. Consultants are finding it beneficial to diversify in this market situation.

John Perry gave the report for Berea College. Tree planting season is underway, and a timber sale was done last fall. John Lhotka from UK is picking up some oak research on the college forest begun by Dylan Dillaway.

Scott Shouse gave the report for MACED. Carbon credit signups are ongoing, with the first credits to be sold on the market soon. This should take off in the near future. This should provide more work for consultants, and an increase in forest management. 7000 acres are currently signed up, with 30,000 more acres in the process. The Forest Vegetation Simulator is being used to estimate carbon storage capacity on forested tracts. A regional model for the central Appalachians will be produced in the near future, as Kentucky is currently included in the southern region for this simulation program. Kentucky forests are averaging 3.5 to 4 tons of carbon stored per acre per year, with the market price somewhat over \$6 per ton. The Chicago Climate Exchange is depending on aggregators and foresters to help figure out the rules for this brand new ballgame.

Pam Snyder then mentioned that David Mercker from UT will be doing the Tree Farm inspector training at the KTSAF summer meeting. The facilitator for the summer meeting needs to send the paperwork from the training to Pam, as last time the paperwork was sent to the national Tree Farm office and was lost.

Pat Cleary moved to adjourn the business meeting, and John Perry seconded the motion. All agreed, and the business meeting closed at noon.