

Board Members in Attendance:

Bruce ZumBahlen, President	John O'Reilly
Neal Kingsley, Vice-President	Jerry Lenz
Robert Sonnenberg	Barb Spears
Terry Helbig	Dennis Thompson, Treasurer – arrived at 10:20 a.m.

Board Members Absent: Jim Lemmerman

Others in Attendance: Al Schacht, Director elect; Eli Sagor – arrived at 11:30 a.m.

A quorum was present.

1. **Call to Order:** by Bruce ZumBahlen, President at 10:10 am
 - a. Introductions: Bruce introduced Al Schacht, Director elect.
 - b. Remarks: Bruce compared where MFA was 5 years ago to today. MFA has gained membership, the investment fund has grown, and things are running a lot smoother since that time thanks to the Board members and other volunteers.
 - c. Additions to the agenda: Terry Helbig would like a discussion on handling a donation and Barb Spears would like to cover the Land Committee report during the Chapter Relations Committee report.
2. **Approval of Agenda: motion made by Terry Helbig, second by Dennis Thompson, passed unanimously.**
3. **Ratification of Election Ballots and Changes in the By-laws:** by ZumBahlen Re-elected for another two year term were: Terry Helbig, Jerry Lenz, John O'Reilly, and Barb Spears. Because of the close race for Neal Kingsley's vacant seat, a recount was needed to affirm the results. Al Schacht won over Charles Erickson and Dave Lindroth. Bruce thanked the candidates for running.

The vote to change MFA's By-laws by repealing the restriction of officers serving more than two consecutive terms in the same office was overwhelmingly approved.

Motion to approve the election and ballot results was made by: John O'Reilly, second by Neal Kingsley. Passed unanimously.

Bruce welcomed Al Schacht to the Board. Copies of the newly revised By-laws were passed out.

4. **Approval of Sept. 5, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes:** by ZumBahlen
Motion to approve by: Terry Helbig, second by Jerry Lenz. Passed unanimously.
5. **Executive Committee and Board Actions since Sept. 5, 2006 Board Meeting:** by ZumBahlen.
 - Sharing MFA's mailing list with MN Extension Service in support of more efficient notification of educational events via a GIS program.

- Reimbursement request from John Bathke for mileage to North Star Expo.
- Invitation to join Bird Conservation Minnesota
- Becoming an Associate Member of the MN Logger Education Program
- Seeking a Blandin Foundation grant to support scholarships for up to 12 MFA members to attend the Wisconsin Woodland Institute.
- Transferring MFA's 800 phone number to Carol Cartie's residence
- Approving a contract with Kevin Walli to represent MFA during the 2007 legislative session.

Motion to ratify the above actions made by: Terry Helbig, Seconded by Al Schacht. Passed unanimously. .

6. **Treasurer's Report:** by Dennis Thompson

a. Review of year-end finances Dennis reviewed a handout detailing the status of the following accounts:

Regular checking: \$10,524.44 (as of 12/1/06)

Money market: \$ 6,360.85 (as of 12/1/06)

Edward Jones: \$ 648,537.09 (as of 10/31/06)

St. Paul Foundation: \$ 198,628 (as of 9/30/06)

Checking account activity then was reviewed and Dennis responded to the questions.

The status of the 2006 budget was reviewed next comparing estimated and actual revenue against anticipated and actual expenses. Current operations point to a \$770.49 deficit, but that could change with additional reimbursements, membership dues, etc. **Dennis will check with Mike Reichenbach to ensure that the Woodland Advisor program has paid all reimbursements.**

Stewardship grants- already paying out for Fiscal Year 2007 events. Paying these promptly has really helped MFA's relations with Woodland Councils and Chapters.

Dennis announced that the MN Dept of Revenue has finally determined that MFA is State Sales Tax Exempt organization. We need to check on whether that is retroactive for sales taxes that Minute Man Press paid on MFA's behalf. Minute Man Press paid \$296.83 of sales tax that should have been charged to MFA prior to the exemption. Guidance is needed on what purchases are tax exempt. A certificate must be furnished at the time of the purchase to take advantage of the exemption. **Bob Sonnenberg volunteered to explore the implications of sharing that information with MFA chapters.**

All business with the Million Acre Conference is now done. **Dennis will discuss what to do with the balance left over with the Doug Anderson of the DNR.**

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by: Jerry Lenz, second by Barb Spears. Passed unanimously.

b. 2007 Budget Requests. Dennis will request committee chairs to submit 2007 budget requests for their committee activities. The following items need to be covered in the new budget.

1) Contract for Carol Cartie. Bruce handed out copies of Carol Cartie's duties under a proposed contract with MFA for 2007 highlighting the changes from the current year. She would like a 3.5% raise from \$14.50 to \$15 per hour. **Motion to approve a contract with Carol Cartie paying her \$15.00 an hour made by: Jerry Lenz, second by Bob Sonnenberg. Passed unanimously.**

2) Woodland Owner Organization Conference. Bruce updated the Board on plans for a conference of woodland owner organizations hosted by the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA). So far, organizations in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin have committed to attend. Ohio has not responded as of yet, Missouri would like to attend, though. The event will be held near Green Lake, Wisconsin starting at noon on April 12 ending at noon April 14, 2007.

An on-line survey will be sent to Board members of the organizations in January, 2007 to scope out the issues and concerns that should be addressed in developing the agenda. **Bruce will email the Board members email addresses to Nancy Bozek of WWOA.**

The conference is intended for five officers and directors of the respective organizations. Barb Spears, John O'Reilly, and Al Schacht would like to go; there may be more interest than space. It's estimated that MFA's cost would be about \$265 per person. **Bruce will ask Nancy Bozek if more than 5 can attend.**

3) Wisconsin Leadership Institute. Previously, John O'Reilly had announcement that Blandin Foundation has approved scholarship monies for up to 12 Minnesota candidates to attend the Institute. The Executive Committee has already approved to support 3 individuals with full scholarships. What remains to be decided is what level of support the other 9 candidates and MFA should provide towards the \$600 registration fee. The registration fee covers meals, lodging, and course materials. The only cost not covered is getting to the 3 different weekend sessions planned for May 18-19, July 13-15, and August 25-26, 2007.

The Blandin Foundation monies will be held in Wisconsin and applied to pay for the attendance of the successful candidates through an application process to the Wisconsin Leadership Institute. A lengthy discussion ensued to address whether the candidates had to be MFA members and how to approach reaching potential candidates..

Motion by Dennis Thompson, second by Terry Helbig: "Of the total cost of \$600, applicants will be eligible for a \$500 scholarship at the time of

application and provide \$100 which will be refundable if the applicant is not accepted.”

Passed unanimously.

Motion to limit applicants to MFA members by Al Schacht, second by Dennis Thompson. Passed unanimously.

Eli Sagor and Terry Helbig volunteered to help John O’Reilly craft an information/application piece. John handed out a draft of what the document might look like that includes the \$100 figure. Hmmm! (but, good handout).

7. Committee Reports

a. Education and Communications: Eli Sagor

Eli handed out a report from Mike Reichenbach about MFA tree sales which Bruce discussed. Mike and Dave Cartwright discussed the history and recent decline in sales with North Central Reforestation. The original sales target was schools, businesses, and cities. Sales in the past exceeded 100,000 trees a year. In 2005, only 7,600 trees were sold.

Mike proposes that MFA revitalize the sales effort to the original target Customers and create a niche for MFA by providing high quality hardwoods and conifers from improved seed sources grown under contract for MFA. This would require MFA joining the MN Tree Improvement Cooperative. Mike has discussed this with Carrie Pike of the MTIC and she is excited about the idea.

No action is needed at this time. The current sales program will remain in effect for the rest of this year. An ad will be in the next issue of Better Forests. Mike only wants to know if he is on the right track. The education committee is willing to pursue a new direction. No opposition to this new direction was expressed by Board members.

Eli discussed the need to address issues in subdividing land and land transfers. Also, he mentioned that new Woodland Advisor brochures would be printed soon and reported that Forestry Assistance Locator should be up and running on the web in early January 2007.

b. Membership: Jerry Lenz

Jerry handed out minutes of the Dec. 4, 2006 membership committee minutes and highlighted the importance/opportunities of involving DNR employees in the effort since they are front line contacts with landowners. A new membership application brochure is really needed. The current supply will run out this year so its distribution has to be limited to only the best prospects.

Neal Kingsley showed a mock-up of what a new MN brochure would look like

similar to WWOA's brochure. WWOA printed 60,000 through a grant. Perhaps MFA could pursue a grant with the Forest Stewardship Program, too. Or, we could ask to modify WWOA's to allow us to use their brochure with appropriate changes in the text to fit MFA's needs.

c. Chapter Relations. Barb Spears. .

Barb handed out her report. The committee met Nov. 28, 2006. Currently, recognized chapters are: Brainerd, East Central Woodland Owners Council, Hiawatha, North Central and now the Metro Chapter that just completed it's by-laws and signed the chapter agreement.

Barb mentioned that a draft policy or standard operating procedure for forming and maintaining chapters is now available for review. Information on providing insurance to chapters and minimizing risk for injury, etc needs and be fleshed out better. **Barb will discuss with Mike Reichenbach.**

Costs for postcard mailings are not addressed in the current budget. **Barb will be addressing the budget needs for postcard mailings on behalf of the chapters with Dennis Thompson, Mike Reichenbach, and Carol Cartie.**

d. Land Committee: Barb Spears

MFA has 2 conservation easements, both in the Metro area. MFA has been awarded \$5,000 in MN Releaf funds for a restoration project on the 4.74 acre Shoreview property. Redhorse Real Estate in Colorado has given approval to work on the land. Deadline for completing the work is June 8, 2007.

Bruce ZumBahlen presented Neal Kingsley with a framed Certificate of Appreciation as he retires from the Board that recognizes him for his service as an officer, director, and committee chair. He will be missed.

John O'Reilly had to leave the meeting at this point.

e. Government Relations: Bruce ZumBahlen

A draft 2007 Legislative Briefing Paper was handed out. An earlier draft was modified to reflect input from another member of the committee to do a better job of prioritizing and explaining the rationale. The current draft now looks more cluttered. Bruce recommended that pursuing a change in the trespass statutes and the discussion on the right to practice forestry be dropped. Both items are important, but MFA has limited resources and the timing to address those two items in the next session is not the best.

Motion to simplify the Briefing Paper by dropping the trespass and right to practice forestry issues from the draft made by .Jerry Lenz, second by Bob Sonnenberg. Passed unanimously.

Bruce handed out current committee memberships and asked all Board members to indicate their interest in serving on the committees by returning the roster to him by the next Board meeting showing where they added, or deleted their names.

8. **Processing donations:** Terry Helbig and Bruce ZumBahlen
Terry asked to have a donation from the Faribault Sportsmen Club to the Rice County Forestry Committee be routed through MFA since it has to be given to a 501 (c) 3 non-profit. General agreement by the Board members that this arrangement is fine.

Bruce informed the Board that Lisa Graba-Meech and her brothers have donated \$400 to MFA in memory of their father, who was a strong supporter of MFA. In a phone call with her, she expressed no particular wish on how to use the funds and was not adverse to seeing it deposited in our endowment fund. Bruce proposed that the donation be deposited in the St. Paul Foundation.

Motion to deposit the \$400 in the St. Paul Foundation made by Bob Sonnenberg, second by Jerry Lenz. Passed unanimously.

9. **Election of Officers for 2007:** ZumBahlen
Bruce had talked with a number of the Board members prior to the meeting. Jim Lemmerman said he would be willing to continue as Secretary and Dennis Thompson said he would be willing to serve another term as Treasurer. John O'Reilly would be willing to serve as Vice-President. There were no takers for the office of President.

Motion by Terry Helbig, second by Al Schacht; “By acclamation of the Board, the members mentioned by Bruce are elected.” Passed unanimously.
Jim Lemmerman, Secretary
Dennis Thompson, Treasurer
John O'Reilly, Vice-President.

According to MFA By-laws, Bruce ZumBahlen will continue to serve as President until a successor is elected.

The next Board meeting was set for February 15, 2007 at the DNR Office in Cambridge.

Motion to adjourn made by Bob Sonnenberg, second by Dennis Thompson. Passed unanimously.