

Michigan Association of Timberman MAT Board Meeting

Driftwood Restaurant, St. Ignace, MI | 11-4-16

Present: Jim Maeder, Wes Windover, Warren Suchovsky, John Fowler, Charley MacIntosh, Judy Augenstein, Alvin Rush

Absent: John Binegar, Paul Burton, Steve Anderson, Brian Nelson

Staff: Anna Frampton

Guests: Bruce Rendon

Call to order by President Maeder at 8:00am, 8/19/16

Presidents Report

- Jim discusses meeting with Bill O'Neil and Debbie Begalle regarding minimum bids for timber sales.
- Warren comments on minimum bids and why they exist. In addition, points out the lack of communication between DNR/foresters.
- Warren addresses SFE sessions on how DNR cruise timber.
- Jim brings attention to Bill comments on access to sites.
- Jim mentions his attendance at a DNR meeting with the public on the Kirtland Warbler habitat projects.
- Discussion on the log plate and membership dues.

Treasurers Report

- Current Balances
 - General: \$77,249.93
 - Jess Birtcher: \$5,294.74
 - MITREE: \$17,896.64
 - Timber PAC: \$3,023.30
 - Select Savings: \$65,561.78
 - CD 11801: \$41,197.56
 - CD 0001: \$40,523.38

Legislative Report

- Judy covers legislative report.
- Warren discusses bills regarding weight limits.
- Board mentions possible changing of break up period lengths.
- Fowler brings up electronic log books and the opinions on the system. The consensus revealed that the books are favorable because of efficiency when looking back on hours.
- Warren discusses bill on prescribed burns. He suggests that we be aware of notifications on burns.

NEPA Surveys

- Jim discusses how this wildlife protection study could hinder access to logging areas. Jim advised Brian to take this up on the national level.
- Board discusses the impact that wildlife protection has on the logging industry.

Additional Staffing

- Discussion of objectives for new staff. Association needs to create a written list of tasks for individual.

Employment Discussion

- Introductions by board members.
- Bruce outlines his history and interest in working for the Timbermen.
- Rendon expresses that he would like to work for the Timbermen while also promoting himself for preparation to run for the Senate.
- Bruce mentions the positions he's held throughout his life and his experiences that have helped him understand the industry. He states that he could best add value to the association by a promotive position. He would like to travel and meet with members and help expand the membership. With his background he believes that he could offer a professional presence in the field for members and collaborative partners. Bruce explains his commitment will be for the year 2017, and would like to be full time but would entertain the idea of a part time position.

Other Business

- Alvin discusses tree maintenance on road sides. Board agrees that it's a county issue that should be brought up with them. These trees provide a huge safety hazard.
- Warren discusses donations from TimberPAC and policies regarding the amount we donate to each candidate.

Moved by Maeder, supported by Suchovsky, to amend internal policy to eliminate the dollar amount on donations from the TimberPAC to political candidate. Motion carried, no nays

- Warren discusses MIFBI organization and his involvement with them. They will be holding a conference in Grand Rapids. Warren offers examples where biomaterials have been incorporated in other countries and states. “Why not Michigan?” He expresses that the US has been very slow on their involvement. Warren asks that MAT be a sponsor of this event.
- Warren asks Bruce about transportation bills concerning permits on weight restriction periods. Bruce states that these bills help to take out the personal issues and enforces individuals to “...follow the law”. Discussion progressed into road bonds.
- Warren talks about Act 51. Bruce suggests not opening that up.
- Mike converses with Bruce on truck weights for uneven axel loads and adjusting weights rather than getting ticketed. Mike asks how to handle the issue. Bruce suggests writing up a bill to change it.
- Anna presents log truck safety courses in 2017 in conjunction with Forest Insurance. Topics for presentation were discussed and noted.

Moved by Maeder, supported by Windover, to adjourn meeting. Motion carried, no nays.