

MAT Board Meeting Minutes

10-29-21 Kewadin Casino, Sault Ste. Marie

Board members present: Wes Windover, James Maeder, Vaughn West, Joe Doyle, Anne Harmon, Warren Suchovsky, Charley MacIntosh, Bob Bazuin

Staff Present: Michelle Sears, Jason Wadaga, Tom Buckingham

Meeting called to order by James Maeder at 9:46am

Anti trust signed by all present

Motion to approve agenda by Charley MacIntosh; supported by Joe Doyle; motion carried

Minutes presented from last meeting with some discussion. Motion to approve by Wes Windover; supported by Bob Bazuin; motion carried

Presidents report given with discussion concerning Vogle and Zorn bringing up issue about license for wood buyers again. Discussion about MAT not being in favor and that we need to be “at the table” for any future discussion on this matter. Jason to follow up. Motion made by Charley MacIntosh to send letter of opposition to this proposal; supported by Warren Suchovsky; motion carried.

Discussed fuel co-op that forest products council had been working on. They had approached GLTPA as investor. Warren reported that there were concerns on the business model presented by GLTPA. No additional information at this time.

Discussion of employee/board manual review. Discussed conduct section and other updates needed. Recommendation to work very closely with attorney to ensure legality and wording. Need to address if bylaws need to be changed as well. Will review after attorney recommendations have been received.

Treasurer Report given with update on status of new bookkeeper. Proof of insurance from them to be put on file. Tom Buckingham brought up issue with general ledger reports. Monthly transaction reports will be sent to all board members for review and accountability. Motion: to move general checking to Nicolet National Bank in order to allow for additional remote access and function. PAC fund to be moved to First National to ensure separation of funds. Double authorization to be required for all future payments. Anne Harmon, Sec-Tres, Jim Maeder, President, Wes Windover, Board Member, Tom Buckingham, Member, Michelle Sears, Administrator, Paul Burton, Board Member, and Joe Doyle, Vice President will be signers. By Anne Harmon; supported by Charley MacIntosh; motion carried

Discussion on ALC portion of dues not being paid. Suggestion to put article in Timber Talk on what benefits come from ALC dues. Will track how many don't pay and reevaluate at the end of the year.

Discussion about embezzlement and options for write off and what would be most beneficial tax wise. Will discuss with CPA for best recommendation.

Budget presented for review. Discussion about Birtcher scholarship fund receiving 5.00 from dues for each member. Discussion about other options and new ways to raise funds. Motion to accept budget

as presented with ability to review and adjust as needed by Warren Suchovsky; supported by Wes Windover; motion carried.

Insurance update given by Tom Buckingham. Update on changes for manufacturing coverage. Barko issues with Inland Marine policies

Jason Wadaga gave **legislative update**. Had invitation to Vanderwall Pheasant Hunt fundraiser but no one was able to attend due to schedule conflicts. CDL event by John Damoose covering issues at the bridge. Questions on whether this was going to count for SFI credit. Warren hadn't seen anything come through for approval by committee. Jim Locklear is attending and will get update from him. 11-9 will be House Democrats fundraising event. Jason asked for a \$500.00 PAC donation for democrats event. Vote taken and passed. Jason will send formal written request. Talked about Carbon Credits issue and whether funds go into the forest development fund. Will be watching for Bills on any of these issues along with the wood buyer license issue discussed in presidents report. Discussion about OSHA and new regulations proposed for heat illness; letter of opposition to be sent to OSHA and legislature on this issue

Discussion about Forest Products Council. New ED is Michelle Felde from Wisconsin. What would be involved with possibly taking over SFI program. Some companies are talking about putting their support funds elsewhere. Discussion about MFRA teaching tools and if they would still be available. Still looking to target Middle School for forestry education.

Wes introduced discussion concerning ED for MAT and looking forward to the role our organization will have in the industry in the future. Jim and Wes will contact Ray Gurdy to open discussion on his interest and availability.

ML follow up discussion with Warren. Grant money available to ensure that ML certificate holders who aren't members in good standing will get some help with cost. Letter is to go out from the president addressing this issue those it will affect. Warren is working on getting out certificates of recertification. Warren brought up that ML is good measurement of how effective SFI and BMP training is in the industry. Discussion on issues that he is seeing a lot of that may need additional training classes for. Records retention was discussed. Very few records are digital and the paper records are all at Warren's residence. Warren is to bring some each time he travels by office so that Michelle can work in making all digital and organized appropriately. All records should be in the MAT office for any programs the organization is responsible for. Discussion about who Warren would start to train to take over the program for him. Setting up structure according to bylaws discussed and whether we were ready to move forward with recommendations for committee. Discussed asking for more operating funds from SFI.

Additional funds from little bridges grant available for more crane mats. \$122000 in additional funds. Wes will set up transport for Mats. Yak Mat is available for manufacturer for members on the West end of the UP. Michelle to look up if there was former motion concerning using out of state manufacturers so it can be addressed. Michelle would send blast out to members. Those who didn't get certificate before would be first in line.

Timber Talk member spotlight to be from UP. 2 possibilities discussed.

Next meeting will be 12-10-21 in St Ignace. Important for as many board members to be present as possible and bring nominees for convention award winners.

Motion to adjourn at 2:42 made by Warren Suchovsky; supported by Charley MacIntosh; motion carried.