

Michigan Association of Timberman MAT Board Meeting

The Quality Inn, St. Ignace, MI | 3-11-16

Present: Lonny Lutke, Jim Maeder, Brian Nelson, Warren Suchovsky, Charley MacIntosh, Glen Tolksdorf, Wes Windover, John Fowler,

Absent: Paul Burton, Wade Van Keulen, John Binegar, Alvin Rush

Staff: Anna Frampton

Guests: Mike Smalligan, Dave Neumann, Todd Johnson

Call to order by President Lutke at 9:00am, 3/11/16

Moved by Lutke, supported by Brian, to approve revised agenda. Motion carried, no nays.

Presidents report:

Lonny discusses weight restrictions. Bonding of gravel roads issues, counties differentiate acceptable payments, Warren suggests that the payment types should be uniform. State level to unify permits to reduce costs and paperwork. Lonny brings up seasonal road issues in certain counties, including Kalkaska. Todd Johnson speaks on establishing a consistent way of bonding for all counties. How to not negatively affect other industries (ag.) while positively impacting ours (logging). Bonding should establish a maximum amount. Warren suggests working together with the council to suggest a legislative packet to address bonding/trucking restrictions. Dave discusses that the DNR will be mapping all roads to see who uses these roads. Brian discusses how most of the county roads are not maintained.

Todd Johnson

- Motivation behind doing the audit process is based on the silviculture exemptions.
- Methods to get into private landowners property to audit is changing
- Todd asks board for help in finding host sites in the future
- Warren suggests Todd get a logger on the audit team
- Warren suggests working with the MFPC/SFI group on legislative policies.

Maeder with Treasurer's Report:

- General: \$86,561.27
- MITREE: \$74,630.74
 - Spoke on the wrapping up of previous grant with the US Forest service.
 - Discussion of grants available and possibly working with Mike to administer grants.
- Select: \$25,476.14
- Birtcher: \$5,194.74
- Timber PAC: \$1,513.30
 - Discussion of how to raise money for this account
 - Raffling items off at convention
- CD(s): \$40,260.83, \$40,930.65

Legislative Report

- Lonny discusses if log theft is an issue for anyone. Thieves will be ticketed but when it goes to court, fines are minimal. Example of a sound contract for timber buyer.
- Warren discusses licensed foresters meeting. Catches board up to speed on the licensed forester issue. The foresters alone need to drive the bill. When bill gets introduced, MAT needs to review.
- Discussion on the technical terms of foresters and the pros and cons to each. When a forester is necessary on a job.
- ORV/Horses issue. Warren suggests to remain opposed to any legislation because it offers many issues for loggers.
- Brian on the slasher issue- Will address in DC.
- Amish issue- Need more updates from MATSIF on Amish work. Keep an eye on when the hearings are and BOD needs to be prepared to show.
- QFA/CFA- transitioning from CF to QF creates issues with tax differences. Bill amendments to eliminate penalty for transitioning.
- Multiple Permit Bill- MAT supports this bill.

Convention

- Anna discusses details for 2016

Mike Smalligan

- Mike explains that for this grant, he will put on classes and in return, attendees will get 1 year free membership to MAT.
- Individuals to solicit membership: southern Lower Peninsula. Target people that make up this industry. Board should keep in mind that this grant has not yet been funded, but should be on the radar.

Dave Neumann

- Discussed mill survey in Michigan.
- Power point of 2014, 2015 mill census, and production.
- MDNR Forest Products Utilization & Marketing Program Update
- Work Plan For 2016
 - Firewood producer survey in cooperation with MSU Forestry Dept.
 - Secondary Manufacturer survey
 - Industry directory enhancements
 - Printed directory listings for loggers and truckers, primary mills
 - Quarterly/biennial newsletter planned for industry's audience
 - MAT would be interesting in collaborating with DNR on publication. Possibly combining directories.

Other Business

- Brian on future visit to DC – managed forests to reduce forest fires, slasher issues, good neighbor authority, youth logging careers.
- Logging and Recreation areas
 - Topics for SFI courses for 2017

Next meeting will be x/xx/xx, 2016. Location/time unknown.

Moved by Fowler, supported by Lonny, to adjourn meeting at 2:30pm.

**Respectfully submitted by
Anna Frampton, Administrator**

Approval(s) _____ Date _____