

**MINUTES OF THE LOUISIANA SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**JUNE 22, 2021 VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

Members present: Buck Vandersteen, Fred Hagaman, Buddy Stalnaker, Bill Wieger, Michael Crosby, Bill Patterson, Zhu Ning, Niels de Hoop, Tim Holland, Joe Chang, Eugene Austin, and Buddy VanHoof. All via phone/video conference.

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved with corrections.

**Treasurer's Report**– Buck Vandersteen:

The 2021 budget is set. Current revenues YTD include \$1,061 and disbursements of \$3,215.90 including \$2,000 to Dr. Kamran Abdollahi scholarship at Southern University. Current account balance is \$22,089.84. Current overall financial resources are \$62,354.76 representing a good financial position.

**Chair Succession-**

Dr. S. Joseph Chang has agreed to serve as Chair for the LASAF. Other individuals may serve as Chair-Elect for the upcoming term.

**Membership-**

Recently there have been some new members join LASAF. Work continues on a letter writing campaign to bring in new members. The Committee was asked to think of ideas to encourage membership.

**Annual Meeting-**

Presenters, sponsors, and schedule has been set for the upcoming LASAF Annual Meeting. SAF CEO Terry Baker and Immediate-Past President Tammy Cushing plan to attend. Topics to include climate change, technology, mass timber production, economics/markets, USFS Kisatchie Nat'l Forest, and Student posters.

**Policy-**

SAF National office recently published a new statement on Forestry Value to Society.

**Technology-**

There are new regulations for UAV operations in pilot training and recertification. Recent new developments include real time forest measurements in using water measurement and diameter bands linked to broadband internet connectivity.

**Chapter Chair Reports**

*Pineywoods:* Recent meetings have included presentations from the Red River Waterway Commission, USFS Wood Johnson on forest health and pests, Buck Vandersteen on LFA and Legislative update. Forest Awareness is planned for September.

*Louisiana Tech University:* The following SAF members graduated with a BSF on May 22: Ben Armstrong, Josh Beard, Kate Dickson, Leslie Guyton, Joseph Hogg, Jason Holland, and Taylor Linke.

Joshua Adams' graduate student, SAF member Jesse Cone also graduated May 22.

SAF member Conner Killian will graduate with his MBA in August.

Buck Vandersteen, on behalf of LaSAF, gave all the graduating students an embroidered backpack at the Lloyd P. Blackwell Scholarship, Recognition, and Awards Banquet on April 27.

In total, we graduated 23 with a BSF.

New officers of the Chapter are: Waylon Herring, President; Justin Taliaferro, Vice President; Adam Bryant, Treasurer; and Emma White, Secretary.

We have 40 students in summer camp, which is in its 4<sup>th</sup> week. We have about 110 students in our Forestry program. We have 30 upcoming freshmen enrolled in Summer Orientation.

Dr. Christopher Keyes is our new Director of the School of Agricultural Sciences and Forestry, starting on August 15. He was previously Professor of Forestry and Associate Director of the Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station at the University of Montana.

Dr. Eric McConnell left in August 2020 to go to Mississippi State University. Dr. Curtis VanderSchaaf left on May 31 to go to Mississippi State University Extension.

*LSU:* Currently there are plans to meet together with the LASAF Southeast and Southern University Chapters.

Dr. Michael Blazier with the LSU Ag Center is leaving to take on a new role as Director of Forestry at the University of Arkansas.

The next meeting is set for August 17, 2021.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.