

MINUTES OF THE LOUISIANA SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 30, 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, Zhu Ning, Niels de Hoop, Ashley Long, Tim Holland, George Tiley, George Ramsey. All via phone/video conference.

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

Discussion on selecting a new State Chair in response to the passing of Dr. Kamran Abdollahi. A resolution was passed to give \$2,000 to a new scholarship at Southern University in honor of Dr. Abdollahi.

A motion was passed to make Bill Wieger Interim Chair of LASAF and to form a nominating committee to select a new State Chair.

Treasurer's Report– Buck Vandersteen:

The 2021 budget is set. Current revenues YTD include \$790 and disbursements of \$1,000 to the SFHM. Current account balance is \$24,034.74.

SAF National Board, District 11- Buddy Stalnaker

Membership is becoming a major focus currently. Currently SAF is seeking nominations for vice president. The Committee on Young Foresters is seeking more members and will solicit from the State societies. The SAF National Convention will be Sacramento, CA with on-site and virtual activities.

Legislative/LFA Update- Buck Vandersteen:

The 2021 fiscal session is set to begin April 12 and will run until June. A bill in regards to tax on timberland was to be introduced but was not submitted by the Author from lack of support. It is important that members stay aware of National Legislative issues as well.

Internet Web Site- Ashley Long:

Pictures from the 2019 LASAF Annual Meeting were received and will be added to the website. There is still the need for more pictures showing past and recent LASAF activities.

Chapter Chair Reports

North Louisiana: No recent meetings but plans are to coordinate an upcoming program with the LA Tech Student chapter.

Cenla: Planning for an upcoming meeting program on climate change.

Louisiana Tech University: The students have been working on cleaning and maintenance of the old sawmill that was once part of the the wood products lab. The School continues the search for a new Director.

LSU: Active members graduating in May: Jessica Francisco (outgoing president) and Christopher King (outgoing conclave chair).

Graduate student Jon Oliver passed his committee exam last week and will graduate in August. Graduate students are rarely active in the chapter, but Jon has been very active. He has accepted a position with the state of Oregon forestry agency.

Graduated back in December 2020: Skylar Bueche (former president).

This is finals week. Commencement is May 8 (Saturday).

The Chapter is talking about organizing an overnight campout for Thursday, May 6, at the Lee Memorial Forest. 10 students have been there for forestry camp this semester.

Elections were held via Zoom on April 21, 2021:

President: Chloe Crawford

VP: Joseph Haigan Hancock

Secretary: Cailey Hawks

Treasurer: Lauren Hamilton

Historian (social media): Tatum Pitts

Ag Council Rep: Will Fitterer

Conclave Chair: Christian Mallett

Southern University: Students presented a webinar for high school students as recruitment and awareness for urban forestry. An arboretum creation continues as started and designed by Dr. Abdollahi.

Dr. Ning will serve as the SU Student Chapter Faculty Advisor.

Diversity Inclusion-Zhu Ning:

The SAF national office has hired a consultant in order to better work on strategies for diversity and inclusion. Recently LSU and SU Ag Centers hosted a discussion on diversity and inclusion that was well received by the students. .

Technology-

La Tech student received an award at the La GIS Annual meeting and workshop. Work continues on a Technology newsletter periodical.

Membership-

Recently there have been some new members join LASAF. Work continues on a letter writing campaign to bring in new members.

Student Engagement-

A poster presentation contest will be part of the LASAF Annual Meeting in order to show current student projects and research.

The next meeting is set for June 22, 2021.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 p.m.