Attendance: Michelle Beloskur, Bill Botti, Ned Caveney, Bill Cook, Haley Dukes, Bernie Hubbard, Matt Kelly, Russ LaBeau, John MacInnis, Georgia Peterson, Karen Potter-Witter, David Rowe, Byron Sailor, Kathy Worst

Guests: Andy Henriksen, Mike Smalligan

Administration: Jen Cronkhite, Debra Huff, Lisa Parker

**Preliminaries:** Call to order, Roll call, Quorum establishment (8 constitute a quorum)

 –- Interim President Karen Potter-Witter

**1:03 pm President Potter-Witter called the meeting to order.**

A quorum is established. Thank you to all who were able to participate.

**\*Action Items**

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Agenda was corrected in two places, and two items \*Action Item #5 & \*\*Discussion 12 were added.

 *Byron Sailor moved to approve the revised agenda.*

 *Second: Dave Rowe*

 *No discussion.*

 *Ayes carried*.

1. **Approval of Minutes of June 12, 2020 meeting**

President asked for comments or corrections.

 *Bill Botti moved for approval of minutes.*

 *Second: Michelle Beloskur*

 *No discussion.*

 *Ayes carried.*

1. **Vote on change to Articles of Incorporation**

Debra Huff reviewed the need for changes and what those changes were, and that a member vote would be held during the membership meeting on Friday 09.18.2020.

 *Russ LaBeau moved that the board recommend the addition of the language to the Articles of Incorporation and present this recommendation to the membership at the meeting Friday 09.18.2020.*

 *Second: Dave Rowe*

 *No Discussion.*

 *Ayes carried.*

1. **Financial Reports - Lisa Parker**

Lisa noted that the Treasurer & bookkeeper would be working to keep the various fund expenditure balances up to date as expenses occur.

The FY 2018 taxes were filed on the short form this year so this saves us a little in professional fees. A Finance Cmte. meeting need to be held.

 *Dave Rowe moved to approve the finance reports*

 *Second: Byron Sailor*

 *No discussion*

 *Online: 100% 3 verbal ayes*

1. **Vote to begin 2020 Officer Terms on October 1**

The President explained that the MFA By-Laws note officer terms begin 1st day of the next year following elections.

Proposal: new President and Vice-President begin their terms early on October 1, 2020, the date the new Executive Director begins, allowing for a new slate of leadership to begin at the same time. This is a one off, and will not change the procedure for the future.

 *Ned Caveney moved that the President and Vice President, to be elected on September 18, 2020 begin their terms on October 1, 2020, this cycle only.*

 *Second: Russ LaBeau*

 *No discussion.*

 *Online: 100%, phone: 3 ayes*

**\*\*Discussion Items**

1. **Election slate of candidates**

There will be elections tomorrow, Friday September 18, 2020:

Candidates: President – Emily Huff; Vice-President – Bill Cook

1. ***Michigan Forests* Editor’s report - Bill Cook**

Bill mentioned he was always looking for content and was rewarded with many suggestions and offers of authorship.

1. **Michigan Forest Celebration Awards**

Debra Huff reported on the status of the award for Dave Olsen, noting that Mike Moore had written a letter.

Mike Smalligan noted that the Michigan Tree Farm committee would like to Nia Becker to announce their annual award winners at the MFA Business meeting.

1. **2021 MFC Petoskey Michigan Forest Celebration**

Russ LaBeau reported that this year’s cancelled Petoskey program should be doable in 2021 and that he has commitments from many of the participants already.

The forest properties could use some time after their harvests.

Cmte: Russ LaBeau, Bill Botti, Dean Reid, Nia Becker

The President noted that the Michigan Tree Farm System had drafted a Memorandum of Understanding for the 2021 meeting.

1. **2022 50th anniversary Michigan Forest Celebration**

Ned Caveney informed us that the 1st MFA meeting was held in Lansing on March 23, 1972, and he was there.

Discussion: 50th possible topics/locations

East Lansing/ Lansing: Mass Timber building

It was noted that the MFA organize great meetings in urban locations, but end up with less attendance than might be desirable.

Agreed: Greater attendance in northern rather than southern areas.

2022: Contact Georgia for interest in organizing.

MSU Campus location/ Mission Point? Aim for a PRO/CON list for November

Important to compile our history!

50-year booklet as meeting gift , 50th special year magazine - 5 issues.

Founders interviews: Barbara Clark, from Houghton 1978, Mike Moore\*, Pete Grieves, Ned Caveney\* - I have stuff in my files, Bill Botti \* - stuff in his files, Dake Family, Lynn Stephens, Byron Sailor

1. **Outreach & Education**

Georgia talked briefly about this really big and important part of MFA:

once the Foundation is dissolved and folded into MFA, she would reconstitute the Outreach & Education Cmte., with as many Directors as are interested.

Duties/Projects: MFF scholarships, Botti Fund assistance for school forest management plans.

USFS Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science

(NIACS): Stephen Handler; MFA publication for our members as a benefit.

Escanaba, MI -Richards Printing will print, and mail for MFA and quote includes this service.

Karen thanked Bill Cook & Georgia Peterson for the BeLeaf video series.

**12. Trust Fund Ballot Support:**

Ned Caveney: proposal statewide, supporters across the board, MFA is not on the list. I suspect that it will pass, but MFA should have been one of the organizations to take a position and put an item in the magazine.

**13. MDNR Forest Action Plan**

Mike Smalligan stated that it would be great to have detailed comments on the Forest Action Plan, as it impacts how state spends those funds…exec team should take a look.

Please provide written comments to the state.

https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136\_79237\_86280---,00.html

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Forest\_Action\_Plan\_Draft\_699219\_7.pdf

Bill Cook:

1. 60 pages long…

 2. timber products are not highlighted and recreation is foregrounded.

 3. Grossman: reservations about the state moving towards Carbon Markets. He has long experience.

 ? DHuff abstract for October Leaves?

Debra Huff said, I am on the committee – it is necessary to receive our federal funds.

Bill Cook; This isn’t written into the document and so it isn’t clear, failure of the document. The Executive Team should look into this.

Send comments to Debra as point person.

**\*\*\*Information Items**

Leadership reports.

Any questions or comments?

**14. President's report – Karen Potter-Witter**

No discussion.

**15. Executive Director's report - Debra Huff**

No discussion.

**16. Vice President’s report - Georgia Peterson**

No discussion.

Georgia noted her priority – find ways to focus on boosting membership, enrollment, support, recruitement and retention. Follow up on Strategic Planning.

And Making it easier for folks to pay – paypal on line will help.

MFA Swag: stickers

Great Board: when by laws changes, strategy for how we recruit directors; at large members will need to be addressed

**17. Past President’s Report – John MacInnis**

John reported he is a committee of one to see if we can redeem ourselves with Collin Burnett and get him re-involved with the organization, especially the Finance Cmte.

**18. Property Cmte**

No report on Gogebic, Iron, Emmet Valley timber sale is done, Robinson rd. has a new video, featured tomorrow.

10.15 MSU webinar; directly after a harvest. See September Leaves

**19. MFF Report - Ben Schram**

 No discussion.

Karen noted Ben was in the process of undertaking to dissolve with SoM LARA

20. Wanigan

The end has begun.

21. MI WOW – Georgia Peterson

22. Affiliate reports:

23. Open discussion/Announcements/Other

KPW please join the business meeting tomorrow.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.**

Next Board Meeting: November 12, 2020 Virtual

2021 MFA Board Meeting Schedule: please see the website.