MI Tree Farm Committee Meeting
Minutes for Thursday June 6th 10am – 2pm

Meeting Location:
Mid Michigan College – Harrison Location
1375 S. Clare Ave., Harrison, MI 48625; Conference Room 129

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Meeting ID: 917 700 731

Meeting Starts at 10:08

Present in Person: Rebecca Ensign, Mike Smalligan, Lindsay Forintos, Nia Becker, Scott Robbins, Nikita Brabbit, James Gray, Lisa Parker, Brittany VanderWall, Josh Shields, Ben Schram

Participating on the Phone: Kayti Brinkman, Winona Grieshop, Tabitha O'Dell

1. Anti-trust statement
2. Approval of minutes from March 2019 Meeting
   a. Rebecca Ensign moved to accept, Ben Schram supported, minor adjustment that Kayti is not planning the 2020 MI Forest Celebration, motion passed
3. Financial reports and budget
   a. See reports submitted by Julie Crick
      i. Nikita moved to approve financial reports, Ben supports, motion approved
   b. Income:
      i. $2,100 from AFF for NLC
      ii. $5,710 from AFF for programming
      iii. Forests for Fish - $5200 in this quarter - grant is complete
      iv. FSP O&E – $7492.47 payment pending
   c. Expenses
      i. NLC
      ii. Inspections
   d. Need to spend money
      i. Promotional items
         1. Glasses,
         2. Jackets for sale at MI Forest Celebration
         3. Advertise in Woods and Water; MUCC
      ii. Signs
      iii. Field days
4. Old Business: Review action items from March 2019 Meeting
   a. Tree Farm apparel
      i. Not complete
   b. Tabitha reported on a Four box analysis
   c. Mike to add photo consent to RFP
      i. Not complete
   d. Mike and Kayti to promote Inspector survey
      i. Coordinators need to ask foresters to do inspections
   e. Nick to start Instagram account
      i. Not complete
   f. Purchase table cloth and stand up banners
      i. AFF and Kayti will provide
   g. Review Docs: landscape plan, code of ethics, elevator speech
      i. AFF interested in elevator speech
      ii. Kayti and Mike to schedule landscape plan meeting on July 9 in Gaylord
          1. Rebecca Ensign wants to participate

5. Washington DC Fly In
   a. Lisa Parker really enjoyed the experience and would go again
      i. Landowners are props for AFF to do the talking
         1. Stuff not funded in the Farm Bill
         2. White Oak initiative
         3. Minority landowner project
         4. USFS Landscape Scale restoration
      ii. Staffers were more interested in the landowner as a constituent
      iii. Shawn Babington for Stabenow wants to go fly fishing
      iv. Elisa Slotkin wants to visit a forest – Tree Farm, MFA, WOW
      v. Jack Bergman met with Lisa
     vi. Senator Peters staff
     vii. Representative Lawrence in Detroit
     viii. Lisa mentioned Wheels to Woods, LSR funding, WOW,
          ix. Needs to get reimbursed still

6. Annual Celebration 2019
   a. Golf cart costs – Tree Farm prefers to not pay up front but will cover 50% of any overall loss to the meeting
      i. Mike moves that Michigan Tree Farm will pay MFA half of any financial loss incurred at the Michigan Forest Celebration. Ben seconds. Scott asked if we want to place a cap on it. No change to motion. Motion carries.
   b. Tree Farm is buying keg on Friday
   c. Inspector Training on Saturday morning with Mike, Nia and Nick
   d. No W2W trip in 2019
   e. Debrief meeting in October. Nia will attend for Tree Farm.

7. 2020 Celebration (Partnership discussion)
   a. September 11-12, 2020 in Petoskey
b. Nia will be co-lead with Nick for MI Tree Farm in 2020
c. Try to offer W2W trip in 2020

8. Required Inspections
   a. 8 of 25 remaining – get them done by September 1

9. FSP Little Bridges of MI Counties Grant
   a. $45,000 for inspections from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2022

10. Landowner Survey - Kayti

11. Michigan TF Audit 2019
   a. Mike needs to invite foresters again.
   b. Kayti invited the landowners. Zero RSVPs so far.
   c. Julie will send stickers to Kayti for coffee mugs
   d. Need 4 pre-planning forms still – Baker, Roberts, Maki, Beauchamp

12. Strategic Plan Quarterly Review
   a. Brittany does not intend to seek another term as Chair
      i. Elect new chair at November 21, 2019 meeting
      ii. Brittany to stay on as past-chair
   b. Scott has retirement plans for September of 2020
      i. Make transition plan for administration

13. Resolution – 70th Anniversary
   a. Mike wrote a concurrent resolution and Scott will ask for sponsors in DC and Lansing

14. AFF Outcome Based Grants
   a. One – Funding for Annual Celebration
   b. Two – IMG and State Committee Partnerships
   c. Three – Next Generation of Tree Farmers – James to write & implement
      i. Contact Tree Farmers and ask for next owner
      ii. Contact next generation to educate
      iii. Update the database
      iv. Larry Czelesta and Ties to the Land
   d. Four – W2W & PLT – Claire will write and Julie and Mike will implement
   e. Five – invasive species at school forests

15. Award Status 2019

16. New Action Items due September 2019 Meeting
   a. Ben to convert inspection reimbursement from word to fillable pdf
   b. Mike to get 4 foot signs in both Tree Farm and Family Forest
   c. Mike & Scott to work with Lamy family on billboard on I-75
   d. Nick to add 2019 Field Day RFP to website
   e. Kayti to promote hosting Field Days to inspectors, especially the UP
      i. Do more Field Days – Nia, Josh, MIFC, James, MFA
   f. Regional Coordinators need to assign every forester in their region an inspection
      i. RCs must provide pdf with inspector assigned the inspection to make it easy
   g. Kayti to ask IMGs for OTFOY & to host a field day
   h. Kayti to host IMG and Committee meeting in Marquette
i. Brittany to make sure all required inspections are complete by September 1
j. Lisa Parker needs to submit reimbursement
k. James to develop Joint Policy Committee with MFA where MFA focuses on state and Tree Farm focuses on federal policies
   i. Ben mentioned a landowner with property tax issues related to the benefits prior to QF in the Private Forest Reserve Program.
   ii. Make school forests eligible for EQIP & CSP
l. Send Lisa Parker and a landowner to Fly In in 2020 (Bill Bobier or others)
m. Scott will look for sponsors in Lansing and Washington DC for the concurrent resolution to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Michigan Tree Farm. US – Stabenow, Bergman, Amash, Huizinga, Slotkin; MI – McBroom, Cole, Rendon
n. James will write Next Generation Tree Farmer grant
o. Claire will write the W2W and PLT grant
p. Brittany will update Leadership Manual by November 21, 2019
q. Kayti will send out request for Tree Farmer and Inspectors of the year. Nominations due September 1.

17. Other items for discussion – time permitting
   a. Mike moved to pay $500 to sponsor the Northern Michigan Forestry and Wildlife Habitat Expo in the fall in Grayling at Kirtland. Rebecca supported. Motion passed.
   b. Mike moves to empower Ben and Julie to research and purchase a Square and/or Event Brite account for MI Tree Farm to receive funds electronically. Scott supports. Motion passed.