

NORTH AMERICAN MAPLE SYRUP COUNCIL



October 27, 2022, 2:00 pm Central

The 63rd annual meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) was held in LaCrosse WI.

Officers present: President Howard Boyden, MA delegate; Vice President Brian Bainborough, ON delegate; Secretary/Treasurer Joe Polak, WI alternate; Past President Debbi Thomas, MI delegate. Ex-officio Officers: Executive Director/Maple Syrup Digest Editor Winton Pitcoff, MA alternate.

Delegates present: Richard Bolinger IN, Lyle Merrifield ME, Stu Peterson MN, David Kemp NH, Eric Randall NY, Jen Freeman OH, Matt Fisher PA, Allison Hope VT, Jamie Schuler WV, and James Adamski WI.

Alternate delegates present: Laurie Reddie MN and Helen Thomas NY.

Committee chairs present: Education committee Missy Leab MA, and Hall of Fame Richard Norman CT.

The **minutes** of annual meeting October 27, 2021, semi annual meeting May 19, 2022, conference call meetings via Zoom January 26, 2022 and September 27, 2002 were provided.

- Motion to approve all meetings B. Bainborough/Second D. Kemp. Passed unanimously.

Research: Chair W. Pitcoff

Four new Alliance Partners have begun contributing to the Fund. CDL and D&G have significantly increased their contribution to the Fund.

Dr. Abby van den Berg reported on two continuing studies at Proctor Research Center funded by NAMSC. Long-term Impacts of Tapping and Sap Collection on Tree Growth and Health, and Characterizing Profiles of Maple Syrup Flavors and Off-flavors.

Three new grants to be funded by NAMSC: The Role of Lignin in Wound Healing of Maple Trees, Yaseen Mottiar; Developing the Maple Climate Network, Adam Wild and Aaron Wightman, and Long-term impacts of tapping and sap collection on tree growth and health, Abby van den Berg.

- Motion to fund projects with a budget of \$45,983.00 for FY23. W. Pitcoff/Second J. Adamski. Passed unanimously.

Review of **bylaws and job descriptions** by H. Boyden, D. Thomas, S. Peterson and W. Pitcoff. Most changes were minor with some unused sections removed. An addition details indemnification of directors and officers.

- Motion to approve S. Peterson/Second E. Randall. Passed unanimously.

Bylaws review committee was dissolved.

Chair **Education** committee, Missy Leab, reported funds granted to WMSPA for production of a handbook. Christine Anderson from WMSPA reported working with Dr. Gary Graham to write the handbook for producers to cover the rules of maple production from FDA, USDA and WDATCP. She noted that this book is appropriate for other states regarding federal regulations. A companion Beginning Maple Producer video played throughout the conference.

Maple Hall of Fame chair, Richard Norman, announced Simon Trepanier and Pam Green will be inducted in May 2023.

Convention Planning committee: The face of the conference has changed. The IMSI is no longer meeting at the same event. WI was asked to expand the convention to include other forest-related products. A variety of speakers for the technical session did that. Presentations were made including basics of maple production to confections, chainsaw safety and cutting-edge research. This year NAMSC deemphasized business meetings by sending the delegates material to study before arriving.

Financial report: The transition to QuickBooks cloud-based system that the treasurer and editor both have access to is working well.

Membership dues invoiced for 2022 - \$21,24.00; dues for 2021 – 18,523.00. Membership numbers respectively are 2022 – 5256 and 2021 – 4631. Account balances: General fund combined with Digest fund: \$154,718.00, Research fund \$79,781.42, Investments: \$82,271.19.

- Motion to approve D. Thomas/Second B. Bainborough. Passed unanimously.

Budget presented by J. Adamski. Deficit budget due to Research Funds that will be spent this year and no new grants awarded last year.

- Motion to approve J. Adamski/Second M. Fisher. Passed unanimously.

S. Peterson reported **Strategic Plan** was implemented in 2000 and updated many times since. A full revision was done in 2021. After hiring a consultant, it was decided to increase programming and service to the maple industry. W. Pitcoff was hired as executive director, Maple Producers Manual, third edition was completed, more meetings were held in-person and using Zoom, conference was expanded, communications with member states and provinces was improved, bylaws were reviewed and VT Maple Association rejoined.

Dr. Tim Perkins stated the 2nd edition of the **Maple Manual** was completed in 2006. Ohio State University held the copyright. Over 12,000 copies were sold. The third edition is now available UVM holds the copyright. This has been a multi-year project with major chapter revisions and a new chapter regarding Food Safety. An appendix and glossary are now included. The manual is online <https://mapleresearch.org/pub/manual/>. 1,649 downloads to date. It is also now available for sale in hardcopy.

Executive director, W. Pitcoff was instrumental making the changes reported possible. The maple manual online is a major accomplishment along with mapleresearch.org. Communication has improved. Council conversations that have taken place via Zoom included one on the challenges of running and building an association, and a mid-March discussion of maple season.

Nominating committee recommended reelecting current slate of officers. There were no nominations from the floor.

- Motion to reelect H. Boyden, president, B. Bainborough, vice president, and J. Polak, secretary/treasurer. D. Thomas/Second J. Adamski.
- Motion to reappoint W. Pitcoff executive director and Maple Digest editor D. Thomas/Second J. Adamski.
- Life Members: Dr. Timothy Perkins, Jacques and Pauline Couture.
- Associate Members for 3-year term: Adam Wild, NY, Jean Lamontagne, NB, Steve Childs, NY, Dr. Gary Graham, OH, Mark Isselhart, VT, Steve Saupe, MN, Matthew Fisher, PA and Jenny Liu, ON.

Committee members will be announced soon.

Old business:

- Motion to Adopt Strategic Plan S. Peterson/Seconded L. Merrifield. Passed unanimously.

New business

Move to approve that the NAMSC provide funds (NTE) \$5,000 for education committee work group to develop a best management practices manual/worksheet for beginning maple producers. Educational program will be developed for state/provincial associations' use when preparing regional programs. Use of funds will be allocated following NAMSC executive committee approval.

- Motion to approve E. Randall/Second M. Fisher. Passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn R. Bolanger.

Respectfully submitted by,
Joe Polak
Secretary/Treasurer NAMSC

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