

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of December 14, 2004

President, Tom Arnold called the regular meeting of the Northwest Illinois Forestry Association to order at 7:04 pm at the IDNR meeting room in Mt .Carroll.

Ralph Jones moved to accept the minutes of the November meeting as mailed. Tim Keller seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer, Keith Arnold, reported that there was no activity in the finances, so the NIFA has the same balance as last month, \$8446.89, for all of the accounts.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold asked for reports for those making contacts for the 2005 NIFA agenda. Patty Johnson reported that Tom and Janis Sleeter would be willing to present a session on estate planning and management as a way of holding the forest together. However, they are not comfortable discussing conservation easements.

Chris Kirkpatrick suggested that his counterpart from Iowa, Darrell Mills, explain the conservation easements. Mr. Mills has had several years of experience working with conservation easements.

The group talked about the pros and cons of having these two topics covered at the same meeting or to have them in separate meetings. It was decided to have separate meetings to allow adequate coverage of the topics and let the audience ask questions. The Sleeters presentation would be first, January 11th, and Mills talk would be February 8th. President Arnold asked Patty and Chris to make the contacts to set up the dates for these two meetings.

President Arnold stated that the Tri State Forestry Conference would be held March 12, 2005 at Sinsinawa. He suggested that we delay the NIFA Dinner Meeting to avoid conflicts and suggested March 22nd as the date. The date will need to be confirmed with the Church of God for availability. Dick Pouzar will make some contacts to see if we can get a presenter to talk about landowner liability and fencing issues for the Dinner Meeting.

Oscar Gustus will host the May 21st tour on root grafting.

President Arnold asked Jerry Misek to contact the Forest Products Lab in Madison to set up a tour of their project house in July.

Dick Pouzar reported that John Eisbach would host a tour, but prefers the tour be in the fall. September 10th is the proposed date.

Cy Bugner is still willing to do a tour of his Jackson sawmill that is set up on Warren Parker's farm. However, early spring would be the best time and weather could be a problem. Cy suggested we wait to see what happens this winter and set up the tour with a minimum of lead time.

The Bacon Veneer Company is located in central Iowa and would take 3 hours of driving time to get there. The group agreed that is too far, so will not schedule at this time.

Chris Kirkpatrick told the group that the garlic mustard eradication program is expensive and time consuming. The Jo Daviess County Conservation Foundation is seeking a grant for this. However, he mentioned that the Foundation has received a grant for Hanover Bluffs area and part of the grant is for educational activities. This may also work for a NIFA tour. He will research this idea further.

Since Ralph Eads was not present, the two tours that he was proposing will need to wait until next meeting to finalize.

President Arnold called for other old business.

Dick Pouzar explained that for the FLEP grant, Echoes would like their first half of the payment for setting up the NIFA website up front. That comes to \$405.00. The second half of the payment would be due when we are satisfied with the site. Dick also said that he only received 4 or 5 changes to the current booklet, so the new booklet will look a lot like the current one. A discussion followed on what would be acceptable to advertise and whether or not to allow advertising not directly involved with forest products and services. It was decided it was too late to change policy for the booklet about to be printed.

Patty Johnson asked if the NIFA wanted to continue advertising in the Woodland Scoop, the Illinois Tree Farm Newsletter. The group agreed to continue but wanted to get our tour dates included.

NEW BUSINESS

Patty Johnson handed out a sheet from the Illinois Forestry Development Council. The sheet discussed the 4% timber harvest fees and that the Governor has taken about \$1.5 million out of this fund for non-forestry purposes. She suggested that we write letters of opposition to this activity. The group agreed and Patty will bring a sample letter to the next meeting.

President Arnold asked for volunteers to work at the Tri State Forestry Conference in registering participants. Those who helped in the past volunteered to do so again.

Keith Arnold said he received a letter from the Girl Scouts asking for a donation. The group discussed the proposal and are concerned about setting a precedent. However, the NIFA uses the Green Hills Council's land near Hanover for tours and chainsaw safety classes. Dick Pouzar moved to make a one-time donation of \$100 to the Green Hills Council of Girl Scouts. Tim Keller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Outgoing directors, Dick Pouzar and Lee Freedlund proposed the current slate of officers for 2005. Chris Kirkpatrick moved to elect the current slate of officers. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion passed. The 2005 slate of officers is: President, Tom Arnold; Vice-President, Tim Keller; Treasurer, Keith Arnold; Secretary, Jerry Misek.

Two new directors need to be elected for a three year term to fill the vacancies of Dick Pouzar and Lee Freedlund. Michael Johnson moved to re-elect Dick Pouzar and Lee Freedlund. Ralph Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chris Kirkpatrick moved to adjourn the meeting. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary