

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of February 8, 2005

President, Tom Arnold called the regular meeting of the Northwest Illinois Forestry Association to order at 7:03 pm at the IDNR meeting room in Mt. Carroll.

Ralph Eads noted a correction to the January minutes. The Wild Turkey Federation pledged \$250.00 towards a GPS unit instead of the \$150.00 noted in the minutes. Dave Harrison moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Chris Kirkpatrick seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer, Keith Arnold, reported the current balance for all NIFA accounts as \$8,425.00.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold handed out copies of the 2005 NIFA meeting and tour agenda and asked all to review. If anyone finds any errors, please contact President Arnold.

Patty Johnson passed out sample letters for legislators opposing the use of the 4% timber harvest fees being used for non-forestry purposes. She also handed out a list of legislators with addresses and fax numbers covering the NIFA area. Patty also said that if you email her at Johnson@jcwifi.com she can send the file with the sample letter to you. Patty stated that 1.5 million dollars have been taken from this fund to be used for other purposes. Dave Harrison noted that if people visit Lt. Governor Pat Quinn's web site they can click on the State Board of Elections icon and from there click on the find representative button to get a listing of email addresses of legislators. Dave suggested that could be a faster and easier way of contacting the legislators.

Dave Harrison moved that the NIFA oppose the non-forestry use of the Forestry Development Act funds and have the NIFA officers send letters to the editor to the newspapers covering our area. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ralph Eads asked the group for \$150.00 to purchase a GPS unit for his office. Ralph said the Wild Turkey Federation has pledged \$250.00 towards the purchase of the GPS. Dave Harrison moved to pay \$150.00 towards purchase of a GPS unit for the Forestry Department. Michael Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ralph noted that Plotmaster the NIFA helped purchase is available for member use. Contact Jim Dykema at the NRCS office in Mt. Carroll to arrange for use of the Plotmaster. Jim Dykema's phone number is 815-244-8732 extension 3. (The Plotmaster is a narrow combination tillage and seeding tool that can be pulled by 4 wheel drive all terrain vehicle.)

President Arnold said that Dick Pouzar was unable to attend this meeting, but Dick wanted members to know that the new Consumer Guide to Northwest Illinois Forest Products & Services is at the printers and should be available in a month. Dick also wanted members to know that the NIFA website should be operational by Feb. 10th and encouraged all to view the site and let him know of any changes desired. The NIFA web address is: www.nifatrees.org

Ralph Eads told the group that he would be assisting in an FFA Forestry Training session on May 10th at the Johnson Tree Farm south of Mt. Carroll. He asked for a couple of volunteers to help him with the afternoon training session. If you can help, call Ralph at 815-244-3655.

NEW BUSINESS

Keith Arnold stated that he got a letter along with an NIFA dues payment from a widow who said that she wanted to sell her 12.5 acre Tree Farm. She was hoping that an NIFA member would be interested in purchasing the tract located in Carroll County between Mt. Carroll and Savanna. She prefers the tract to stay a tree farm. If anyone is interested, contact Keith Arnold for more information.

Jerry Misek said the NIFA needs to send in it's annual organizational report to the Illinois Secretary of State. There is a \$5.00 filing fee for the report. Ralph Eads moved to send in the report and pay the filing fee. Michael Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Arnold called for a motion to end the business meeting and proceed on with the program for the night. Tim Keller so moved. Ralph Eads seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Arnold introduced Darrel Mills as Blufflands Conservation Coordinator with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Mr. Mills gave a slide illustrated presentation on conservation easements. He described the conservation easements as a tool to keep our forests intact. Easements need to be planned carefully and can be tailored to the wishes of the owner. The easements are held by an organization that has pledged to uphold them. There may also be tax advantages involved with the easements. An easement can be as simple as to exclude residential development but allow for timber harvests and management.

There were 3 people present who can help individuals plan and record conservation easements. You may contact any of these for more information.

Darrel Mills
Rick Lawrence
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
1695 Cameo Road
126 N. Main Street
Nora Springs, IA 50458
Elizabeth, IL 61028
641-749-6009
815-858-3666
dmills@omnitelcom
nlibluff@aeroinc.net

Chris Kirkpatrick
Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation
126 N. Main Street
Elizabeth, IL 61028
815-858-9100
chris@jdcf.org

Natural Land Institute

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary