

# Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of January 10, 2006

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm at the meeting room in the Stockton Public Library.

Carol McPhillips moved to accept the December 13th minutes as mailed. Chris Kirkpatrick seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

Treasurer, Keith Arnold, reported that the current balance for all of NIFA funds is \$8,425.25. Keith stated there has been about \$700 in expenses the past month, but 2006 dues are coming in to supplement the fund balance.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Dick Pouzar reported that he had contacted the Jo Daviess Extension Office in regards to donating for an award for a forestry related 4H project. A \$15 donation would supply a prize to the winning project and a \$20 donation would purchase a trophy. The kids preferred the trophy.

Dick then moved to provide up to \$20 for a winning 4H forestry project in each of the 6 counties for a total maximum cost of \$120. Ralph Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dick then asked for volunteers to contact the other 5 Extension Offices. The following people volunteered:  
Bill Hill for Stephenson County,  
Carol McPhillips for Carroll County  
Dave Harrison for Whiteside County  
Tim Keller for Ogle and Lee Counties

President Arnold then read a letter he had received from Tom Sleeter. Mr. Sleeter is urging NIFA members to once again contact their Illinois Legislators about using the 4% timber harvest fee for forestry purposes.

President Arnold read a second letter. This letter was from the Green Hills Council of Girl Scouts thanking the NIFA for their donation of \$250.

President Arnold turned the attention of the group to the 2006 agenda items. He went through each activity month by month to confirm dates and times for each activity.

President Arnold is working with Mindy Pratt of Elizabeth to send out the NIFA mailings. Mindy will photo copy the minutes and meeting notices, stuff the envelopes, apply the correct postage, and mailing labels, and get them to the Post Office for a labor fee of \$.50 each. NIFA will supply all of the paper and postage.

This activity was authorized at the December meeting.

Carol McPhillips suggested that there could be a dues increase for those members who wish to get the mailings, but not for those who get the notices by email. The group liked the idea but it was decided it was too late to make any changes for 2006. Carol further suggested that the dues notices be sent by email where possible. Keith Arnold said that most 2006 dues notices have already been mailed. This item should be brought up at the November 2006 meeting to decide on what actions to take for 2007.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Jerry Misek reported that he had been volunteered to work with the newly forming Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) and represent the NIFA. He had also participated in a teleconference on January 6<sup>th</sup> and is being encouraged to attend a statewide meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup> in Springfield. Jerry then asked if there were other members who would be willing to represent NIFA in his absence. Dave Harrison and Carol McPhillips volunteered. Jerry will keep these people informed of the actions of the IFA.

President Arnold brought up travel costs involving participation in this new organization. After some discussion, Dick Pouzar moved for the NIFA to pay travel at the State rate and pay for overnight accommodations when necessary for NIFA representation. No food costs will be allowed. Ralph Eads seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chris Kirkpatrick informed the group of a statewide Illinois Land Trust meeting in Bloomington on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be many Conservation groups from around the State at this meeting. He offered to represent NIFA at this meeting.

There being no further business, Dave Harrison moved to adjourn. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

President Arnold then introduced Robin Frasier and Dave Johnson representing the Quad Cities Wood Turners Association. They told the group about their Association and the activities they participate in as well as show off a couple of dozen objects that they had made. The craftsmanship of each piece was superb!

They discussed the kinds of wood they look for in turning and some of the ways to add inlays and finishes. They especially like working with burls and crotch wood to come up with "one of a kind" pieces. The NIFA group had many questions that Frasier and Johnson answered.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary