

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of December 12, 2006

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm in the basement meeting space of the Church of God in Mt. Carroll.

Dick Pouzar moved to accept the November 14th minutes as mailed. Tim Keller seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Keith Arnold, reported that the NIFA currently has \$8,231.49 in total of all accounts.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold asked for discussion on the 2007 agenda items. He stated that the Quad City Wood Turners Association did not commit to doing a program for the January meeting. Jerry Misek suggested that we have Carroll County Soil and Water Conservation District's Administrative Coordinator, Jessica Edwards and Whiteside County SWCD Resource Conservationist, Dave Harrison, present a program on the sale of carbon credits. Jerry stated this is a new program in which Illinois and California are pilot states in selling carbon credits to businesses that are not meeting their targeted emission goals. People who have planted trees since 1990 can benefit from this program by selling their stored carbon to the businesses through an arrangement similar to the stock exchange. It is expected that \$10 to \$20 per acre per year can be earned by producers participating in this program.

The group agreed that it could be a good program and wanted to proceed. Jerry then asked if the January meeting location could be changed to the Church of God to reduce travel for the speakers. The group agreed. President Arnold asked Ralph Eads to make arrangements with the Church.

For the February meeting, NIFA will be co-sponsoring with the Illinois Forestry Association a forestry herbicide day at Morrison. Dave Harrison confirmed that the Super Wash meeting facilities are available for the Feb. 16th meeting and questioned whether the NIFA should put up its exhibit. All agreed it would be a good place to put up the NIFA exhibit.

March 10th is the date for the Tri-State Forestry Conference at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin. No program has been released yet, but it is expected that NIFA will be asked to help register participants like in prior years.

President Arnold asked if anyone had ideas for the NIFA Annual Dinner meeting. The dates being considered are March 20th and March 27th. Dick Pouzar reported that Gigi LaBudde no longer does presentations for groups. Other possible speakers were discussed but no decisions were made. Jerry Misek will contact Extension Forester, Jay Hayek, to see if he would want to speak to the group. President Arnold asked that we give it more thought and discuss it again at the January meeting.

For April, President Arnold volunteered to host the tour at his farm. Items to see included: new timber harvest sites, old harvest sites, timber stand improvement, wildlife habitat, and stream bank stabilization. April 7th is the proposed date for the tour.

In May, the NIFA could co-host a tour of Shurmeier Forest with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation. This will need to be coordinated with Chris Kirkpatrick.

The Illinois Tree Farm Committee will be having a field day at the Michael and Patty Johnson Tree Farm in Carroll County in June. A chain saw safety session is being planned for that event. NIFA could help promote and attend the field day.

Dick Pouzar told the group that the National Walnut Council will be holding it's meeting at New Mellary Abby near Peosta, Iowa in July. The meeting is several days long, but people can come for whatever sessions they wish. This would be a follow up to the session we held at New Mallery in October. Dick will get an agenda for the meeting when it is done and pass the information on to NIFA.

For August, a tour of Heartbuilt homes will be requested. President Arnold will ask Lee Freedlund to make the arrangements. Also the Jo Daviess Farm Bureau Prime Timers would like to join NIFA in that tour.

In September, NIFA will work with the Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation and Development Committee to assist with a 2 day Forestry Expo. Keith Arnold reported that he had contacted the Boy Scout Camp officials in Jo Daviess County for a possible host location. They are agreeable, but want the sponsors to have a million dollar liability insurance policy in force for the event. Dave Dornbusch will be contacted to see if this can happen.

October is open for now. If members want a tour for that month, bring your proposals to the January meeting.

November 13th would be a business meeting for planning the 2008 agenda.

December 11th, would be a follow up meeting and election of officers and directors.

NEW BUSINESS

Dick Pouzar asked where the new membership application forms are. Jerry Misek replied that he had about 200 of them. President Arnold stated that at least a thousand of them were printed. Ralph Eads said he would search his office to see if the applications are there. Members were asked to search for them and bring some to the next meeting so they can be distributed.

President Arnold opened the floor to nominations for directors. Ralph Jones and Carol McPhillips terms are expiring. Ralph Jones and Alvin Wire were nominated.

Ralph Eads moved to re-elect the present slate of officers and Ralph Jones and Alvin Wire as directors for a 3 year term. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The elected slate of officers is: Tom Arnold, President; Tim Keller, Vice President; Keith Arnold, Treasurer and Jerry Misek, Secretary.

The Directors are: Dick Pouzar, Lee Freedlund, Dave Harrison, Chris Kirkpatrick, Ralph Jones, and Alvin Wire.

There being no further business, Ralph Eads moved to adjourn the meeting. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary