

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of January 16, 2007

In the absence of the President, Vice President Tim Keller called the meeting to order at 7:05pm in the basement meeting space of the Church of God in Mt. Carroll. Since the President was expected to arrive, Tim dispensed with the reports and moved on to the featured speakers of the evening.

Dave Harrison, Resource Conservationist for the Whiteside Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Jessica Edwards, Administrative Coordinator for the Carroll County SWCD were the featured speakers.

Their topic of discussion was earning and selling carbon credits. The Delta Institute is gathering willing landowners who are storing carbon as a result of their land management practices and selling the carbon credits to private businesses that voluntarily have set reduced carbon emission goals and are not reaching them. The transactions are similar to stock market activities. Presently a metric ton of carbon stored is selling for \$4.50 per year.

Dave Harrison explained that there are 4 management practices that Delta is willing to buy carbon credits for; no-till cropping, planting and maintaining grasses, planting and /or maintaining trees, and methane digesters. Dave continued by saying that no-till earns 1/2 metric ton of carbon stored per year, grass plantings earn 1 ton, tree plantings earn from 3 to 5 tons, and methane digesters earn 18.25 ton per year. Contracts are for 4 years and are paid annually. Also each year the price per ton changes to match the market demand which has been steadily increasing.

Jessica stated the program sounds complicated but can easily be worked out with the aid of the local county SWCD's and the FSA offices. She said that in most cases no management changes are required to earn payments and that the Conservation Reserve Program contracts are well suited for the benefits of this program. Jessica continued by saying that for the contracts to be in effect for 2007, a completed application must be mailed to Delta by February 15th. Accepted contract will mail payments for 2007 around June 1.

Handout sheets were available for those present. Landowners should contact their local SWCD for more program information and assistance in filling out the application. A majority of the people present indicated that they were interested in signing up with the carbon program.

President Arnold called the business portion of the meeting to order at 8:12pm. He asked for a motion to approve of the December minutes. Dave Harrison moved to accept the minutes as mailed. Willie Kayser seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Keith Arnold, reported that the NIFA currently has \$8,109.80 in total of all accounts. He also stated that the annual dues notices will be sent out soon.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold handed out a proposed 2007 agenda. A few items needed some follow up. Dave Harrison brought registration forms for the joint meeting with the Illinois Forestry Association in Morrison on February 16th.

President Arnold asked Jerry Misek if Jay Hayek agreed to be the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting speaker. Jerry responded that Jay is eager to be the speaker and can make the preferred date of March 20th.

Michael and Patty Johnson talked about what they expected to do in the June meeting featuring chain saw safety and directional felling that will be held on their Tree Farm. They have not received confirmation from their instructor, Ken LaLamont, so cannot confirm a date at this point.

Lee Freedlund reported that Heartbuilt Homes will sponsor a tour for NIFA in August of their rebuilt facility after their fire.

The September two day forestry meeting with RC&D is still looking for a host site.

President Arnold asked Tim Keller to work with Clayton Lincheid to set a date for the October tour of his forest and woodworking shop.

President Arnold said that Ron Lawfer had contacted him with the idea of an NIFA tour in Wards Grove timber with Warren Parker leading the tour. President Arnold said that if we can't work it in this year, it should be on the agenda for next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Jerry Misek invited all those present to Ralph Eads retirement party on February 10th at the Church of God in Mt. Carroll. An invitation will be sent out with the next NIFA mailing. Patty Johnson added that the party would run from 2-4pm.

Ralph Eads retired from the IDNR at the end of December.

President Arnold told everyone that the Illinois Walnut Council is sponsoring a tour to the Larry Krotz farm in Washington County, Iowa on April 27-28.

There being no further business, President Arnold called for a motion to adjourn. Willy Kaiser moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill Sharelis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary