

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of December 18, 2007

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the basement meeting room of the Stockton Library.

President Arnold asked if there were any changes or additions to the November 17th minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve them. Ralph Jones moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Dave Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold introduced Christie Trifone, Land Stewardship Specialist from the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation. Christie reviewed the joint ten year agreement between the NIFA and the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation for the management of 11 acres of Schurmeier Forest. President Arnold updated the audience with a brief history of the NIFA involvement with Schurmeier Forest. He then read Kevin Oetken's management proposal for the management of the rest of the Forest. President Arnold called on Cory Ritterbusch to explain his proposal to control Garlic Mustard.

After answering questions and discussing the subject, Dave Harrison moved to have NIFA split the cost of developing a management plan on the remaining 45 acres of the Schurmeier Forest with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation with the reservation that NIFA would have input into the plan. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Christie then passed out copies of a proposed agreement between NIFA and Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation for the continued management of the 11 acres of the Schurmeier Forest for the next ten years. President Arnold requested that the NIFA directors each get a copy of the proposal and review it before the January NIFA meeting, making note of any suggested changes to the proposal.

Christie also suggested that a sign be created to indicate NIFA involvement with the management of Schurmeier Forest. The group agreed and thanked her for the suggestion.

Christie also requested that a representative of NIFA meet with her quarterly to discuss Schurmeier Forest activities and concerns. President Arnold asked the members present for a volunteer to represent NIFA at the quarterly meetings. Ralph Eads volunteered.

In other old business, President Arnold passed around handouts of the proposed Jo Carroll Energy biomass plant. He also discussed a follow up meeting to the project. Tom Arnold, Dick Pouzar and Jerry Misek met with Russell Simpson and Project Engineer, Ed Smith, at the Jo Carroll Energy facility in Elizabeth. Some of the NIFA concerns were addressed and answered. It was clarified that the biomass plant would use green wood chips, there would be a wood chipper on site at the plant, and the storage capacity would probably be increased to a month with more storage available at the barge terminal. It was also clarified that the plant would need one million tons of wood chips each year. This is in addition to another 20,000 tons of other biomass material such as switchgrass, hay, or corn stover. Corn cobs could be substituted for wood chips.

President Arnold stressed that Jo Carroll Energy wants NIFA involvement. Jerry Misek suggested that NIFA should also seek involvement by the Illinois Forestry Association. Bob Sloan recommended that a delegation be sent to Brazil to learn of their experiences with their long term involvement with biofuel.

To inform more of the NIFA members about the project, President Arnold would like to have Russell Simpson make a short presentation about the project to the group at the Annual Dinner Meeting of the NIFA in March. The group agreed.

President Arnold also asked for volunteers to join him on a committee to stay active in the biomass project.

Dick Pouzar and Jerry Misek volunteered. President Arnold said that more members are welcome to become involved with the project.

Moving on to the next item, President Arnold called on Bob Sloan from the Illinois Tree Farm Committee for an update on the recognition of 25 and 50 year Tree Farmers. Mr. Sloan said that the Tree Farm Committee would like to invite qualifying Tree Farmers from the NIFA 6 county area as well as the rest of the two northern tiers of Illinois counties to the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting. He continued by saying that The Tree Farm Committee would pick up the cost of 2 tickets for all qualifying Tree Farmers invited to the meeting. Ralph Eads added that several of the Tree Farmers in this area have already received recognition and signs for this milestone achievement. Mr. Sloan replied that they probably did not receive a certificate and would like to honor them again.

President Arnold moved on to the last item of old business. He reviewed the tentative 2008 NIFA agenda.

Jan 14th--Business Meeting and discuss proposed agreement with Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation
Feb 12th--Business meeting and an update on the biomass project by Russell Simpson
March 8th--Tri State Forestry Conference at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin
March 18th-- NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting at the Church of God in Mt. Carroll
April 11th--All day Forestry meeting jointly sponsored with the Blackhawk Hills RC&D at Chestnut Mountain lodge in rural Galena
May 3rd-- Tour of Tom Arnold's recent timber harvest site and discussion of possible biomass materials
Oct 11th --Tour of the Misek Tree Farm to show forest recovery ten years after a devastating windstorm

Keith Arnold, Alvin Wire, and Jerry Misek will look into other suggested tours and report back at the January meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

President Arnold stated that the December meeting is the election time for directors and officers. He continued by telling the group that Chris Kirkpatrick has resigned his position as Director because he can no longer attend the NIFA night meetings. President Arnold then asked for nominations to fill the remaining one year term vacated by Chris Kirkpatrick. Jerry Misek nominated Greg Hopton. Ralph Eads moved that nominations cease. Dave Harrison seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Arnold informed the audience that the terms of Lee Freedlund and Dick Pouzar as Directors are expiring. He then called for nominations to fill these positions. Ralph Eads moved to nominate Lee Freedlund and Dick Pouzar. Dave Harrison seconded the motion. The motion passed and therefore elected Lee and Dick.

President Arnold then opened the floor for nominations for the officers. Ralph Eads nominated the present officers to retain their offices. Alvin Wire seconded the motion. The motion carried and therefore elected the present slate of officers which is: President; Tom Arnold, Vice President; Tim Keller, Treasurer; Keith Arnold, Secretary; Jerry Misek.

In other business, Ron Lawfer brought up Senate Bill 17, Timber Assessment. Mr. Lawfer stated that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is supposed to make up the rules and regulations. He was wondering if anyone knew if this had been done. Dave Harrison replied that the emergency rules and regulations have been released a couple of days ago. Mr. Lawfer continued by saying that people wishing to be assessed by this law need to apply to IDNR by January 1st. He also asked if there would be any public input into the final rules. Dave Harrison responded that public hearings would be held later in the year and that the emergency administrative rules are on the IDNR website.

Ralph Jones said at the last meeting it was noted that the NIFA treasury is slowly being drawn down and wondered if a dues increase was needed. It was noted that the NIFA has not ever raised the dues and that mailing costs have continued to climb. After a brief discussion, Dave Harrison moved to raise the NIFA

dues to \$20 and allow a \$5 discount for those receiving NIFA correspondence by email. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Alvin Wire moved to adjourn the meeting. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary