

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of January 13, 2009

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

President Arnold asked if there were any changes or additions to the November 4th minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve them. Lee Freedlund moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Dave Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Since the December meeting was cancelled due to bad weather, President Arnold asked for suggestions about contacting members to inform them about meeting cancellations. Dave Harrison volunteered to contact the radio stations in Whiteside County as well as call the members who regularly attend from Whiteside County. Jerry Misek suggested also doing an email to the NIFA members with computer access as well as posting the notice with the local radio stations.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold went through the proposed 2009 NIFA tour and meeting agenda. Below is the planned agenda items:

February 10th 7:00pm regular business meeting at the Stockton Public Library with Dave Dornbusch as the speaker on the topic of biomass plantings including best trees, grass, soils, etc.

March 14th Tri State Forestry Conference at Sinsinawa Mound, Wisconsin

March 24th NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting at the Church of God in Mt. Carroll (guest speaker pending)

April (Date dependent on weather) Consulting Forester, Kevin Oetken, to discuss and demonstrate tree planting at the former Russell Roberts site north of Elizabeth

May 1st Co-sponsor an all day forestry information meeting with Blackhawk Hills RC&D with the morning session at Timber Lake Campgrounds near Mt. Carroll and the afternoon session at Michael and Patty Johnsons

May 9th 1:00pm Guided spring walk through Schurmeier Forest east of Elizabeth

June (date to be set) 1:00 pm tour of Swiss Valley Nature Preserve near Dubuque, Iowa

July 18th 10:00am Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation/ Natural Area Guardians tree walk on the Galena River Trail with special emphasis on children program

July (date to be set) forest walk with Tracey Exports discussing veneer trees

August 8th (or 15th) History of Wards Grove Timber by Ron Lawfer and wildlife discussions by either Doug Dufford and/or Keith Blackmore

September 13th 1:00pm Guided fall forest walk through Schurmeier Forest east of Elizabeth

September 18th and 19th Walnut Council Meeting at the Roger Theile Tree Farm

October (date and activity pending) Either a follow up tour of a 40 acre tree planting west of Morrison or a wood turning demonstration at the Clayton Linchied Tree Farm north of Sterling

November 10th 7:00pm, regular NIFA business meeting with emphasis on developing the 2010 meeting and tour agenda

December 8th regular NIFA business meeting with election of officers and directors

Jerry Misek reported that he had contacted Don and Mary Snavely to discuss options for utilizing the \$300 in the Walter Peaslee Memorial Fund. They liked the idea of donating a trophy to the annual winning 4-H Forestry entry in Walter's name until the money runs out.

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For the terms of Directors, both Dave Harrison and Greg Hopton whose terms are expiring have agreed to serve again. Dick Pouzar moved to elect Dave Harrison and Greg Hopton as Directors for another 3 year term. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion passed.

President Arnold stated that Ralph Jones wishes to resign as Director and that we will need another Director to fill out Dick Pouzar's term. He called for suggestions. Ralph Eads and Don Houseman were suggested. However, neither were at the meeting, so no further action was taken until they are contacted.

Christie Trifone with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation reported that all signatures have been obtained for the agreement between the Foundation and NIFA in regards to the management of Schurmeier Forest. Ralph Eads is the NIFA liaison to the Foundation and Christie wants to meet with him to proceed on developing a management plan for Schurmeier Forest.

President Arnold called on Dick Pouzar to report on the status of the NIFA website. Dick stated that the contract for hosting the website is about to run out. The cost has been about \$500 per year. Having done some research on other hosts, Dick said that Yahoo would host the site and transfer our present domain name for about \$150 per year. Dick also said for that price we would also have to input our own data and keep it current although Yahoo offers training information to help us with the task. Dick then volunteered to input the data for the new website host.

Dave Harrison moved to change our web provider to Yahoo and have Dick Pouzar input data and keep the site up to date. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. The motion carried.

President Arnold passed on a request from Ralph Eads to continue to support the 6 county Envirothon. Our past contribution was \$250. Dick Pouzar moved to continue supporting the Envirothon at the \$250 level. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. The motion passed. Dick then asked for a brief report on the Envirothon as to how many students participated and the topics presented. Dave Harrison volunteered to get that information.

Dick Pouzar brought up a request by the Illinois Forestry Association for NIFA to endorse some of the IFA's principles. Dick would like to present this information to a larger gathering of NIFA members and suggested the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting. The group agreed.

There being no further business, President Arnold called for a motion to adjourn. Dick Pouzar made the motion and it was seconded by Dave Harrison. Motion Passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary