

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of December 14, 2010

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Keith Arnold reported that NIFA has a total of \$8695.42 in all accounts. Keith stated this is a slight increase over last year's balance.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold asked if there is any old business.

Jerry Misek said in the January 2010 minutes, Keith Arnold reported that NIFA received \$625 from Warren Parker's memorial and no decision was reached as how this fund should be used.

President Arnold called for ideas on this matter. Discussion followed.

It was agreed that Ralph Eads should look into the availability and costs of erecting a 25 or 50 year Tree Farm sign at Warren Parker's farm. Ralph should check with Dean Wright for the best location of the sign.

Also Dick Pouzar will check with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation about putting a memorial sign for Warren Parker at Schurmeier Forest.

NEW BUSINESS

President Arnold reported on a conference call yesterday with JoCarroll Energy officials. Ed Smith, Consulting Engineer for JoCarroll Energy, informed us that the plans for the biomass plant have changed. Plans now are for constructing a 20 megawatt plant instead of the 80 megawatt plant. IEPA will not allow any "used" woody material to be burned at the plant. Current plans are for JoCarroll to have a chipper on site so wood can be delivered in log form. The chipper can take up to 8 inch diameter logs. About 250,000 tons of wood will be needed annually with the approximate payment of \$32 a ton delivered. President Arnold said that there is a USDA Farm Service Agency program in the works that could match biomass payments for 2 years. Jo Daviess County District Conservationist, John Bell, handed out fact sheets on the new program. The program is named Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).

It was agreed to invite Ed Smith and Russell Simpson to the January 11th meeting to discuss this project further. Dave Dornbusch, Blackhawk Hills RC&D Coordinator, will also be invited to the meeting.

Dick Pouzar commented that he has arranged to have Cory Ritterbusch be the speaker for the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting. Ralph Eads said that he had contacted the Church of God officials at Mt Carroll about holding the NIFA meeting. Ralph stated that the cost to use the facility was raised to \$225. He also contacted the Carroll County Farm Bureau about renting their meeting room and kitchen. The cost there would be \$50. Ralph also has contacted the 4H group about serving the meal and they are willing to do that again.

After discussion, Lee Freedlund moved to hold the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting at the Carroll County Farm Bureau facility on March 29th with a ticket price of \$12. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next item of business was planning for the 2011 meeting and tour agenda. The following ideas were discussed:

+ Cory Ritterbusch to be the Annual Dinner Meeting Speaker with his topic of timber invasive species and their control. Cory could also do a follow up meeting in the field in either July or August. Dick Pouzar will make the arrangements.

+ The January business meeting is discussed above.

+ The tentative February meeting will have Paula Purdu, Illinois Forestry Association's lobbyist, speak about legislative items of concern to forest owners.

+ March 12th will be the TriState Forestry Conference. NIFA members will probably be asked to help with registration.

+ Greg Hopton will host the April tour of his forest showing timber harvest, crop tree release and tree planting.

+The May activity will be featuring a thinning operation of a 20 year old stand of Black Walnut at the Tom and Judy Syke's farm. The tour will be co-sponsored with the Illinois Forestry Association and the Walnut Council. Forester, Steve Felt, will lead the tour. Dick Pouzar will do the contacts.

+ Kevin Oetken, Consulting Forester, will sponsor the June tour at his property in Monmouth, Iowa. This will be an extended tour covering timber observations as well as shop and business facilities. Jerry Misek will make the arrangements.

+ July or August will plan for a follow up tour of invasive forest plants with Cory Ritterbusch. Dick Pouzar will work with Cory for choosing a site and date for the tour.

+ Scott Schaffer will lead the September tour on his property near Savanna. Forest wildlife will be the emphasis of the tour. Jerry Misek will make the contacts with Scott.

+Bill Hawes will be asked to lead the tour on his property in October. This tour was postponed from last year. It will feature the novice approach to forest management. Tom Arnold will affirm the arrangements.

+ November will be a regular business meeting with planning for the 2012 meeting and tour agenda.

+ December will also be a business meeting with election of officers and directors.

The next item of business was election of officers and directors. President Arnold called for nomination of officers from the floor.

Alvin Wire nominated the present officers for another 1 year term. Greg Hopton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The 2011 officers are: Tom Arnold, President
Dick Pouzar, Vice President
Keith Arnold, Treasurer
Jerry Misek, Secretary

President Arnold then called for nominations for the 2 director positions for 3 year terms. Lee Freedlund's term is expiring along with Dick Pouzar's. (Dick Pouzar's director position was not filled last year when Dick was elected Vice President.)

Ralph Eads nominated Lee Freedlund and Bill Hawes as directors. Dick Pouzar seconded the nomination. President Arnold called for a vote on the nominated directors and the nominees were voted in.

The 2011 directors are: Lee Freedlund
Bill Hawes
Ralph Eads
Alvin Wire
Greg Hopton
Dave Harrison

There being no further business, President Arnold called for a motion to adjourn the business meeting.

Ralph Eads moved to adjourn. Greg Hopton seconded the motion. Motion passed. The business meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

The guest speaker for the evening was John Bell. John is the District Conservationist for Jo Daviess County with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

John spoke on the NRCS programs that involve forestry. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides for cost sharing on developing Forest Management Plans and for various practices that are to be implemented in the plan. Cost share rates are up to 75%. John provided handout materials about the EQIP and answered many questions from the group.

John also discussed the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The CSP provides reward payments to producers that have implemented conservation practices on their land. It is a 5 year program with annual payments. The CSP has 2 parts: one is for agricultural and pastureland and the other is for forest land. A qualified producer can enroll in one of the programs or both.

John also provided handout material for this program as well as field questions from the group. He also invited anyone that has further questions about these 2 programs to contact him at his office. His phone number is 815-858-3418 Extension 3.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

