

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of January 11, 2011

President Tom Arnold welcomed the group and explained that the session on biomass would begin around 7:30 after a short business meeting. He then 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 corrections to the December minutes. Hearing none, he entertained a motion for approval of the minutes. Alvin Wire moved the December minutes be approved as mailed. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Keith Arnold reported that NIFA has a total of \$8695.42 in all accounts. There was no change from last month's balance.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold called for any old business.

Dick Pouzar reported that he has worked with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation to get permission to place a memorial sign for Warren Parker at Schurmeier Forest. The sign would be 2 foot by 3 foot and be of the same materials as the existing Foundation sign. The cost would be \$200 and we would need to provide the sign posts. Following a brief discussion, Dick Pouzar moved that NIFA erect a memorial sign for Warren Parker at Schurmeier Forest. The sign would be made by the same company as the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation sign and would cost \$200. Keith Arnold seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jeff Horn from the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation was asked if the Foundation still wanted to participate with NIFA in creating a forest management plan for the remaining acres of Schurmeier Forest. Jeff responded by saying the Foundation is in the process of creating management plans for all of the property they own. Jeff invited an NIFA representative to the next Stewardship Committee meeting of the Foundation on February 8th at 9:00 am. President Arnold appointed Dick Pouzar to attend this meeting.

President Arnold directed the attention of the group to finalize the 2011 meeting and tour agenda.

+ February 8th Dick Pouzar reported that Paula Purdue would not be able to attend the NIFA meeting due to the legislature being in session. Dick said he would contact a person from the Wild Turkey Federation to speak on landowner liability issues.

+ March 12 Tri State Forestry Conference at Sinsinawa Mound.

+ March 29th Annual Dinner Meeting of NIFA at Naaman Diehl Hall in Mt. Carroll at 7:00pm with Cory Ritterbusch speaking about control of invasive species in the forest.

+ April (date to be scheduled) 1:00pm at the Greg Hopton forest tour near Hanover to see recent Timber Harvest, Timber Stand Improvement, and Tree Planting.

+ April 17th Chain Saw Safety session (location to be announced) with a maximum of 12 participants at a cost of \$100 per participant.

- + May 14th Walnut Stand thinning at Tom Syke's CRP planting in East Dubuque with Steve Felt. This tour is co-sponsored with The Illinois Forestry Association and the Illinois Walnut Council.
- + June 4th Tour of Consulting Forester, Kevin Oetken's, forest and lumber sales operation at Monmouth, Iowa. Tour to start at 10:00 am with lunch furnished.
- + July Follow up on the invasive forest plants control by Cory Ritterbusch. Location and date of the tour to be announced.
- + August Paula Purdue to address forestry issues. Paula is the lobbyist for the Illinois Forestry Association. Location and date to be announced.
- + September 24th 1:00pm tour at the Scott Schaffer property near Savanna to see wildlife considerations for forest and open land. Scott is the IDNR Wildlife Biologist.
- + October Tour Bill Hawes forest featuring a novice approach to forest management. Time and date to be announced.
- + November 8th Business meeting at 7:00pm to plan for 2012 meeting and tour agenda. Location to be announced.
- + December 13th Business meeting and election of officers and directors at 7:00pm. Location to be announced.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership in the Illinois Forestry Association was discussed. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to support the IFA. It was also suggested to ask IFA for a reciprocal membership in NIFA. Dick Pouzar moved to renew the NIFA membership in the IFA and that the membership be renewed automatically each year. Greg Hopton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jerry Misek talked about the Thousand Cancers Disease in Black Walnut trees. He stated that several other states have quarantined the movement of any Black Walnut products with bark attached. This should help in controlling the spread of this disease. He asked that NIFA spearhead a movement to add Illinois to the quarantine list and enlist the support of the Illinois Walnut Council and the Illinois Forestry Association. Ron Lawfer stated this does not need to be a legislative item and can be handled through rules and regulations. It was suggested that Jerry contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture and Paul Dietzman to get the process started.

President Arnold called for any more new business. Hearing none, he called for a motion for adjournment of the business meeting. Alvin Wire moved to adjourn the meeting. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

President Arnold then introduced Russell Simpson with Jo Carroll Energy as the speaker for the evening. Russell started the discussion with a background of what has happened to the planning of the biomass power plant to be located near Thomson. It started as an 80 megawatt plant and has since been reduced in size to a 20 megawatt facility. EPA regulations have caused the decrease in plant size. Even though Jo Carroll Energy has provided the plant plans, it is still expected to take 6 to 8 months for an EPA permit to be issued.

Mr. Simpson wanted to spend most of his time answering questions about supplying wood products to the plant. Plans now call for a wood chipper capable of handling log diameters of up to 8 inches at the power plant site. He stressed that he wanted local woodland owners to benefit from supplying wood products to the facility. At this time he could not quote a price that would be paid but assured those present that it would involve a profit to the timber producer. He also stressed that Jo Carroll Energy wants an organization or two to deliver the wood to the plant because it would not be practical to work with every landowner as an individual. A total of 250,000 tons of wood will be needed each year to operate the plant. He assured those present that Jo Carroll Energy would have contracts with other suppliers so local forests do not have to supply all of the wood needed.

Many questions were asked during the session. Russell concluded with an invitation for interested NIFA members to participate in a webinar on biomass to be held January 20th at the Jo Carroll Energy headquarters building in Elizabeth. The webinar will start at 1:00pm and advance registration is needed to assure seating room. Call Jo Carroll Energy to make your reservation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary