

# **Northwest Illinois Forestry Association**

## **Minutes of January 8, 2013**

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

President Arnold introduced guests at the meeting. Brad Brudi is representing the Stockton FFA Alumni and Claire Kepner is the Stockton FFA Reporter. President Arnold then introduced the rest of the group to the guests.

Wanting to discuss the FFA concerns, President Arnold postponed the regular business to later in the meeting.

When asked what NIFA could do for the FFA, Mr. Brudi would like some assistance in preparing the FFA members participating in the Section 1 Land Use Contest. He then explained the situation at Pecatonica where the last contest was held. Tree species, timber volumes, and forest soil pits were some of the activities in the contest. Claire Kepner said there is an outline of the contest activities on line in the FFA website.

The group encouraged the FFA members to attend some of the NIFA tours and meetings including the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting where there will be a power point presentation that includes some woodland management items.

President Arnold then introduced Jeff Harris as the new IDNR Forester for our area. Jeff stated that his area covers the counties of Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Carroll, Ogle, Lee, and Whiteside. He has spent most of his time so far in the office catching up on approving Forest Management Plans but looks forward to getting into the woodlands.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

President Arnold asked if the minutes from the December meeting were sent out. Since they were not distributed, he advised waiting until next meeting to approve them.

Jerry Misek mentioned that Frank Heisner had asked for NIFA for help in locating soil pits for a multi-state soils tour in October 2013. If this tour is open to the public, it would be good training for the FFA members to participate in the tour. President Arnold asked Mr. Misek to follow up on this item.

President Arnold then passed out copies of the Schurmeier Forest Guidebook for the group to review. Edith Gustus has donated money to update the booklet. Initial comments about the booklet included updating phone numbers and addresses, adding web site information, using a color photo on the front and back covers, editing the Red Oak and White Oak descriptions, and checking on current availability and prices of listed publications. President Arnold then instructed the group members to take the booklet home and more thoroughly review it for more changes and get back to him within a couple of weeks.

President Arnold then turned the attention of the group to work on the 2013 agenda.

Jerry Misek noted that Tom Sleeter is not available for the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. The group then decided to change the meeting date to February 12<sup>th</sup> to accommodate Mr.

Sleeter's schedule. Mr. Sleeter will discuss the recent tax law changes.

The Tri-State Forestry Conference will be held at Sinsinawa Mound on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

March 19<sup>th</sup> is the date for the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting.

Dick Pouzar scheduled April 13<sup>th</sup> for the tree planting tour that he will be hosting.

Greg Hopton offered to show hand tree planting on his Tree Farm in May.

Larry Priske will host the June tour of his woods with logger, Keith Griebel, discussing harvesting trees to improve the forest and selection of trails and landing sites.

To assist the FFA, the July and August events will be tailored for educational activities that may help the FFA students. Possibly Jay Hayek, Jeff Harris, Terry Wieneke, and Ralph Eads could provide the professional assistance.

Other suggestions included touring the Twin Oaks business; visiting the Forest Products Lab; conducting a chain saw safety demonstration; hosting the "Ties to the Land" program; and touring a site showing Timber Stand Improvement.

President Arnold said we may now have a full agenda but we will continue to work on the agenda at the February meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Greg Hopton explained the new State Tree Nursery policy. Seedling trees will now be distributed in thousand lots only and trees for replanting will be charged a fee. Mr. Hopton stated that this policy adversely affects small woodland owners. Since it would take legislative action to change the policy, it was asked if the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) would support revising the policy. Dick Pouzar ( IFA Representative for our area ) said the IFA is working on a policy regarding the IDNR's dismantling of the Forest Development Act ( FDA ) in that 95% of the FDA funds are being diverted to IDNR field operations with very little given to the Forestry Development Council and none allocated for cost share payments. The IFA is developing a position on the feasibility of continuing the FDA Program as originally intended with its associated 4% timber harvest fee. The State Tree Nursery is funded through the FDA.

President Arnold suggested that NIFA make a donation to the Stockton Public Library for the continued use of their meeting room. They do not charge NIFA for the use of their facilities. President Arnold suggested donating a book to the library. Comments from the group included giving the book "Forest Trees of Illinois" and/or Cory Ritterbusch's book titled "H.S. Pepon, Pioneer Conservationist of Northwest Illinois".

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer, Keith Arnold reported that NIFA has a total of \$8,655.42 in all accounts with around \$6,000 in cds. He alerted the group to NIFA dues notices being mailed soon for 2013 membership. He also requested a meeting with Mindy Pratt to get a complete mailing list of NIFA members.

Lee Freedlund moved to adjourn the meeting. Greg Hopton seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary