

# **Northwest Illinois Forestry Association**

## **Minutes of December 10, 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 asked for additions or corrections to the November 12th minutes. Hearing none, Alvin Wire moved that the minutes be approved as sent. Greg Hopton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer, Keith Arnold reported that there is a total of \$8,982.76 in all accounts.

When asked if the total was increasing or decreasing, he responded that it is about staying constant.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Dick Pouzar reported that insurance agent, Bob Dittmar, was not able to attend the meeting tonight to discuss liability insurance. Dick will follow up and see if Mr. Dittmar can attend the January or February meetings.

President Arnold asked for reports on the 2014 agenda items.

Jeff Harris said there is a 22 acre tree planting at Wappelo near Hanover that was completed by the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation last spring. Jeff explained that the planting was done "by the book" and should be a good site to tour although the dry summer may have caused some tree mortality. Greg Hopton mentioned that the Jon Kelly operation is nearby and maybe we could combine the two tours. However, Greg said that he has not had a return call from Jon to confirm his willingness to host a tour. Jerry Misek suggested that if we had 2 tours in the same day, we possibly could also include a lunch of some sort. President Arnold suggested the best time for these tours may be early June. Follow up is needed to get these tours confirmed. Jeff will contact the Foundation and Greg will contact Mr. Kelly.

The next agenda item was a tour at the private large forest reserve near Pecatonica. Greg Hopton stated that he has not found out the name of the contact person to plan a tour. Greg's daughter lives near the site and will try to get a contact person for him.

Dick Pouzar asked if there is enough interest to visit the wood pelleting plant in Dubuque. The business is more retail of machinery rather than making pellets although they do have a demonstration machine that makes the pellets. Dick suggested that we have Jay Soloman discuss the biomass program that Extension Service hosted this fall at the January meeting. Then we can determine if there is enough interest for a tour of the pelleting business.

Dick Pouzar also reported on a tour at Xylem operation near Cordova. NIFA had toured this place many years ago, but there are many new members and the operation has also made some changes. Dick is coordinating a joint tour with the Illinois Forestry Association

and plans to get a tour set up for July. He and Tom Vorac will meet at the site and make arrangements for a tour.

Another contact that Dick was going to make was with Dwayne Mitch in Schapville to visit his woodworking shop. Dick said the best time for a tour is when Dwayne has a project that he is working on. This will need to be planned with a short time frame to allow a project order to come in for Dwayne.

Alvin Wire has contacted his son, Phillip, for presenting a program on the activities of the IDNR Conservation Police Officers. Phillip will be the featured speaker at the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting on March 25, 2014. The local CPO will also be at the meeting to answer questions or concerns. Hopefully this program will draw a larger audience.

Alvin was also to contact a modern sawmill in Reedsburg, Wisconsin to see if they would host a tour. Alvin asked if the tour could be on a week day so the machinery could be seen in operation. The group responded that would be okay.

Jerry Misek contacted Lee Luebke about a tour of his Tree Farm. Mr. Luebke was receptive to a tour and was flexible on a date, but wanted Jerry to visit his Tree Farm to confirm there is enough to see to warrant a tour. Jerry will make a site visit this winter.

Jerry will also contact Ralph Eads about any recent timber sale areas that may be a site for a tour. Greg Hopton will also ask Kevin Oetken if he knows of any harvest sites suitable for a tour.

Mr. Misek also reported that he had contacted Jesse Randall about NIFA members helping register participants for the Tri State Forestry Conference in March. Mr. Randall would like 5 NIFA members to assist with the registration.

President Arnold mentioned that when a new Farm Bill gets passed, we could have either John Bell or Jim Ritterbusch with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to explain the Forestry aspects of the new Bill. This possibly could be done at the February meeting.

To Recap the tentative meeting and tour agenda for 2014:

- + January 14 – Bob Dittmar on Liability Insurance and Jay Soloman on biomass
- + February 11- NRCS official on the Forestry provisions of the new Farm Bill
- + March 8 – NIFA to assist with registration at the Tri State Forestry Conference
- + March 25 – NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting with Phillip Wire as the featured speaker
- + April or May – Pecatonica Forest Reserve tour
- + June – Tree Planting tour at Wappelo and possible tour of Jon Kelly's arborist operation
- + July – Tour Xylem operation
- + August – Possible tour of Dwayne Mitch's woodworking shop
- + September – Tour Lee Luebke's Tree Farm
- + October – Tour a timber harvest site
- + November – Business meeting
- + December – Business meeting

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Jay Soloman informed the group that the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer has been confirmed at Apple Canyon Lake. He is meeting with Apple Canyon Lake representatives to discuss actions to be taken to help control the spread of this invasive insect. Jay will keep NIFA informed on what is decided.

The next item of business was the election of Directors and Officers.

The 3 year terms of present Directors, Lee Freedlund and Bill Hawes are expiring. Both of these Directors indicated they would be willing to serve another term.

Dick Pouzar moved to re-elect Lee Freedlund and Bill Hawes as Directors. Alvin Wire seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

The present Officers were asked if they were willing to continue to serve in their capacities and they answered yes.

Bill Hawes moved that we elect the present slate of Officers. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The 2014 Officers are:  
Tom Arnold, President  
Dick Pouzar, Vice President  
Keith Arnold, Treasurer  
Jerry Misek, Secretary

The present Directors are:  
Greg Hopton  
Alvin Wire  
Ralph Eads  
Dave Harrison  
Lee Freedlund  
Bill Hawes

President Arnold called for any other business. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Alvin Wire moved to adjourn. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary