

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of February 11, 2014

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm in the basement meeting room of the Stockton Public Library. He passed out new Shurmeier Forest guide books. These books were printed from the Oscar Gustus Memorial Fund.

President Arnold asked if there were any additions or corrections to the January minutes. Greg Hopton moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Keith Arnold reported that NIFA has a total of \$8,524.50 in all accounts. He informed the group that the 2014 dues notices will be mailed soon.

Treasurer Arnold said that he had just written a check for \$10.00 to the Illinois Secretary of State for the annual organization report.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold called for any old business. Hearing none, he proceeded to work on finalizing the 2014 meeting and tour agenda.

President Arnold asked if NIFA has the 5 members to assist with registration at the Tri State Forestry Conference at Sinsinawa Mound on March 8th. Jerry Misek confirmed that 5 people have volunteered to help with the registration. President Arnold asked how we could promote the NIFA at the Conference. A manned display was suggested, but Jerry Misek reminded the group that the cost for such a display would be around \$75.00. Mr. Misek then suggested that NIFA promotional materials be laid out at the registration desk. This has been done at previous conferences.

President Arnold then moved on to the next agenda item, the Annual Dinner meeting which is scheduled for March 25th. Ralph Eads has made the reservations for the meeting place and caters in the past. Since Mr. Eads was not present, President Arnold requested Jerry Misek contact Mr. Eads to see if he will make the meeting arrangements. Dick Pouzar said he would also contact Mr. Eads to confirm the information needed for a timely news release.

Phillip Wire is planned to be the featured speaker. Since Alvin Wire was not present, the speaker could not be confirmed at this time. It was also suggested that Jay Soloman give a brief presentation on Biomass to see how much interest the people at the dinner meeting had about moving forward on finding Biomass suppliers and users.

Then the price of the dinner was discussed. NIFA has charged \$12.00 last year and the 4-H group charges \$10.00 a plate. The consensus of the group was to leave the ticket price at \$12.00.

Greg Hopton then reported he had visited the Torstenson Center near Pecatonica the day before and has a tour arranged for May 17th. The Center is a 729 acre outdoor education facility with a newly built 5,000 square foot education building as well as the 4,000 square feet Torstenson log home. The acreage has woodlands, wetlands, ponds, wildlife

plantings, and cropland.

June 7th is scheduled as the next tour at the Wapello natural area south of Hanover. A 26 acre tree planting completed in 2013 will be the main focus of the tour. Wapello is managed by the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation. Greg Hopton reported that he is trying to arrange a short tour of Jon Kelly's tree nursery which is right next to Wappello parking lot. We could tour Kelly's business right before or a just after the Wappello tour.

Dick Pouzar reported on the July tour planned at the Xylem facility north of Cordova. Dick questioned the group about what they would want to see on the tour. The general response from the group was they wanted to see the wood based products and services. Mr. Pouzar will arrange a Saturday tour of the facility.

There wasn't a planned activity for August, but President Arnold suggested a meeting with the 2 man "Strike Force" that is working in our area. We could learn what they do and some of the controls they use to remove invasive species. President Arnold will contact them about setting up an August meeting.

Jerry Misek reported that he has set up a September 20th tour of the Lee Luebke Tree Farm south of Stockton. Lee has both planted trees and native woodlands with a good trail system for management activities. He has also had a recent Walnut harvest.

October was set aside for viewing an area with a recent tree harvest. It is expected that either Jeff Harris or Kevin Oetken can suggest a site for this tour. Someone brought up the possibility of having the tour at the Camp Lost Horizons, the Girl Scout Camp near Hanover, since they are presently having an extensive tree harvest.

November, December and January are set aside for business meetings.

At a previous meeting, Dick Pouzar discussed the possibility of changing the host of the NIFA website to Wild Apricot. That is the same web host that the Illinois Forestry Association has for their web site and it is easy to post items to or make changes. The cost of the new web host would be about \$270.00 per year. Our present web host costs about \$70.00 When asked if the new web host would be easier for him to keep current, Mr. Pouzar replied yes. He also stated that sooner or later we would have to make a change of the web host because of computer requirements.

Kevin Cahill moved to switch our web host to Wild Apricot. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Jerry Misek told the group that NIFA does not have a logo. He suggested that we hold a contest for the school students to develop a logo and award a prize to the winning entry. Much discussion followed. The outcome of the discussion was that President Arnold appointed a committee to work on this idea. He appointed Jerry Misek, Kevin Cahill, and Greg Hopton to the committee.

President Arnold called for any more new business. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Dick Pouzar moved to adjourn the meeting. Greg Hopton seconded the motion. The motion carried and the business meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Following the business meeting, Jerry Misek introduced John Bell, District Conservationist for Jo Daviess County with the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

John spoke to the group about the recently passed Farm Bill and how it may affect forest land owners. Mr. Bell also highlighted the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). He explained that much of the NIFA area is in the "Driftless Area" and earmarked funds for this area have been set aside for the EQIP. That means a person in this area is more likely to be approved for cost sharing funds for their project. He also provided several handouts about these programs. Interested people need to contact their local NRCS office for more information or sign up for the program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary