



Northwest Illinois
Forestry Association
Woodland Owners
Sharing Ideas on
Forest Productivity

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of November 11, 2014

Vice-President Dick Pouzar called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm in the basement meeting room of the Stockton Public Library. He asked if there were any veterans present then thanked them for their service to the country.

Board members present were; Dick Pouzar, Keith Arnold, Greg Hopton, Lee Freedlund, and Jerry Misek. (Alvin Wire joined the meeting later.)

Since there was not a quorum present, Vice-President Pouzar said we will have to wait until the next meeting to approve the last meeting minutes and the Treasurer's report.

Vice-President Pouzar informed the group that he has transferred information from the old NIFA website to the Wild Apricot web server. He explained that this site has a lot more options and is a lot easier to post or edit information. The site can be accessed from the old web address (nifatrees.com). He said that he has added a few more sections including invasive species and said he could also add sections on board members and timber marketing price lists.

Wild Apricot service costs \$270 per year plus a \$9 registration fee. This fee allows up to 250 contact names before the price is increased for the service.

OLD BUSINESS

Vice-President Pouzar discussed the item of NIFA Membership brochures and asked if these should be placed in the 6 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the NIFA area. The group concurred. Secretary, Jerry Misek, stated that he has run out of the membership brochures. Treasurer, Keith Arnold, said he intended to bring a box of the applications to the meeting but forgot. He will bring them to the next meeting.

Jerry Misek said that he has a list of the Tree Farmers in the NIFA area and thought we could send a membership application brochure to the ones who are not current NIFA members. Vice- President Pouzar suggested that the NIFA directors each send a personal note to the Tree Farmers in their area with the brochure and asked Mr. Misek to start the process in December after we get the brochures from the Treasurer.

Vice-President Pouzar discussed the Invasive Species meetings where NIFA partnered with Extension Service, IDNR, and the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation. The first meeting was held in the Stockton Public Library meeting room and had 25 participants. Since there were more people signed up than the room could hold, a second session was held at the Elizabeth Community Building with 45 people attending. Then Whiteside Extension Service requested a session to be held in their office and it attracted 25 people.

Vice-President Pouzar concluded that the partnerships worked very well and suggested that we continue to partner with these organizations in future events.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice-President Pouzar discussed the present membership database including members by county. Ogle County is lacking NIFA members as compared to the acreage of woodland.

Currently there are 104 active NIFA members and 77 with lapsed memberships. The lapsed members are still on the mailing list and cost NIFA about \$576 a year for the mailings. Mr. Pouzar then asked for comments. Much discussion followed. One idea that surfaced was putting the membership expiration date on the mailing address.

Since there now is a quorum present, Greg Hopton moved that the mailing label display the expiration date of the membership and that non-paying members be dropped from the mailing list 6 months after the dues payable date.

Kevin Cahill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Vice-President Pouzar showed the group the proposed logo for NIFA. After a brief discussion about the symbols and colors, Kevin Cahill moved that we adopt the proposed logo. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. The motion carried. (The new logo is shown at the top of the minutes.)

Vice-President Pouzar then brought up the idea of having the logo put on a metal sign similar to the Purple Paint sign. The sign would measure 18" by 24" and would be in color and the NIFA website address would be put on the bottom of the sign. Currently the sign manufacturing company is offering a 15% discount on the cost of the signs in quantities of 50 or over. The discounted cost for the signs would be \$13 each and mailing would be free. Further discussion proposed that these signs be given to NIFA members at the Annual Dinner Meeting in March.

Kevin Cahill moved that NIFA purchase 50 signs with the NIFA logo and web address and the signs be given to NIFA members (one per family) at the Annual Dinner Meeting. Greg Hopton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Jeff Harris referred back to the new website and suggested that a forum be allowed for questions and comments. Vice-President Pouzar said the new website includes a section specifically for board members. That section allows board members to generate a list of members, filtering the list by county, city, etc. This section also includes some forums if board members would like to engage in group conversations on any topic of their choice. These forums may offer advantages beyond having an email exchange. It was stated that

for a forum to be successful, some controls must be added to avoid “commercials” and “off the wall” comments. Mr. Pouzar said that the forum could be limited to just NIFA members by using a password. Kevin Cahill said he would be interested in a forum. No further action was taken at this time.

Vice President Pouzar then moved on to get ideas to develop an agenda for the next year’s tours and meetings. Following are the items considered:

February 10th---IDNR Forester, Jeff Harris, will speak on the topic of forest edge.

March 17th or 24th Annual Dinner Meeting--- The topic to be covered is the Illinois Forestry Association’s booklet “We Planted All These Trees, Now What?” Jerry Misek will arrange to get copies of this booklet and contact Kurt Bobsin as the featured speaker. Conservation Police Officer, Audrey Jones, will update the actions taken on a timber theft case that was under investigation last year. Jeff Harris volunteered to do a short presentation on Kudzu and Stilt Grass.

May---Ralph Eads and Pati Johnson will arrange for a tour of the Shimer Tree Arboretum.

June, July or August---Tour of Bob Scholl’s business “Plum River Log Bed”. Jerry Misek will contact to make arrangements. Also on one of these months, Alvin Wire will check with Scott Elsasser about touring his new sawmill setup site and a nearby firewood operation located in a rock quarry.

September---Jeff Harris will do a chain saw safety meeting titled “Kicking Bad Habits”. The meeting may be held in 3 different locations if there is enough interest and will not have any “hands on” chain sawing.

October---Jeff Harris will do a tour on tree identification. He will look for a stand of trees that has many species with young trees present with emphasis on identifying trees by buds instead of their leaves.

November---Dick Pouzar will host a controlled forest burn. The date for this tour will be determined by weather conditions.

November, December and January will be business meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

