



Northwest Illinois
Forestry Association
Woodland Owners
Sharing Ideas on
Forest Productivity

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of December 9, 2014

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the meeting room of the Stockton Country Inn and Estates.

Board members present were; Tom Arnold, Dick Pouzar, Keith Arnold, Greg Hopton, Lee Freedlund, Ralph Eads, Dave Harrison, Alvin Wire, and Jerry Misek.

President Arnold asked if there were any additions or corrections to the February 11th minutes. Hearing none, Dave Harrison moved that the minutes be approved as sent. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion passed.

President Arnold then asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November 11th minutes. No changes were mentioned. Dave Harrison moved that the November minutes be approved as sent. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Keith Arnold, reported that there is \$8,552.76 currently in the treasury.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold asked that the membership brochures be passed out and that members each take a small supply for recruiting new NIFA members. Dave Harrison told the group that he does a 30 minute radio broadcast and that he would promote membership in the NIFA.

President Arnold asked everyone if they thought NIFA should provide a display at the March 14th Tri-State Forestry Conference. After discussion, it was agreed to not put up the display but ask if a NIFA membership brochure be put in the packet of information handed out to all conference participants. President Arnold asked Jerry Misek to check on this and also ask if NIFA members are needed for registration at the conference.

Other ideas that surfaced were to have a few NIFA memberships as door prizes; people to contact as possible vendors for the conference; and possible businesses for donating door prizes. No further action was taken at this time.

Vice-President Pouzar stated that a forum has been placed on the NIFA website and is located under members. For people to use the forum, they must log on as members and

put in their email address and password.

Vice-President Pouzar discussed the new NIFA logo and said that most forest products are shown throughout the branches of the tree. As approved at the last meeting, Vice-President Pouzar placed an order for 50 signs with the NIFA logo and website address. The signs have arrived and Vice-President Pouzar showed the 18" by 24" sign to the audience. At the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting, a sign will be given to each NIFA member attending.

NEW BUSINESS

The Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District contacted NIFA about giving their 4 row nut planter to NIFA for a donation. The SWCD no longer has storage space for the planter. Both Ralph Eads and Scott Schaffer commented that the planter is a modified corn planter. Further discussion centered on a place to store the machine and how much use the machine may have as well as who would be responsible for the maintenance of the nut planter. Dick Pouzar moved to decline the offer for the nut planter. Dave Harrison seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vice-President Pouzar discussed the present membership database that the new web host, Wild Apricot, makes for easier tracking of members. Discussion followed about how to contact members who haven't paid their dues for some time. Vice-President Pouzar printed a list of 76 members who have not paid dues for a while. President Arnold went through the list one name at a time and asked those present if the person was deceased, sold their land, or no longer interested in forestry. Those people will be crossed off the list. The remainder will receive a letter asking if they are still interested in being NIFA members. President Arnold asked that Keith Arnold, Dick Pouzar and Mindy Pratt go through the lists to get a unified list of people to send letters to.

Vice-President Pouzar recommended that Member dues are due in March and if not paid by May, the membership be cancelled. This will save greatly on mailing costs. Ralph Eads moved that the membership process described by Vice President Pouzar be implemented this year. Dave Harrison seconded the motion. The motion carried.

President Arnold stated that the election of officers and directors is held in December and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Directors Greg Hopton and Dave Harrison's terms are expiring. They were asked if they were willing to serve another term and both replied that they were. President Arnold asked each of the officers if they wanted to continue their service and all replied that they would. Ralph Eads moved to elect the present officers and directors. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Officers for 2015 are:

President—Tom Arnold

Vice President—Dick Pouzar

Treasurer—Keith Arnold

Secretary—Jerry Misek

Directors for 2015 are:

Greg Hopton

Dave Harrison

Ralph Eads

Alvin Wire
Lee Freedlund
Bill Hawes

President Arnold asked if he should reserve the Stockton Public Library for future meetings. He stated that most NIFA members are in Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Carroll Counties and that Stockton is somewhat centrally located. He noted that the Library was booked for this evening and that the rent for meeting at the Country Inn and Estates is \$45.00. It was agreed to continue meeting at the Library.

President Arnold then continued to work on the 2015 meeting and tour agenda. Proposed agenda dates and topics are:

January 21st---Meeting on non-woody invasive plants at the Elizabeth Community Building co-sponsored with the Extension Service with Chris Evans and Jeff Harris as speakers

January 22nd--- Meeting at the Elizabeth Extension Office for persons interested in teaching non-woody invasive sessions

February 17th---IDNR Forester, Jeff Harris will speak on the topic of forest edge at the Scott Schaffer farm near Savanna. Sonja Lallemand and Dave Harrison will provide handout materials.

March 14th--- Tri State Forestry Conference at Sinsinawa Mound

March 24th Annual Dinner Meeting in Mt. Carroll--- 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. Jeff Harris will do a short presentation on Kudzu and Stilt Grass.

April--- Possible tree planting tour with Dave Harrison making the arrangements

May 9th---Ralph Eads and Pati Johnson will arrange for a tour of the Shimer Tree Arboretum in Mt. Carroll. Jeff Harris will do tree identification using flowers, bark, and tree form.

June--- Tour Scott Elsasser's new sawmill setup and John Ammon's nearby firewood operation located in a rock quarry. Alvin Wire will make the arrangements.

July--- Tour Bob Scholl's business, "Plum River Log Beds" south of Stockton. Jerry Misek will make the contacts.

August--- Tour of Duane Mitch's Furniture Restoration and Bushel and a Peck Store in Schapville. Dick Pouzar will setup the tour.

August 25th, 26th, and 27th---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 and corrective pruning. 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---Doug Dufford will host a controlled forest burn. The date for this tour will be determined by weather conditions.

November 10th--- Business Meeting in Stockton

December 8th--- Election of Officers and Directors and business meeting in Stockton

Dave Harrison moved to adjourn the meeting. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary