



Northwest Illinois
Forestry Association
Woodland Owners
Sharing Ideas on
Forest Productivity

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of December 1, 2015

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm in the meeting room of the Stockton Public Library.

Officers and Board members present were; Tom Arnold, Keith Arnold, Dave Harrison, Greg Hopton, and Jerry Misek.

President Arnold asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November 10th minutes. Hearing none, Dave Harrison moved that the minutes be approved as sent. Kevin Cahill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Keith Arnold, reported that the total NIFA funds are presently at \$8,497.73.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold asked if anyone has any old business to discuss. Hearing none, he said we will then go to the 2016 agenda items discussed at the last meeting.

Forestry Wildlife Program: Dave Harrison reported that he will make arrangements for the tour at a large Jo Daviess County property and suggested that the tour be held in early April. Dave will ask Jeff Horn, Wildlife Biologist, to help with the tour.

Spring Invasives Program: Keith Arnold contacted Jay Solomon who is present at the meeting tonight. Jay stated that he talked with Jeff Harris about the program and expected a good amount of interest in this subject. The timing for the meeting would be early spring before the woods "greens up". Jerry Misek asked if this program could be held with the Forestry Wildlife Program since both need to be held in early spring. Jay responded that it could be a possibility. Greg Hopton noted that replacement shrubs be explained after the Bush Honeysuckle is removed.

Starting a Forest Management Plan: Kevin Cahill visited with Jeff Harris about the possibility of holding the session at the Ron Appleby property since Ron has asked how to get started on managing his woodland. Tom Arnold said that he will contact Ron Appleby to determine his interest in hosting a tour.

Forest Products Laboratory Tour: Jerry Misek reported that he has communicated with the Laboratory people and they will be glad to do a tour for NIFA. However, they will not host a tour on the weekends. Jerry suggested going on a Friday. After the group discussed the options, it was agreed to hold the tour on a Friday. The proposed date for the tour is July 15th with July 8th as a second choice. Jerry will confirm the date with the Laboratory.

CPO Update on Timber Theft: Alvin Wire was not present discuss this item. However, if the case has been settled in the court, Audrey Jones, CPO, could tell us about it at the Annual Dinner Meeting.

Alternative Forest Products Tour: Dick Pouzar was also absent from the meeting, but he sent President Arnold an email covering his discussion with Dave Seger. Mr. Seger is no longer producing mushrooms to sell, but he would be willing to host a tour on his Walnut management.

Presentation on Hunting Leases: Greg Hopton reported that he has talked with Jim Sullivan (realtor who deals with hunting leases). Mr. Sullivan will discuss this item at the February NIFA meeting. Greg asked the group what they would like Mr. Sullivan to cover. The responses are; liability, insurance, waivers, selection of clients, length of lease, costs involved, advertising, and the effect on the value of the land.

Session with FFA advisors: President Arnold will contact FFA advisors and invite them to a “brainstorming” session on how to involve our youth in forestry at the January meeting.

Joint Session with Master Naturalists: Kevin Cahill has talked with Jackie DeBatista and learned that she has been transferred to working with the youth. Kevin was not optimistic about getting the Naturalists to a session but will encourage them to attend the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting.

Nachusa Grasslands Tour: Dick Pouzar emailed President Arnold that he has not had much luck in getting a response from the Grasslands people. He has asked Scott Schaeffer to try to make a contact with them. This would probably be a fall tour.

President Arnold wanted to get the date set for the Annual Dinner meeting and asked if anyone wanted to move the meeting location from Mt. Carroll. The group agreed that the past meeting site should be used again. After discussion, March 22nd was chosen as the meeting date. President Arnold will contact Ralph Eads to set up the meeting room and the caterers.

President Arnold then asked if someone had an idea for the main speaker for the meeting. Alvin Wire has volunteered to do a skit on woodland safety that will last 10 minutes. President Arnold suggested that Jay Solomon and Jackie DeBatista be the main speakers with their presentation on ways to involve our kids and grandkids in forestry. Jay will contact Jackie and see if this can be arranged.

NEW BUSINESS

President Arnold called for any new business. Hearing none he proceeded to election of officers and directors.

President Arnold explained that Dick Pouzar (Vice President) and Keith Arnold (Treasurer) will not be seeking re-election. He went on with further discussion that Dick Pouzar would consider the Treasurer office and Keith Arnold would consider the Director

position. Further discussion revealed that Alvin Wire could be available for the Vice President office. President Arnold said he would continue as President unless someone else wanted the job. Jerry Misek also said he would continue as Secretary if elected

Director terms of Alvin Wire and Ralph Eads are expiring. Kevin Cahill was asked if he would accept a Director position and he answered that he would.

President Arnold then moved for election of:

President, Tom Arnold
Vice President, Alvin Wire
Treasurer, Dick Pouzar
Secretary, Jerry Misek
Director, Keith Arnold
Director, Kevin Cahil

Greg Hopton seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Secretary Jerry Misek informed the group that he has obtained a list of the Tree Farmers in the NIFA area and suggested writing them a letter encouraging them to join NIFA. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the Secretary compose a letter to the Tree Farmers and bring it to a meeting for review. The letter should also invite the Tree Farmers to the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting.

There being no further business, President Arnold called for a motion to adjourn. Dave Harrison moved to adjourn and Greg Hopton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

