



Northwest Illinois  
Forestry Association  
Woodland Owners  
Sharing Ideas on  
Forest Productivity

## **Northwest Illinois Forestry Association**

Minutes of February 9, 2016

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm in the meeting room of the Stockton Public Library. Since we had a guest speaker and a large crowd, President Arnold told the group that we would go directly to the speaker. He then introduced Jim Sullivan of Sullivan Reality. Mr. Sullivan's topic was hunting leases.

Mr. Sullivan started his talk with saying that he was just an intermediary person and that he has no financial interests in the hunting leases. What he does do is bring landowners and hunters together to work out the details of the hunting leases.

Mr. Sullivan handed out some sample lease forms and hold harmless forms. He said that more hold harmless forms can be downloaded from the internet. Mr. Sullivan entertained questions from the audience. When asked if there is a minimum size for the lease, he replied no, but reasonably the land tract should be at least 40 acres. The next question was about the monetary value for the hunting lease on the 40 acres. Mr. Sullivan replied that generally that sized tract would be leased to 2 hunters for \$1,000 to \$1,200 per year. He explained that larger tracts could have more hunters and higher rent prices.

When asked where hunters want to get leases, Mr. Sullivan replied that Jo Daviess County is the top choice followed by Carroll and Stephenson Counties. He does not work beyond those boundaries. Mr. Sullivan continued saying that the leases can and should be very specific as to what species to hunt, number of hunters allowed, what areas to avoid, the length of the lease, and the timing and amount of payments. The lease should also have terms of cancellation of the lease by either party.

The questions and discussions continued for half an hour with the 28 people present.

At 7:35, President Arnold concluded the discussions and thanked the speaker and audience for their participation. He then invited those who wanted to stay for the business meeting.

Officers and Directors present for the business meeting were: Tom Arnold, Greg Hopton, Kevin Cahill, Dave Harrison, Keith Arnold, and Jerry Misek.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer, Dick Pouzar, emailed his report to the officers and directors. Highlights of the report included the current checking account balance of \$2,985.28. Last month's expenses were \$268.61. NIFA also has 3 CD's totaling \$6,226.72.

Membership renewals are coming in with 52 email members (29 still outstanding) and 17 postal mailing (16 outstanding). A couple of people have included donations along with their renewals.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

President Arnold asked that we continue planning the meeting and tour agenda for the upcoming year. Planned activities are:

\*March 12<sup>th</sup> is the Tri State Forestry Conference at Sinsinawa Mound.

\*March 22<sup>nd</sup> is the NIFA Annual Dinner meeting. Jay Solomon and Jackie DeBatista will be the main speakers. Ralph Eads is making the meeting room and caterers arrangements at Mt. Carroll in the Naaman Diehl Auditorium.

\*April 9<sup>th</sup> will be a Forest and Wildlife session in Jo Daviess County led by IDNR personnel.

\*Also in early spring will be a follow up session in the forest about controlling invasive species. Neither Jay Solomon nor Jeff Harris was present to confirm a meeting date.

\*May 14<sup>th</sup> will be a tour of Nachusa Grasslands in Lee County featuring timber and grasslands.

\*June will feature a Forest Management Plan development at the Hopton woodland near Hanover. The exact date is not yet set.

\*July 15<sup>th</sup> will be the tour of the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin.

The other meeting and tour arrangements have not been confirmed yet. They may be tree identification, chain saw safety, and real estate tax assessment.

President Arnold called for any further business. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Kevin Cahill moved we adjourn the meeting. Dave Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

