



Northwest Illinois
Forestry Association
Woodland Owners
Sharing Ideas on
Forest Productivity

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of November 20, 2018

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm.

Officers and Directors present for the business meeting were: Tom Arnold, Dick Pouzar, Greg Hopton, Jim Breed, Alvin Wire, and Jerry Misek.

President Arnold handed out copies of the Feb. 13th minutes and asked for any additions or corrections. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Breed moved to approve the minutes. Ron Mikosinski seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Pouzar provided a handout showing the current account balances of \$6193 in CD's and \$4,459 in the checking account. This is about a \$500 increase over last year. He also reported that the present NIFA membership has 81 members receiving email and 34 members receiving notices by postal mail.

Treasurer Pouzar then discussed the issue with IRS not knowing that NIFA is a non-profit organization. We have not ever reported our finances to the IRS and apparently that needs to be done annually as well as having an employer ID number. He has applied for a number and said that it appears that back-reporting of previous years will not be required. The issue was raised when the Apple River Bank reported the CD earnings to the IRS and the IRS had no record of the NIFA.

Jim Breed moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Ron Mikosinski seconded the motion. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold called for any old business besides work on the agenda. Hearing none, he moved on to new business.

NEW BUSINESS

President Arnold recognized Jay Solomon and asked him to introduce our speaker. Jay

introduced Olivia Rauen, Forester with the Wild Turkey Federation. Olivia then told the audience that she has an office in Iowa where she serves 3 counties and she also serves 4 counties in Illinois: Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, and Carroll. She explained that good forest management also benefits the wild turkeys so that is why she has this position. She works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in obtaining funding for forest practices and can certify completion of some Forestry practices.

Olivia outlined the 4 goals she has for working in this area.

1. Oak regeneration
2. Finding funding options for forest practice installation
3. Developing Forest Management plans.
4. Outreach to individuals and groups

She went on to explain a Workshop she is planning with Jay Solomon to be held January 18th at the Elizabeth Community Building. She and Jay are contacting Resource groups that may want to be involved with the meeting. The meeting will cover management tools for forest improvement including invasive plant species control and controlled burns. The goals for promoting these activities include improved wildlife habitat, Oak regeneration, timber production, and reduced soil and nutrient losses. Dick Pouzar suggested running some ads in local newspapers followed by some informative articles. That would help in getting people to attend the day-long meeting.

President Arnold then directed the attention of the group to working on the 2019 meeting and tour agenda. He noted that the November, December, January, and February business meetings will be held at the Stockton Public Library. He then asked if anyone had any other meeting locations to suggest. None were mentioned.

Jim Breed commented on last year's chain saw safety meetings saying he was well pleased with Jay Hayek as the instructor and that the sessions were well attended. Jim stated that he would like to see the sessions held again in 2019. Discussion followed and it was agreed that July would probably be the best time to hold the sessions.

Ron Mikosinski suggested having a meeting on the procedure to grow tree seedlings from seed. The group liked the idea, but did not know who could conduct this session.

President Arnold offered to do a natural forest regeneration tour on his farm on sites that have had forest harvests. April may be the best time for the tour.

Brad Petersburg has offered to do another session on invasive Honeysuckle control. He contracted spraying Honeysuckle on his forest with a helicopter and if this shows as a method of control, NIFA is welcome to tour his forest. It looked like June would be the best time for that tour as long as the spraying did kill some Honeysuckle.

Jay Solomon suggested that NIFA have a joint meeting with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation to discuss ways that we could work toward common goals. Jay said that one thing that could be done together would be to get better tree identification signs at Schurmeier Forest.

President Arnold asked Olivia Rauen if she would do a presentation on Oak regeneration during the January 8th business meeting at the Stockton Public Library. Olivia agreed to do the presentation.

Treasurer Pouzar suggested having Illinois District Forester, Paul Bane, as the featured

speaker at the Annual Dinner meeting in March. He will contact Paul Bane to see if he would do a presentation.

Other tour suggestions were timber harvesting methods at Larry Priske; a woodland session on Forest Management plans with Olivia Rauen as speaker; and a week day tour for Monica Pierce's Highland Collage class.

President Arnold called for any more items for discussion. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Alvin Wire moved to adjourn the meeting. Will Chromzack seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary