

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of January 13, 2004

President Arnold called the regular meeting of the Northwest Illinois Forestry Association to order at 7:05 pm at the IDNR meeting room in Mt. Carroll.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Keith Arnold reported that the NIFA has a total of \$7607.14 in all accounts.

OLD BUSINESS

Ralph Eads reported that Kurt Bobson , the new IDNR State Forester was not available on March 23rd but he could make it on March 30th. Ralph said that the Church of God in Mt. Carroll was also available on March 30th. The group agreed to change the Annual Dinner Meeting date to March 30, 2004.

President Arnold then confirmed the February 28th tour at 1:00pm at the Scott Elsasser property near Orangeville to tour his Sugar bush and see first- hand how maple syrup is made.

Since Michael and Patty Johnson were present, President Arnold asked them when the State tour of their property would be held. Michael responded that the State Tree Farm Award Tour is planned for Sept. 25th.

Cy Bugner was also present and said that he still wanted the group to tour his sawmill operation that is set up at Warren Parker's property. Cy will contact President Arnold when he is ready for the tour.

A discussion followed about holding a chain saw safety meeting in 2004. President Arnold stated that a tour in Oct. would fit the agenda. Chain saw dealers will be contacted to see if they would help sponsor a safety demonstration.

Dick Pouzar handed out some updated copies of the NIFA Directory of Timber Products and Services and discussed possible distribution of the directories. Prices and quantities were also discussed. Ralph Eads moved to have 3,000 copies of the directory printed. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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NEW BUSINESS

President Arnold asked for members to volunteer for registering participants at the Tri-State Forestry Conference to be held March 13th at the Sinsinawa Mound. He got 10 volunteers.

Jerry Misek told the group that the Forest Lands Enhancement Program grant applications are being accepted until Feb 16, 2004 and wondered if NIFA would like to submit an application. Discussion followed and the group agreed to try for a grant to develop a web site for NIFA. President Arnold appointed Dick Pouzar, Jerry Misek and Dave Dornbusch to work on the grant.

Dave Harrison talked about a brand new program that is being planned by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Wild Turkey Federation. The program will probably cost-share tree plantings as well as timber stand improvement work. This program is still in the planning stages so watch for it to be released.

Chris Kirkpatrick told the group about an upcoming workday at the Schurmeier Forest on January 21st. The workday is being sponsored by the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation and is targeting trail maintenance and multiflora rose removal. Chris also mentioned that the Ecosystem Partnerships also offer grants for C-2000 projects that are usually resource based. NIFA is eligible to make a grant request through this group.

President Arnold then introduced Jason Anderson from Trees Forever to present a program to the group.

Jason gave a powerpoint presentation on the mission of Trees Forever and explained a variety of projects they are working on. Jason also told about the cost-sharing programs that Trees Forever offer and invited NIFA members to participate. Jason's presentation created a lot of interest and many questions were asked.

Dick Pouzar moved to adjourn. Keith Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary