

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of December 13, 2005

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm at the new IDNR office at the Palisades State Park north of Savanna.

Dave Harrison moved to accept the November 15th minutes as mailed. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer, Keith Arnold, reported that the current balance for all of NIFA funds is \$8,612.45. This includes approximately \$2,200 in CDs, \$3,000 in savings, and \$3,200 in checking. He said that he will look into moving some of the funds from checking to an interest bearing account. Keith also briefly went over 2005 expenditures.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold called for a progress report for the 2006 NIFA activities discussed at last month's meeting.

For the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting on March 28th, Jerry Misek reported that he had spoken to RC&D Coordinator, Dave Dornbusch, who wants to come to discuss a forestry survey form. No one has contacted Dave Gillispie, but Ralph Eads volunteered to do so. Ralph also stated that he had contacted the Church of God in Mt. Carroll for the meeting site and the date is open. He also spoke to the Ladies Group that prepares the meals, but has not received a response from them yet. No contacts were made at Woodbine Bend. It was also suggested that Jack Wolstadter, President of the Illinois Tree Farm Committee, be contacted to see if he would like to speak briefly at the Dinner Meeting.

For the April tour, Ralph Eads had proposed a tree planting demonstration and also a demonstration of the Plotmaster for seeding wildlife food plots. Ralph had not contacted anyone yet. Dave Harrison suggested a site near Morrison where a 40 acre tree planting is scheduled for this spring. Dave also agreed to make the contacts to get these demonstrations scheduled.

The May tour will be on the 16th at the Schurmeier Forest, south of Elizabeth. Chris Kirkpatrick will lead the tour and discuss tree identification and timber management. Jerry Misek stated that he had been contacted by Dave Wilson of the Driftless Area Initiative to talk about the wildlife benefits of forest management. Jerry questioned whether this could be added to the tour. Chris agreed that it could. Jerry will contact Dave Wilson to arrange his presentation.

In June the tour will be at the Mike Dorsch farm, south of Stockton. The flooring operation as well as a horse logging demonstration will be toured. A tour date of June 17th has been suggested, but not confirmed. Jerry Misek will make the contact for date confirmation.

For the July tour, the New Melleray Abby near Peosta, Iowa will be the site. The casket making operation will be toured as well as some of the forests owned and managed by the Abby. The tour date will be either July 15th or 22nd and Dick Pouzar will make the arrangements.

In August the Heartbilt Homes factory in Stockton will be toured if they have the machinery replaced since their recent fire. Lee Freedlund will stay in touch with the Heartbilt people. If this tour cannot be arranged, Jerry Misek will contact a Galena Wood business for a tour of their site.

In September Chris Kirkpatrick will host a second tour on tree identification and timber management at Schurmeier Forest. This will be a time when the leaves are still on the trees.

The October tour has not been set. Dick Pouzar suggested looking at a timber harvest site. The group liked

the idea and asked Dick to proceed. Dick said that he will contact Consulting Forester, Kevin Oetkin, to see if he can arrange a site for the tour.

President Arnold suggested inviting Gerry Klopff to speak at the February meeting on his activities on raising hazelnuts for oil production. Tim Keller volunteered to pick up Mr. Klopff and bring him to the February meeting.

President Arnold also suggested that a wood turners group be invited to the January meeting. He said that he would contact Michael Johnson to see if the group that has been at his Tree Farm would like to give a presentation to the NIFA. President Arnold also noted that if there are any scheduling conflicts with either of the potential speakers for January or February that the dates could be switched to fit their needs.

NEW BUSINESS

President Arnold told the group that we are running out of NIFA membership brochures and suggested that we print some new ones. He said he has a group that will probably print these at little or no cost to NIFA. He called for suggestions on changes to be made to the brochure. Those mentioned included: changing NWIFA to NIFA, adding the NIFA website address, putting in a space for email address on the membership application, and changing the address for the District Forester. President Arnold said if anyone comes up with other appropriate changes, to contact him. Ralph Eads moved to have new membership brochures printed. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ralph Eads reported that the NIFA has received two requests for funds. One is from the Green Hills Council of Girl Scouts and the other is from the Envirothon Committee. After much discussion, Dick Pouzar moved to donate \$250.00 each to the Girl Scouts, the Envirothon Committee, and to the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation. Dave Harrison seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Dick Pouzar said that as long as we were discussing donations, that we should also consider the County 4H Federations. He recalled being asked for donations after the NIFA had completed their winter meetings, so no action was taken. Dick suggested donations to be about \$20.00 depending on the individual county needs. The group agreed with Dick's proposal and asked him to make the contacts.

Keith Arnold recalled that Marcure Repair sponsored one of the chain saw safety demonstrations last year and did not bill the NIFA for it. He said that they just wanted to be put on the NIFA website. Dick Pouzar will try to arrange that request.

Jerry Misek brought up that the NIFA website has not received many "hits" since it was developed and wondered if there needed to be some key words or phrases added to the search engine to bring the site up when doing a search. Dick Pouzar said he will contact our webmaster to find out the answer.

President Arnold said he is still looking for someone to volunteer to put out the NIFA mailings. He said that each mailing involving photocopying, stuffing envelopes, addressing, and putting on stamps and takes about 3 hours. Postcards sent to announce tours takes about an hour. No one knew of any possible volunteers.

Dave Harrison moved that we hire someone to do this job. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. Motion passed. President Arnold and Jerry Misek will check into some possibilities.

Ralph Eads reported that Jay Hayek has been hired by the Illinois Extension Service as the new Forester, filling Mike Bolin's old position. Ralph also informed the group that Mike Mason is the new IDNR State Forester, replacing Kurt Bobsin. Kurt will remain as Regional Forester based in Champaign.

Annual Elections

President Arnold called for nominations for the two Director positions for 3 year terms. Dave Harrison and Chris Kirkpatrick were nominated. Ralph Eads moved that nominations cease and the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for these two nominees. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Arnold then asked for nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Dick Pouzar nominated the current slate of officers for their current positions. Lee Freedlund moved that nominations cease and the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the officers. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The slate of officers for 2006 is: Tom Arnold, President; Tim Keller, Vice President; Keith Arnold, Treasurer; and Jerry Misek, Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Ralph Eads then gave a tour of the building for those present.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary