

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of February 14, 2006

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm in the basement meeting space of the Mt. Carroll Church of God.

Dick Pouzar moved to accept the January 10th minutes as mailed. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer, Keith Arnold, reported that he did not have a current report prepared.

OLD BUSINESS

Dick Pouzar passed around a new membership flyer to see if there were any additional comments before getting it printed. A discussion followed about the status of the dues amount. There was a proposal to raise the dues by \$5 for those receiving the NIFA notices through the Postal system. There was also a proposal to reduce the dues by \$5 for those members receiving the notices by email. It was agreed to leave the dues structure as it is for this year. Chris Kirkpatrick moved to print 1,000 copies of the membership application. Ralph Eads seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Arnold asked for any changes for the 2006 agenda. Chris Kirkpatrick noted that the May and September meetings at Schurmeier Forest will start at 1:00pm. Dave Harrison said they are planning the April tree planting demonstration to be April 15th at 1:00 pm. He will provide directions to the site for the news releases.

A question was raised about the NIFA assisting with registration at the Tri State Forestry Conference in March. President Arnold said that Carol McPhillips had agreed to handle making the arrangements and suggested that if people want to volunteer to help, they should contact Carol.

Dave Harrison said that he has contacted the Whiteside 4H and they will be requesting \$20 from the NIFA. President Arnold stated that this was an approved motion at the last meeting so the request should go to the Treasurer who will send the check back to them.

Ralph Eads noted that he had received a thank you note from the Environthon Committee for the NIFA's donation.

President Arnold asked if everything is being planned for the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting on March 28th. Ralph Eads responded that as far as he knows that the Church will prepare the dinner as in past years. It was noted that Jack Wohlstadter, President of the Illinois Tree Farm Committee, plans to attend the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Jerry Misek reported that he had attended the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) meeting in Springfield on February 2nd. He then passed around the IFA booklets that he picked up at the meeting and made membership applications available. Jerry also discussed the IFA draft plan of work and circulated a current copy around for those present to see. The IFA will be the topic of the speakers at the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting. Also IFA President, Stephanie Brown, plans to attend the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting.

Jerry Misek told the group that he has placed the NIFA Forest Products and Services Directory in the

Stephenson County Visitor's Bureau. He asked for members to help in keeping the Bureau stocked with Directories.

Ralph Eads told the group that he brought registration brochures for the Tri State Forestry Conference that will be held March 11th at Sinsinawa Mound, Wisconsin and urged anyone interested to take some brochures.

Dick Pouzar said that he had seen some information on carbon sequestration and that Forestry can play an important role. The Delta Corporation is buying and selling carbon credits. Practices such as no-till cropping, planting trees or perennial grasses and installing methane digesters for animal waste could all qualify for payments. Interested people should contact their County Soil and Water Conservation District for more information.

William Fry brought up a concern about the 4% timber harvest fee being used for other purposes. President Arnold said that Michael and Patty Johnson have drafted letters to be sent to legislators. Also this issue is on the Work Plan of the Illinois Forestry Association. Continuing contacts with legislators is needed to bring results.

Ralph Eads mentioned that since the Forestry Development Act funds are no longer available to landowners they can apply for Federal funding through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Ralph also stated that the Wild Turkey Federation has funded a few Timber Stand Improvement projects.

There being no further business, President Arnold called for a motion to adjourn. Ralph Eads moved to adjourn. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm

President Arnold then introduced the speaker for the evening. Gerry Kopf has been the manager of Bill Hunt's Twin Pond Research Farm for the past 6 years. Mr. Kopf was previously the owner of Bald Eagle Nursery of Fulton and NIFA has toured his nursery several years ago.

Mr. Kopf's presentation featured Hazelnut production for oil and biomass. Both products are extremely valuable in dealing with the Country's energy shortages. Mr. Kopf also talked about using switch grass and wood chips in creating ethanol and stated if the Cellulosic process is used in making the ethanol, both energy inputs would be reduced as well as emissions of greenhouse gasses.

Following his presentation he provided handout materials covering his topic that included references on who to contact for more information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary