

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of January 14, 2008

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm in the basement meeting room of the Stockton Library.

President Arnold asked if there were any changes or additions to the December 18th minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve them. Dave Harrison moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Ralph Eads seconded the motion. Motion passed.

President Arnold announced that the proposed speaker on the timber export market is not able to come to the meeting tonight and suggested that we reschedule him for a summer meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Keith Arnold, reported that NIFA currently has a total of \$7,526.19 in all bank accounts.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold introduced Christie Trifone, Land Stewardship Specialist from the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation. Christie reported that the Conservation Foundation has approved the new 10 year agreement partnership with NIFA for Schurmeier Forest. She asked if NIFA has any questions or suggested changes to the document. President Arnold responded that he has not had a sub-committee meet to go over the agreement but plans to have the review completed before the February NIFA meeting.

Christie also explained that the Conservation Foundation is seeking grants through the C 2000 program and asked if the NIFA would like to apply for a grant covering the remaining 45 acres of Schurmeier Forest to apply the recommended forest management practices. Christie then passed out copies of maps of Schurmeier Forest to all those present and offered assistance from the Foundation in writing the grant proposal. After discussion, it was agreed to pursue the grant. Christie invited representatives from NIFA to attend a January 30th meeting with Jim Hemmingway where the grant application process will be discussed. Ralph Eads and Cy Bugner volunteered to attend the meeting.

In other old business, President Arnold reported that Russell Simpson from Jo Carroll Energy will discuss the biomass plant at the February 12th NIFA meeting. He also noted that the project engineer, Ed Smith, will be attending to give a powerpoint presentation on the project.

President Arnold moved on to the last item of old business. He reviewed the tentative 2008 NIFA agenda.

Feb 12th--Business meeting and an update on the biomass project by Russell Simpson and Ed Smith
March 8th--Tri State Forestry Conference at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin
March 18th-- NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting at the Church of God in Mt. Carroll
April 11th--All day Forestry meeting jointly sponsored with the Blackhawk Hills RC&D and others at Chestnut Mountain lodge in rural Galena
April 26th -- Tour of Tom Arnold's recent timber harvest site and discussion of possible biomass materials
May 11th -- Spring walk through tour of Schurmeier Forest led by Christie Trifone
June 14th -- Tour of Harry Clarke's Kitchen Carvers business in Lena
Oct 11th --Tour of the Misk Tree Farm to show forest recovery ten years after a devastating windstorm
Oct 25th -- Tour of Lant Huntley's timber research project near Oregon
Nov 11th -- Regular NIFA business meeting
Dec 9th -- Regular NIFA business meeting and elections of officers and directors

Other suggestions for summer meetings included: Mike Dorsch and Tracey's Exports for verneer marketing.

NEW BUSINESS

President Arnold called on Dick Pouzar to discuss his work on market feasibility for supplying biomass to the Jo Carroll Energy plant. Dick handed out a 2 page sheet showing estimated costs of delivering biomass to the plant and potential profits for the wood products. His analysis clearly showed that close proximity to the plant increased profit potential. It also showed that higher volumes of wood material would allow for higher profits. The group was very interested in Dick's information.

President Arnold asked for volunteers to assist with registration at the Tri State Forestry Conference at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin on March 8th. He received the volunteers he needed and will forward their names to Peggy Compton, conference coordinator. If more people are needed, President Arnold will make more contacts.

Bill Briggs asked President Arnold to announce that he has some 3 foot diameter by 8 to 9 foot lengths of Elm logs. Anyone interested in the logs should contact Bill.

Ralph Eads was asked to see if the NIFA would like to provide monetary support to the 6 county Envirothon. Ralph stated that the NIFA has contributed twice in the past three years to that program. The Envirothon is an all day learning activity for high school teams within the 6 county area to compete for awards. It has several environmental subjects including forestry.

After discussion, Ralph Eads moved to contribute \$250 to the Envirothon Committee. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There being no further business, Dick Pouzar moved to adjourn. Ralph Eads seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary