

# Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of January 12, 2010

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the basement meeting room of the Stockton Public Library.

President Arnold asked if there were any changes or additions to the November 10th minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve them. Dave Harrison moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer, Keith Arnold reported that NIFA has a total of \$8531.80 in all accounts.

It was decided to send out the dues notice with the agenda for the February meeting to help reduce postage costs.

A question was raised as to how many NIFA members are there. Keith's response was he did not know exactly, but assured the members that the membership base was stable. President Arnold stated that 150-180 mailings are sent for each activity. He guessed that about half were NIFA members with the others being agencies and cooperating parties.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

President Arnold asked for reports on the proposed 2010 agenda items.

Alvin Wire will contact a Corps of Engineer's forester that deals with the forests on the Mississippi islands for the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Dave Harrison reported that Mike Jacobsen would be willing to host a late May or September tour of his forest showing tree plantings and Timber Stand Improvement areas.

Dave also stated that we could tour the Glen Peterson sawmill operation. It was decided to arrange that tour in August.

Jerry Misek contacted Bader Cabinet factory and owner Jeff Bader will host a tour of his operation at 1:00 pm June 12<sup>th</sup>.

President Arnold said he received a letter from Bill Hawes stating that he would be willing to host a tour of his forest and sawmill. President Arnold will follow up on getting a date for that tour.

President Arnold told everyone that Ralph Eads had contacted him saying that The Church of God would be willing to serve the meal for the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>. He said that we still do not have a speaker confirmed yet. Wade Conn was suggested last month. President Arnold then asked Jerry Misek to contact Ralph Eads to discuss this possibility and report back next month.

Other suggestions for tours included: Dave Seger for tree planting and mushroom production; Kevin Oetken to do a follow up tour on tree planting on the former Russell Roberts forest that was logged a couple of years ago; Mr. Black could show a forest that was logged 30 to 40 years ago and now has a new timber management plan.

President Arnold also proposed that we continue to work with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation in promoting their tours of Schurmeier Forest on May 15<sup>th</sup> and September 12<sup>th</sup>. They also plan to do a Galena River Trail walk on July 17<sup>th</sup> that would cover tree identification. It was suggested that our contact person, Ralph Eads, work with tours.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Dick Pouzar suggested that NIFA make a policy on donating to other groups or agencies. He moved that the following policy be adopted:

Any outside organization requesting funds for a project, event, or equipment acquisition shall submit a request in writing to the NIFA board. This request shall describe the amount requested, the project, event, or equipment acquisition and the objectives, outcomes, or benefits expected. The request shall also include a proposed budget listing all of the income sources and expenses for this project, event, or equipment acquisition. Based on this request, the NIFA Board will approve or disapprove the allocation of funds, but these funds shall not be issued yet.

After the project or event completion, the requesting organization shall submit to the NIFA Board a final report documenting the (1) objectives reached or outcomes achieved or benefits accrued, (2) attendance, and (3) a final budget listing all income sources and expenses. After an equipment acquisition, the requesting organization shall submit to the NIFA Board a final budget listing all income sources and expenses. Upon receipt of this final report, NIFA's Treasurer then will issue the previously allocated funds.

The NIFA Board can choose to issue the funds early, that is when they are allocated, before the project or event completion or equipment acquisition. If the funds are issued early, the requesting organization still is required to submit a final report as described above. If this final report is not received or is incomplete, future funds cannot be allocated or issued to that particular organization or for a future version of the same event.

Dave Harrison seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion was passed.

Keith Arnold had a letter from the Soil and Water Conservation Districts asking for financial support for the upcoming Envirothon. The NIFA has supported this activity in the past. Dick Pouzar moved to donate \$250 to the Envirothon and that the Secretary send a letter that includes the policy just passed to be used in future years. Dave Harrison seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer, Keith Arnold, reported that he has received a check for \$625 to NIFA as part of the Warren Parker Memorial. He asked for suggestions on what to do with the money. It was agreed that a proper memorial be established with the funds. Those present were asked to give this more thought and discuss it further at the February meeting.

Dick Pouzar said that Jerry Misek has suggested that the NIFA Minutes be posted on the NIFA website. Dick asked the group if they would like to see that happen. The group agreed. Dick will try to set up a place for the Minutes to be posted.

President Arnold explained that since the December Meeting was called off due to bad weather, a Nominating Committee was not appointed. He then asked for nominations from the floor for the Officer positions. He continued, saying that the Director terms of Alvin Wire and Ralph Eads were expiring.

Dave Harrison moved That the current Officers and the expiring Directors be re-elected. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Officers for 2010 are: President, Tom Arnold  
Vice President, Dick Pouzar  
Treasurer, Keith Arnold  
Secretary, Jerry Misek

The Directors elected for a 3 year term are: Alvin Wire and Ralph Eads

President Arnold also announced that we still need to appoint a Director to take Dick Pouzar's place, since Dick was elected as the Vice President last year. Suggestions were called for. Don Houseman was suggested. He will be contacted to see if he is willing to serve.

There being no further business, President Arnold called for a motion to adjourn. Dave Harrison made the motion and it was seconded by Alvin Wire. Motion Passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

Jim Ritterbusch, District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Stephenson County presented a program on Forestry opportunities in the new Farm Bill.

Jim discussed the EQIP and CSP Programs in detail and had several handouts that helped explain the programs. There were numerous questions from the audience and much interest in the

programs. Sign ups for both programs is continuous with periods when the sign ups are rated and approved or rejected.