

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of February 8, 2011

President Tom Arnold welcomed the group and told them that the Wild Turkey Federation speaker had not yet arrived but we would complete a short business session before his talk.

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

President Arnold asked if there were any corrections to the January minutes. Hearing none, he entertained a motion for approval of the minutes. Lee Freedlund moved that the January minutes be approved as sent. Ralph Eads seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Keith Arnold was not present so no Treasurer's report was given.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold called for any old business.

Dick Pouzar reported that he has met with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation committee this afternoon to discuss getting a management plan written for the remaining area of Schurmeier Forest. Unfortunately, the committee did not want to pursue a management plan on the rest of the forest land although they approved of continuing management of the 11 acres that NIFA has worked on. The committee also asked if NIFA could do more educational activities at the forest.

Jerry Misek reported that he had contacted Paul Dietzman and Kurt Bobsin concerning getting a quarantine on the movement of Black Walnut with bark attached into Illinois from states that have the Thousand Cankers Disease. Both individuals were concerned but said that it would need to be worded very carefully. Dick Pouzar stated that he also talked about this issue at the last Illinois Forestry Association meeting.

Dick Pouzar said that he has worked through the Illinois Forestry Association to have their legislative lobbyist, Paula Purdue, meet with NIFA during the summer. When he gets a confirmed meeting date from Paula, he will invite the Illinois legislators from the NIFA area to also attend the meeting. Discussion followed on where the meeting should be held and it was decided that Freeport would be the best site. Dick Pouzar moved that NIFA pay the fees for an appropriate meeting room in Freeport for the legislative meeting. Ralph Eads seconded the motion. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Dick Pouzar discussed NIFA sponsoring a chain saw safety meeting on April 17th with Ken LaLamont being the instructor. The cost would be \$100 per person with a limit of 12 participants and the session would run from 8am until 4pm. This is a "hands on" training session where participants bring their own chain saws and get to cut down at least one tree. Registration deadline for the session is March 30th. Dick also asked if anyone knew of a place with easy access and good parking that has several trees to be felled. It would be the site for the safety session.

Dick Pouzar also discussed a half day seminar that helps landowners plan for a successful transition of their timber to the next owner. The program was developed by Oregon State University and is a half day seminar. A workbook with a DVD will cost \$25. People interested in participating in this seminar should contact Dick Pouzar at 2303 W Cording Rd., Galena, IL 61036 or Keith Arnold at 146 N Apple River Rd., Stockton, IL 61085.

President Arnold asked Dick Pouzar for a brief report on the last Illinois Forestry Association meeting. Dick reported on the 2 most important items. One was that IFA was proceeding on getting legislation similar to other states to use purple paint slashes to mark property lines. These paint slashes would be legal boundary markers. The other item was to get Illinois State Representative, Jim Sacia, to withdraw his HB25 that calls for removing the 4% timber harvest fee. Removal of this fee would be very harmful to Illinois Forestry.

President Arnold then called on Dave Dornbusch, Coordinator of the Blackhawk Hills RC&D, to explain the forestry grant that the RC&D was applying for. Mr. Dornbusch told everyone that it was a 3 year grant for writing forest management plans and is titled "Forestry 101". He further explained that the grant came about very quickly and was written by IDNR. Since the IDNR Foresters numbers have been drastically reduced, it is not possible for the remaining Foresters to follow through on updating forest management plans that are over 10 years old. This grant would pay for the updated forestry management plan. RC&D would host a yearly meeting of the participants to help them understand their plans and to guide them to implement the plans.

Mr. Dornbusch also informed the group about an RC&D Biomass Conference that will be held November 2 and 3 possibly in Dubuque. The conference will address biomass as the fuel source for heat and/or electricity.

President Arnold then called for any further new business. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Lee Freedlund moved to adjourn the meeting. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

President Arnold introduced Kent Adams, Regional Wildlife Biologist with the Wild Turkey Federation. Kent had a slide presentation that featured what the Wild Turkey Federation is and what it does. He followed his introductory remarks with a program on forest management techniques that benefitted turkeys as well as other wildlife. Wild turkeys need the forest for food, roosting and concealment and need more open and grassy areas for nesting and raising their broods. Mr. Adams answered many questions from the group.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary