

# **Northwest Illinois Forestry Association**

## **Minutes of February 12, 2013**

Vice President Dick Pouzar called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm in the basement meeting room of the Stockton Public Library.

Vice President Pouzar asked if there were any additions or corrections to the January minutes. Lee Freedlund moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Ed Strenski seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer, Keith Arnold, reported that there currently is \$9,422.82 in all of the NIFA accounts. He also reported that the 2013 dues are coming in well.

Treasurer Arnold told the group that he had received a letter from Stephenson County asking for financial support for the "Earth Day is Every Day" Program. Vice President Pouzar reminded everyone that NIFA has a policy on donating funds which includes a report from the group receiving the funds as to how the money is to be spent, the number of people involved in the event, and benefits from the program. Vice President Pouzar then asked for a motion for Secretary, Jerry Misek, to send a letter informing the Stephenson County group about the NIFA policy on donating funds. Tom Sleeter made the motion and it was seconded by Lee Freedlund. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Vice President Pouzar had a printout of the national FFA Forestry Contest. Since it was a very long document, he discussed the highlights and admitted that the NIFA probably can't cover all of the material for the FFA participants. He did note that Mike Woolery, Forestry Consultant, and Jeff Harris, IDNR Forester, have agreed to help the FFA members prepare for the contest.

Jerry Misek reported that he had been in contact with USDA/NRCS Soil Scientist, Frank Heisner, about allowing the FFA students to participate in the 6 state forest soils tour held in Northwest Illinois this September. Mr. Heisner expected it would be fine for the FFA students to attend the tour. President Tom Arnold said that he had just talked to the FFA people and they do want to have the NIFA's assistance in preparing for the Forestry contest.

Vice President Pouzar reminded the group of the upcoming Tri State Forestry Conference that will be held at Sinsinawa Mound on March 9th.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Vice President Pouzar told the group that he had been looking into the NIFA's liability insurance coverage. NIFA presently has \$500,000 coverage per occurrence with annual \$1,000,000 for claims in aggregate. Country Financial agent, Bob Dittmar, was unable to attend this meeting, but explained that the coverage is for the organization and not specifically for Directors and Officers. Mr. Dittmar suggested raising the coverage limits to \$1,000,000 for occurrence and \$2,000,000 in aggregate. That change would increase

the cost for the insurance from \$243.00 to \$280.00. Adding \$1,000,000 coverage for Directors and Officers would cost an additional \$357.00. Vice President Pouzar recommended no action on this matter until meetings can be scheduled with the insurance agents involved to make sure that we understand the coverage and the costs.

President Tom Arnold added that the tour host's insurance would cover them for mishaps during the tour.

Secretary, Jerry Misek, noted that NIFA's Annual Report to the State of Illinois is now due. It involves listing the Officers and Directors of the organization as well as the purpose of the organization and requires a \$10.00 filing fee. This is a mandatory report for non-profit organizations. Treasurer, Keith Arnold, wrote a check for the report filing fee.

Tom Arnold moved to adjourn the meeting. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Vice President Pouzar then introduced Tom Sleeter, Chief Investment Officer with Total Clarity Wealth Management Inc., as the speaker for the evening program.

Mr. Sleeter discussed the tax law changes for 2013 and how it affects forest owners. He provided handout materials that showed the tax law changes. Mr. Sleeter also answered questions from the group as well as telling the woodland owners the importance of filing a Schedule T form for their forest lands.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary