



Northwest Illinois
Forestry Association
Woodland Owners
Sharing Ideas on
Forest Productivity

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of February 13, 2018

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

Officers and Directors present for the business meeting were: Tom Arnold, Dick Pouzar, Ken Beach, Greg Hopton, Jim Breed, Lee Freedlund, Kevin Cahill, and Jerry Misek.

President Arnold called for any additions or corrections to the January 9th, 2018 meeting minutes.

Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Breed moved to approve the minutes. Greg Hopton seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Pouzar reported on the current account balances of \$6120 in CD's and \$4,938 in Checking for a total of \$11,058 in the Treasury. He said that 71 members have already paid their renewal memberships out of the 121 members. This year people can pay their membership dues online, just go to the NIFA website and follow directions.

Treasurer Pouzar brought attention to the 2018 budget and asked if there were any questions on the income or expense items.

Jim Breed moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Ron Mikosinski seconded the motion. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold called for any old business. Hearing none, he started discussion on the 2018 agenda.

February 21-22nd will be a Forestry Conference at the Madison Wisconsin Forest Products Laboratory. Governor, Scott Walker, is sponsoring the Conference which is open to the public.

February 24th will be a chain saw safety program in Erie sponsored by the Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District.

March 10th will be the Tri State Forestry Conference at Sinsinawa Mound.

March 27th will be the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting at the Church of God in Mt. Carroll. IDNR Biologist, Doug Dufford, will be the featured speaker covering the topics of large predators in the area, CWD updates, and his experiences of burning in woodlands.

April 14th will be a tour at the Tom Arnold farm featuring timber harvesting and Oak regeneration. Three sites will be viewed that had previous harvests. Also a neighboring property that had a harvest will be toured as well as the IDNR property that was direct seeded to trees about 20 years ago.

May 5th will be a tour at the Ken Beach property featuring the results of different methods of tree plantings and ways of controlling Bush Honeysuckle. Also a clear cut area will be seen that has been done to encourage Aspen trees for wildlife.

June is open for a meeting and tour of invasive woodland plants and different control measures. Extension Specialist, Jay Solomon, will make the arrangements.

July 14th at 1:00 pm will be a tour of the Kevin Ward farm featuring a new tree planting of 20,000 trees and specialized equipment for handling trees and invasive shrubs. Consulting Forester, Kevin Oetken, will lead the tour.

July 25th will be a beginners session on chain saw safety at the Tom Arnold Tree Farm.

July 26th will have an advanced chain saw safety session at the Jim Breed Tree Farm. Extension Forestry Specialist, Jay Hayek, will conduct both sessions.

July 29th through August 1st will be a meeting of the Walnut Council at the Grand River Center in Dubuque. Daily tours will leave from the Center to forests in the surrounding area. More information is available at the WalnutCouncil.org website.

August 17th at 1:00pm will be a tour of the Kirkland Sawmill and related enterprises featuring an operating sawmill.

September 8th at 1:00pm Richard Benning and Ken Beach will hold a tree identification session at the Freeport Oakdale Nature Preserve.

October will be open for a session on invasive species with Extension Specialist, Chris Evens and Consulting Forester, Kevin Oetken.

November 13th will be a business meeting to work on the 2019 agenda.

December 11th will be a follow up business meeting and election of Officers and Directors.

NEW BUSINESS

Secretary Misek brought up the recurring correspondence with the Illinois Secretary of

State where non-profit organizations need to file a report annually. There is a fee for filing the report of \$10.00.

Treasurer Pouzar moved that since the fee is in the budget, this item will not have to be brought up each year.

Discussion followed and seemed that it was not necessary to have this discussion every year.

Jim Breed seconded the motion, Motion passed.

Treasurer Pouzar informed the group that the NIFA website carrier, Wild Apricot, has raised their rates twice and now is up to \$540 per year. He suggested that we should look for other website hosts. President Arnold said that he uses Word Press and the charges are lower. This item will be researched further.

Dave Harrison talked about the proposed small clear cuts of woodland at the Palisades State Park. The clear cuts will encourage a wider diversity of wildlife while providing some revenue to the State. Since this has politics involved, it may take a while to be approved or it may be shelved and nothing will happen.

Mr. Harrison just wanted NIFA members to be aware of this proposal.

President Arnold called for any more items for discussion. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn the business part of the meeting.

Ken Beach moved to adjourn the meeting. Greg Hopton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

President Arnold then introduced Paul Searl, Soil Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Mr. Searl used a power point presentation to discuss federal programs that could assist forest landowners.

Programs covered were; Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Many questions from the audience of 20 people about these programs were answered.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

