



Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of November 9, 2021

President Ken Beach called the regular/ Zoom meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Officers and Directors present were; Ken Beach, Tom Arnold, Jay Solomon, Kevin Cahill, Greg Hopton, Tom Sleeter, and Jerry Misek. Dick Pouzar and John Schroeder were not able to connect directly with the Zoom, but Dick could hear and send texts to Jay. Marcia Derrer did join the session with Zoom.

President Beach then asked if there were any additions or corrections to the June 2nd and July 9th meeting minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Kevin Cahill moved to approve the minutes. Tom Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Beach reported that the current balance in the checking account to be \$3,753.90. He also reported that CD 4378 was rolled over and now has 0.65% interest and has a balance of \$4,389.85. The other CD 1124 is due Feb 2025 and has an interest rate of 2.1% and has a balance of \$4,715.01.

Treasurer Beach also reported that the \$600.00 fee for the "not for profit" designation has been paid. He also said that he had paid \$1.80 for postage to mail in the application and \$3.60 for the registered mail and also purchased \$11.00 in stamps for a total of \$16.40. Since these expenses have not been previously approved, he asked for approval from the group. The group approved.

Treasurer Beach continued with his report stating expenses of \$205.98 for NIFA signs, \$100.00 for the Lee Freeflund memorial, \$648.00 for the Wild Apricot hosting of the NIFA website, and \$77.18 for postage.

For income, Treasurer Beach reported \$43.54 for online memberships, \$165 for regular memberships, and \$2,370 for the chain saw safety sessions with a \$70.00 reimbursement to JDCF and \$140 for prepayment of 15 year membership.

Kevin Cahill moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Jay Solomon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Membership Report

Tom Sleeter reported that he has gone over the membership list and asked when should members be removed for not paying dues.

Following discussion over that question, it was agreed to put those members in an inactive file after 5 years of unpaid dues.

Mr. Sleeter then stated that there may be 2 dozen people who would fit that definition.

Presently there are 135-140 members considered as active.

In regards to increasing members, President Beach suggested to send out the NIFA brochure to potential members with the incentive to have free membership in NIFA for one year. He continued that each Officer and Director should select at least one person to send this offer to.

Mr. Sleeter commented that he would like to urge his Carroll County neighbors to join the organization.

President Beach said that we should not overlook members of other organizations as possibilities for joining NIFA. He continued saying that we need to get youth involved with NIFA.

Following discussion about these ideas, it was agreed to draft a letter to go to prospective members telling them about the organization and giving them a complimentary membership. President Beach asked Mr. Sleeter to draft that letter.

Tom Arnold asked if we could put the NIFA brochure on the NIFA website and maybe do some of the invitations electronically to reduce costs.

It was decided to hold off on putting the brochure on the website until we elect a Treasurer. (Right now Ken Beach is holding both positions of President and Treasurer.)

Old Business

President Beach reported that the controlled woodland burn workshop has been postponed. When a new date has been selected, NIFA members will be notified although it may be a short notice since specific weather conditions need to exist to have a successful burn.

President Beach then gave a brief summary of each of the NIFA events held this year. They were: The New Mallory Abby tour

- Christmas tree shearing at the Lundquist farm
- Tour of the Sawmill Museum in Clinton
- Tree identification tour at Schurmeier Forest
- Chain Saw safety training

President Beach then handed out a sheet that listed the NIFA events for the past 3 years. As homework, he challenged all of us present to come up with an idea for an event in 2022. Then we will discuss the ideas at the December meeting and develop an agenda.

New Business

Tom Arnold told the group about some suggestions for holding future chain saw safety classes. He noted that there was a lot of interest in the classes this year and wondered if we should plan on more classes next year to handle all of the people who were interested in the courses.

One of the suggestions was to move some of the sessions to other Counties to get to different people and perhaps having both Spring and Fall sessions. Tom continued that he has not discussed this with our current instructor, Jay Hayek. Finding a site for the classes involves having a place for the indoor instruction and then having an appropriate woodland nearby to do the "hands on" practice.

Kevin Cahill told of his experience with finding a different Wi Fi provider. He said that with previous Zoom meetings his reception was not the best. He now has switched to Starlink and has much improved reception and computer speed. He told the group that the cost for Starlink is \$100 per month.

President Beach and Jay Solomon commented on the Northern Illinois Steward Coalition (NISC) saying that there may now be more interest in involving private landowners. This would be a good step forward for that organization and suggested that NIFA needs to get involved with that organization.

Since forest landowners need a Forest Management Plan for their woodlands, President Beach wondered if we should provide a listing of Consulting Foresters on the NIFA website. If we did that, we should also provide a link to those consultants to make it easier to contact them. Dick Pouzar texted that Jay Hayek maintains a list of consulting foresters that includes the activities that they are willing to perform.

In looking ahead to next year's events, Tom Arnold said there may be interest in revisiting some of the previous tour sites to see the changes that have been made, like growth rate of trees, success of grafting, etc.

Other ideas that Dick Pouzar texted are:

NIFA may want to include a session with NCX about their carbon sequestering and woodland owner reimbursement.

Invite District Forester, Paul Bane, to discuss the fight with invasive species. He has been adamant about including that work in our Forest Management Plans. Then he can tell us how effective that emphasis has been.

Get NRCS to talk about the millions included in the recently passed infrastructure bill dedicated to Forestry to hear how those funds are planned to be used.

Jay Solomon reported that the Extension Service's Natural Resources program area has been reconfigured into two program areas;

1. Agriculture and Agri-business (AAB) with Dr. Travis Burke, program leader.
2. Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy (NREE) with Dr. Shibu Kar, program leader.

Jay continued that his team is part of the second group. He is now a Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy Educator.

Dr. Burke and Dr. Kar will be visiting our area on Dec. 2nd and 3rd. During their visit, we are planning on introducing them to some of our program partners and clientele. This provides a chance for these program leaders to learn more about our area needs, program opportunities, and impacts. Jay asked if someone, or a small group, would be interested in meeting with Dr. Kar for a brief discussion. Topics could include the forestry industry (including production, harvesting, and utilization), past collaborations on forest management and invasive plant management and future needs and/or opportunities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

