



Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of December 14, 2021

President Ken Beach called the regular/ Zoom meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Officers and Directors present were; Ken Beach, Tom Arnold, Jay Solomon, Kevin Cahill, Greg Hopton, Dick Pouzar, Tom Sleeter, and Jerry Misek. Brad Petersburg and Tom Walsh joined the group by Zoom.

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

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Beach reported that the current balance in the checking account to be \$1,370.22. He also reported that CD 4378 has a balance of \$4,392.27 and CD 1124 has a balance of \$4,720.41. The total finances are \$10,482.90.

Dick Pouzar moved to approve the treasurer's report. Tom Arnold seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Membership Report

Tom Sleeter reported that there are 52 members with lapsed dues and asked how we should handle them.

Discussion followed and it was agreed not to purge them from the files but rather put them in a special file in case we ever need to contact them. In example, send them a notice of some special event and invite them to renew their membership.

Dick Pouzar noted that our web provider, Wild Apricot, puts the people in 3 files: Active, Lapsed, and Other. However, we still have their contact information. Dick also stated that currently we have 94 active members using email and 32 using the postage option.

Mr. Sleeter told us that he created a list of all the active and lapsed NIFA members. He passed the list around so those present could make comments about the people on the list.

President Beach reminded everyone that they can give a free membership to persons they think may have an interest in Forestry. The recipients of the free one year membership need to fill out the membership form. Then with their contact information, we could give them special invitations to events like our Annual Dinner Meeting. President Beach continued noting that we could give a membership to people in other organizations that are similar to ours like the Wild Turkey Federation, Audubon Society, Pheasants Forever, Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, etc.

Old Business

President Beach reported that the controlled woodland burn workshop has been cancelled. There is a slim possibility that it may still be done this winter if conditions are right. However, there probably would not be enough time to invite the public.

President Beach then informed us that the IRS has accepted the NIFA application for the not for profit status. The status is a 501.c.5. That status grants tax exemption for the organization but does not allow people to make tax exempt donations to the organization. We would have to file another form to get the 501.c.3 designation that allows for tax exempt donations.

Discussion followed and since NIFA has rarely received any donations, the group agreed to not file for that designation.

President Beach then directed the group to move on to the calendar of planned events.

Much discussion followed with the tentative agenda items as follows with the person responsible for the event:

January--- Business meeting with John Schroeder speaking about obtaining carbon credits for Forestry (Ken Beach)

February--- Business meeting with a speaker from the Audubon society, Richard Binnings, discussing woodland birds (Ken Beach)

March---Annual Dinner meeting with a featured speaker on Forest Management Plans (Tom Arnold)

April--- Possible forest burn demonstration with Brad Petersburg's group (Brad Petersburg)

May---Tree planting tour with a Consulting Forester leading the tour at his choice of a location (Tom Arnold)

June---Consulting Forester describing Forest Management Practices in a forest of his choosing (Tom Arnold)

July--- Tour of the Williams Christmas Tree Farm (Jerry Misek)

August--- Tour of the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison (Jerry Misek)

September---Tour of the Greg Hopton Tree Farm showing recent and past tree plantings as well as forest management (Greg Hopton)

October--- Tree Identification tour at Oakdale Preserve (Ken Beach)

November--- Business Meeting

December--- Business Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors

Special Events--- Chain Saw Safety Classes for various levels sometime between July and September with Jay Hayek as the instructor. (Tom Arnold)

New Business

President Beach asked the present Officers and Directors if they were willing to continue in their offices, Everyone present answered that they would with the exception of not having a candidate for Treasurer, but Ken Beach said he would continue until we can find a candidate. Dick Pouzar nominated Tom Sleeter to fill the vacant Director position and Tom accepted. Dick Pouzar moved to elect the slate of Officers and Directors. Tom Arnold seconded the motion. Motion passed. Below are the Officers and Directors elected:

President---Ken Beach
Vice President--- Alvin Wire
Treasurer---Vacant with Ken Beach Acting
Secretary---Jerry Misek
Media Manager--- Dick Pouzar
Membership---Tom Sleeter
Director---Greg Hopton
Director---John Schroeder
Director---Tom Sleeter

Discussion followed about involving youth in NIFA. Ideas that were stated are:

---Tom Arnold suggested working with High School FFA students. Some FFA students in the past had some interest but they made no commitments.

---Ken Beach thought that 4H has Forestry programs and may be interested.

---Tom Arnold suggested that alerting youth to job opportunities in the field of Forestry.

---Brad Petersburg said that the DNR has a program (IL Recreation Access Program) to lease land for youth or handicapped activities. This program may pay up to 75% of the costs for implementing a Forest Management Plan. Access to the program is through the IDNR Forester.

Dick Pouzar brought up the possibility of having an audit of the Treasurer's records. He believed that it is required by State law. Kevin Cahill volunteered his wife to do the audit since she also does audits for other agencies. If she agrees to do the audit, the group agreed to have her do the audit.

Infomal discussion continued with other ideas for future tours and/or meetings. Ideas that surfaced were:

---Value added forest products

---Use of fire on wood products to make the wood last longer by charring the surface and applying preservatives

---Having soil types dictate the tree species to plant or manage

---Update on the control of CWD in the deer populations

---Using solar power

---Increased use of battery powered saws instead of saws with 2 cycle engines to reduce air pollution

---The role of carbon credits in forest management

---Putting NIFA brochures in the offices of area relators to encourage forest management

---Deer browse preferences

---Bandwidth concerns with Zoom meetings or presentations

---Getting more assistance from IDNR Forester

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

