

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of November 14, 2006

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

Dick Pouzar moved to accept the February 14th minutes as mailed. Ralph Eads seconded the motion. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold discussed meeting facilities and stated that there are no charges for meeting in the Stockton Library. He asked Ralph Eads if the Church of God in Mt. Carroll would still be willing to let us meet there. Ralph replied that he thought it would, but he would check for sure. President Arnold asked those present if it would be agreeable to meet at the Church of God in December and meet here at the Library in January. The group consented.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Sloan, Treasurer of the Illinois Forestry Association, explained that the Illinois Walnut Council, the Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Forestry Committee, a chemical company, and the Illinois Forestry Association would like to hold a Forestry herbicide meeting in the NIFA 6 county area in February 2007. Bob asked if the NIFA would be willing to be a co-sponsor for the meeting. Bob further explained that these meetings have been held in other regions of the state and had good attendance with 30 to 70 people attending.

When asked what he would expect NIFA's role to be, Bob responded and said he would like NIFA to select and arrange the meeting facilities and help register the participants. He further said that there would be a fee charged to participants to cover expenses. The meeting is planned to run from 10:00am to 2:30pm.

Dave Harrison said that the Super Car Wash Training Center in Morrison is a good meeting facility and would probably not charge to use their building. It has capacity to hold 200 people.

Dave Dornbusch said that the Blackhawk Hills RC&D would be able to help with the registration.

Ralph Eads moved that the NIFA be a co-sponsor for the Forestry herbicide meeting. Dave Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Discussion continued on this item. Dave Harrison and Dave Dornbusch agreed to work on the advanced registration. Dave Harrison will check on the meeting site in Morrison with a target date of February 16, 2007.

Bob Sloan reported that the Illinois Forestry Association is also working on developing training sessions for forest landowners to write their own forest management plan. This plan would need to be approved by the DNR District Forester before being sent to Springfield to receive the forest land real estate tax rate.

President Arnold then talked about the NIFA becoming a member of the Illinois Forestry Association. He said that we had not had a business meeting since Dave Gillespie spoke at the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting in March so no action has been taken on membership. After a brief discussion, Ralph Eads moved for the NIFA to become a member of the IFA at the Charter Member dues rate of \$250. Dave Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dave Dornbusch passed around sample agendas for a proposed fall forestry meeting. Meeting participants would be able to choose from some workshop topics and also “hands on” training sessions. The meeting would last 2 days with some of the sessions being repeated so those at other sessions could also get the information. Dave said that some funding for this meeting is available and some potential speakers have already volunteered. Dave asked if NIFA would like to be a co-sponsor to this meeting with a target date of Sept 2007. Dave would like the NIFA to find a meeting site and assist in planning the meeting. Dick Pouzar moved to have the NIFA co-sponsor this meeting. Keith Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dave then asked for a committee to work with him on the planning with a possible meeting site of Ralph Eads office in Savanna. Ralph Eads, Jerry Misek, Dick Pouzar, and Keith Arnold were appointed to the committee.

President Arnold then directed discussion to planning the 2007 NIFA meeting and tour agenda. Since two 2006 tours were postponed, President Arnold asked to have them added to the 2007 agenda. He asked Jerry Misek to contact Mike Dorsch and Lee Freedlund to contact Heartbuilt Homes. He also stated that the Jo Daviess Farm Bureau Prime Timers would also like to join us on the tour of Heartbuilt Homes.

Other items discussed for possible tours were to be involved with the National Walnut Council’s tour of New Melleray Abbey near Peosta, Iowa in August. Dick Pouzar will check on this to find the tour agenda and dates.

The Tri State Forestry Conference at Sinsinawa Mound, Wisconsin will be held March 10, 2007.

March 27, 2007 was suggested as the date for the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting. Ralph Eads will check with the Church of God in Mt. Carroll to see if that date is available. Dick Pouzar will check on a possible speaker.

President Arnold then asked about who were the Directors with terms to expire in 2006. After looking through the minutes of past meetings it was determined that Carol McPhillips and Ralph Jones terms were expiring. President Arnold asked Ralph Jones to contact Carol McPhillips and for them to nominate directors by the December meeting for the 3 year term of office.

There being no further business, Ralph Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Dave Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary