



Northwest Illinois
Forestry Association
Woodland Owners
Sharing Ideas on
Forest Productivity

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of January 20, 2016

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

Officers and Board members present were; Tom Arnold, Dick Pouzar, Alvin Wire, Dave Harrison, Greg Hopton, and Jerry Misek.

President Arnold asked if there were any additions or corrections to the December 1st minutes. Hearing none, Greg Hopton moved that the minutes be approved as sent. Alvin Wire seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Dick Pouzar, discussed the report that he emailed to officers and directors. Dick wants to move the banking account and CD's to a bank that has comparable rates that is closer to him. He also stated that NIFA is on a slight deficit budget and proposed some ideas to reduce mailing costs. Dick wants to talk with Mindy Pratt before making any changes.

Dave Harrison moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Ron Mikosinski seconded the motion. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

President Arnold stated that since we invited FFA advisors and other interested people to attend this meeting to discuss ways to involve youth in Forestry, he wants to cover that topic first. Monica Pierce was the only FFA advisor present and Greg Thoren was a representative from the Stockton Alumni Association.

President Arnold asked Monica if she had some ideas to involve youth. She said that the FFA does have a forestry contest and she passed out copies of a previous FFA Forestry contest that included informational material as well as the score sheets. Much discussion followed. Since the contest is held in the spring, it was agreed that there is not enough time to prepare for the contest this year, but we should plan on the 2107 contest. It was also agreed that the best way to involve the students is to first work

with the instructors to make them comfortable in presenting the material to the students.

Dave Harrison said there is also an Environthon contest every May. It also has a section on Forestry. However, school participation has been slowly declining. The local Soil and Water Conservation Districts are involved in the Envirothon. Dave continued, and stated that the speakers at the contest have only 20 minutes to cover their topics that the students will be tested on.

Monica Pierce said that the Freeport FFA also has a tract of land where they raise crops and conduct experiments. She said the tract also has about 15 acres of woodland, but she does not know of any activity in the woodland. More discussion followed. It was agreed that a Forest Management Plan should be developed for the woodland and the students be involved with the planning process as well as the implementation of the plan.

President Arnold told the group that an FFA judging contest was being held at the same time as this meeting. He agreed to inform the other FFA advisors of the outcome of this session with the hope that they will want to become involved with this project.

In other new business, Jerry Misek requested that NIFA pay the Illinois Secretary of State the \$10.00 annual filing fee for NIFA to continue as a Not For Profit Corporation. Since this involved spending NIFA funds, Jerry asked that a motion to approve this expenditure. Dave Harrison moved to pay the \$10.00 filing fee. Greg Hopton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dick Pouzar suggested that NIFA make a contribution to the Stockton Library since we have met at their facility for several years. Discussion followed. It was not determined if we should donate Forestry books or make a cash donation. President Arnold will talk to the Librarian about their preference.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold asked that we continue planning the meeting and tour agenda for the upcoming year.

For the February meeting, Greg Hopton has contacted Jim Sullivan to speak on hunting leases.

March 12th is the Tri State Forestry Conference at Sinsinawa Mound

March 22nd is the NIFA Annual Dinner meeting. Jay Soloman and Jackie DeBatista will be the main speakers. Ralph Eads is making the meeting room and caterers arrangements for the Mt. Carroll site.

Also in early spring will be a follow up session in the forest about controlling invasive species. Neither Jay Soloman nor Jeff Harris was present to confirm a meeting date.

July 15th will be the tour of the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin.

The other meeting and tour arrangements have not been confirmed yet. They will be discussed at the February meeting.

President Arnold called for any further business. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Dave Harrison moved we adjourn the meeting. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary