



## **Northwest Illinois Forestry Association**

Minutes of March 17, 2021

President Tom Arnold called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He thanked Jay Solomon for setting up the Zoom meeting. Officers and Directors present were; Tom Arnold, Alvin Wire, Jay Solomon, Ken Beach, Kevin Cahill, Dick Pouzar, John Schroeder, and Jerry Misek.

President Arnold apologized for not making more contacts during the last year. He explained that he has gotten very busy with his business and the pandemic has brought us challenges on running our program, He continued saying that he needs to step down as NIFA President. He also noted that Directors Jim Breed and Ken Polhamus have moved out of the area and will need to be replaced and that we will need to work on getting a slate of candidates for an election.

A discussion followed on how to move on with our organization. Ken Beach noted that there are lots of people in his area that are interested in Forestry and maybe NIFA needs to partner with other organizations to continue with Forestry information.

Dick Pouzar said that he has posted a list of Forestry related webinars on the NIFA website and we can possibly use them for some of our programs.

John Schroeder noted that it is a long drive for him to attend meetings and by using webinars and other outreach programs we may be able to involve more people who are from distant areas. Tom Arnold mentioned that carbon sequestration is a hot topic now and John said there are programs online that cover that topic. Jerry Misek said that we could touch on capturing carbon on our NIFA tours.

Ken Beach stated that if we do start filming our tours for online use, we need to have quality presentations. Tom Arnold continued with that idea by trying to find someone who could do the filming and also the editing to keep the quality. Jay Solomon commented that he has done some editing. He went on and said that some of the better smart phones could do the filming, but we may want to incorporate still images too.

Tom Arnold emphasized that we need to have a storyboard to keep on the topic and make editing easier. He is planning on writing a letter to all the NIFA membership to bring them up to date and can ask if anyone would like to film and edit the tours so they could be put online.

Dick Pouzar noted that with the NIFA website, we could use out of state presenters, state university programs, webinars, etc. He continued saying that we could use District Forester, Paul Bane and Wild Turkey Federation's Forester, Cody Widner, to help put on programs. We should also find out what is presently available and work on areas that have not been covered, with emphasis on the forest landowner's needs.

Alvin Wire suggested that we should involve young people because they have a lot of ability in working with computers. Tom Arnold envisioned that maybe the local Vo Tech Center could help us with this. Ken Beach volunteered to contact Highland College to see if they have an interest in helping us.

President Arnold stated that with the pandemic, a lot more people are using virtual events, so our timing may be good. He continued that we may still go forward with onsite tours with the participants using social distancing. He will make these suggestions in the letter that will go out to all NIFA members and ask for their comments.

Kevin Cahill commented that we need to try to involve more people from the outlying counties and virtual tours could help with that. John Schroeder continued on this thought by saying the outreach potentials are very promising.

Kevin continued by telling us that if the tour is broadcast live, people could call in to ask questions and the camera could move to the person responding.

President Arnold shared that since Zoom meetings need to be shorter, we need to discuss meeting places. In the past we did move the meeting places around, but since most of the people coming to the meetings were on at north part of the area, we started just holding the meetings in Stockton. Now with the Zoom potential, the meeting locations are not as important and can be expanded. Jay Solomon said that the Mt. Carroll Extension Office is available.

Alvin Wire suggested surveying the members about their interest in doing virtual or other work for NIFA.

President Arnold stated the need to find a person to coordinate Zoom meetings and work with NIFA Officers, Directors and members to develop agendas as well as coordinating filming, editing, and posting to our web site. John Schroeder said that he is willing to do some things but he is not solid on some of the tech stuff.

Dick Pouzar explained that University of Illinois personnel could be key moderators, although there may be some costs involved. Dick continued saying that we need to make a list of what programs are available now on the webinar or outside meetings. Then we need to get a webinar manager.

President Arnold said that getting back to where we go from here, we can look at the 2020 agenda that we developed and see if we can follow through on any of the tours. He suggested that John Schroeder contact the Abby to see if they would allow a tour with social distancing or if they would prefer to have the tour filmed. If an in person tour is allowed, maybe we could still film it for members who would like to view it online.

Kevn Cahill replied that we need to reach out to our membership to see what they want us to do. Ken Beach stated that the JoDaviess Conservation Foundation has been doing Virtual tours and maybe they would be willing to help us.

President Arnold is planning on writing a letter to all NIFA members and in the letter he will ask for nominations for Officers and Directors and state the responsibilities for those positions. Although Tom Arnold does not wish to continue as President, he did say that he would accept a role as Director.

President Arnold then asked those on the Zoom meeting if they had any suggestions for President. Jerry Misek responded that a person for the President position needs to be knowledgeable of tree species, articulate, and recently retired. He said that Ken Beach would fit that description!

President Arnold then proceeded to set up the next Zoom meeting. He is looking at April 14th and asked if that worked for those present. There were no objections. President Arnold continued by saying that he will get the letter out to the NIFA members in the next 2 weeks and ask for their responses before the April 14th meeting.

President Arnold then mentioned that Brad Petersburg had contacted him and told him that he was in the process of setting up a Woodland Cooperative that favors wildlife management. Brad said that he has several landowners interested in the Cooperative and wanted to get NIFA involved.

Ken Beach told us that he has sent out a 2021 projected budget and brief Treasurer's report. They will be attached to this meeting's minutes.

Before we adjourn, President Arnold asked Ken Beach if anymore has been done about getting NIFA registered as a non profit organization. Ken responded that nothing has been done and that a \$600.00 fee is needed for the application.

Jay Solomon agreed to set up the next Zoom meeting on April 14th at 7:00 pm.

There being no further business, President Arnold called for a motion to adjourn. Ken Beach moved to adjourn. Kevin Cahill seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **2021 Projected Budget**

### **Budget 2021**

#### **Income**

Membership Dues (Includes \$140 for 2020)	N/A
Dinner Income	N/A
Chain Saw Seminar Fees	\$1500
Donations	\$100
Total Income	\$1600

#### **Expense**

##### **Operating expenses**

Postal Expense	\$400
Insurance	\$310
Electronic Payment Fees	\$20
Website/email	\$540
Domain Name	\$25
State Registration	\$10
NFP Federal Application	\$600
Discretionary Expenses	\$200
Chain Saw Training	\$1,000
Dinner Meeting	N/A
Catering/Food	N/A
Room Rental	N/A
Door Prizes	N/A
Total Expenses	\$3105

## **Treasurer's Report**

Bank Balances as of 3/17/21

Checking -- \$3,677.56

60 Month CD (4378) -- \$4,340.66

60 Month CD (1124) -- \$4,646.91

Deposited \$345 last week for renewals (23) mailed to me.

Put their renewals in the system for 2022.