



## **Northwest Illinois Forestry Association**

Minutes of June 2, 2021

President Ken Beach called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Officers and Directors present were; Ken Beach, Tom Arnold, Jay Solomon, Kevin Cahill, Dick Pouzar, John Schroeder, and Jerry Misek.

President Beach asked if there were any additions or corrections to the May 5th Zoom meeting minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Tom Arnold moved to approve the minutes. John Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dick Pouzar volunteered to help Ken Beach with the duties of the Treasurer. Treasurer Beach reported that the current balance in the checking account as of May 29th to be \$3,305 and the balance in the 60 month CD is \$4360. That CD is earning interest at the rate of 1.85% and comes due this September. The second CD has a balance of \$4671 and is earning interest at the rate of 2.1% and it matures in February 2025. He also noted that we will be drawing down the Treasury this year due to waiving the 2021 dues payments.

Kevin Cahill moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Tom Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Membership Report**

Dick Pouzar presented a membership report and stated that the membership is stable. Mr. Pouzar's full report is attached to these minutes.

Tom Sleeter has volunteered to be the Membership Chairman and will be included in future Zoom meetings.

## **Old Business**

President Beach commented that the NIFA website is very well documented and we need to encourage more people to use the website.

In regards to the Treasurer position, President Beach said that we need to keep looking for someone to fill that position and hopefully by the end of the year. He continued that when he visits the Conservation offices he will talk about the Treasurer position and maybe get some interest in filling that position.

Tom Arnold suggested that the vacant office should be noted in upcoming news articles.

President Beach has talked with Brad Petersburg about the Woodland Wildlife Cooperative. Mr Petersburg said to hold off on NIFA's letter of support until he makes the next request for grant funds. He will stay in touch with President Beach.

President Beach discussed the application for the "Not for Profit" status of NIFA. He has made a few changes to update the application that Dick Pouzar had completed and will review it one more time then send it off to other Officers for their review. The application fee has already been approved.

Discussion then went to the letter to be sent to the NRCS and SWCD offices. President Beach has made a few changes to the letter and asked those present about sending the letter by email or by the Postal Service. It was decided to use the email approach and use the BCC option to not transmit the addresses of all of the recipients. Tom Arnold volunteered to call the local offices and get the email addresses.

President Beach then turned the attention to firming up the 2021 tour and meeting agenda. The March, April, and May events have been cancelled.

President Beach asked John Schroeder about the tour of New Mellery Abby's forest. John has set June 12th as the tour date with the 3 hour tour starting at 9:00 AM. Dick Pouzar suggested that NIFA brochures should be handed out at the tour. Tom Arnold replied that he has some of the brochures. President Beach said he has only 16 brochures. Kevin Cahill volunteered to bring brochures with him to the tour. In regards to the weather conditions, President Beach said that he has a 10 X 10 foot pop up canopy that could be used for the tour.

Next, Jerry Misek reported that the Lundquist tour is scheduled for Saturday, July 3rd, starting at 1:00 PM. The tour will feature demonstrations on shearing conifer trees for Christmas trees and discuss pest controls for the trees.

Tom Arnold has contacted Greg Hopton to get arrangements for the August tour of the Clinton Sawmill Museum. The August Saturdays that are available for the tour are the 7th, 14th, and

28th. After discussion, it was decided to plan on the the 7th for the tour starting at 10:00 AM. There will be a \$6.00 admission charge per person for the tour. Jerry Misek was asked to send a copy of the minutes to Greg Hopton.

President Beach is working with the JoDavieess Conservation Foundation about setting up a tree identification tour at Schurmeier Forest. The tour will be in September (but not close to Labor Day) with the date yet to be chosen. John Schroeder suggested involving the youth in this tour. President Beach agreed with that suggestion and will work with JDCF to get the youth involved. The JDCF also plans to live record the tour through Facebook as well as record the session for future viewing.

Tom Arnold reported that he has scheduled the Chain Saw Safety classes with Jay Hayek for September 20-24. The classes will be back to back sessions for Level 1 and Level 2. Possibly a Level 3 class will also be held. Mr. Arnold volunteered to host a couple of the classes at his Tree Farm and Kevin Cahill volunteered to hold one class at his Tree Farm. The costs for the classes will be \$70.00 for non-members and \$60.00 for NIFA members, which is a great value for the training.

The final tour of the year will be held October 2nd with, Cody Widner, Forester, with the Wild Turkey Federation. Cody will set up the tour location and itinerary.

In March 2022, the Annual Dinner meeting will be scheduled on a Tuesday evening that does not conflict with the Tri-State Forestry Conference.

President Beach then called for any further old business.

Tom Arnold questioned where to hold the winter business meetings and if they should be Zoom meetings or in person meetings. Dick Pouzar suggested that the December meeting should be an in person meeting because of the election of Officers and Directors. President Beach thought maybe we could have meetings at the Stockton Library and broad cast them through Zoom. He will check with Librarian, Kim Scace, to see if that is possible.

Tom Arnold also reported that he received a thank you message from Kim Scace for the NIFA purchasing books for the Library.

## **New Business**

It was suggested that President Beach provide a NIFA sign to each of the 6 Conservation Offices that he will visit this summer. Dick Pouzar stated that there should be about 20 signs left, but he did not know where they are. He thought that Keith Arnold may have them. Tom Arnold will check with Keith to see if he has the NIFA signs.

President Beach said that the next business meeting meeting will be held Tuesday, November 9th. It may be at the Stockton Public Library or a Zoom meeting. He will check with the the Library to see if they have the ability to host a Zoom meeting.

The December 14th meeting will be at the Stockton Public Library at 7:00 PM and will feature elections of Officers and Directors.

President Beach asked if there was any other business to be discussed. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Arnold moved to adjourn. Kevin Cahill seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

### **NIFA Membership Status**

**June 1, 2021**

|                         |     |        |                         |
|-------------------------|-----|--------|-------------------------|
| Current Members         | 118 |        |                         |
| Email                   | 90  | 76 %   |                         |
| Mail                    | 28  | 24 %   |                         |
| Complementary           | 20  |        | (SWCD, NRCS, IDNR,NWTF) |
| Paid Dues in 2021       | 34  | 29 %   |                         |
| New Members in 2021     | 3   |        |                         |
| New Members in 2020     | 4   |        |                         |
| Failed to Renew in 2020 | 5   | Net -1 |                         |
| New Members in 2019     | 10  |        |                         |
| Failed to Renew in 2019 | 6   | Net +4 |                         |
| New Members in 2018     | 2   |        |                         |
| Failed to Renew in 2018 | 8   | Net -6 |                         |

