



Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of January 25, 2022

President Ken Beach introduced NIFA Director, John Schroeder at 7:03 pm. Mr Schroeder presented a program on Carbon Credits for the small forest owner.

He started by explaining the terminology used in the carbon credits field. He discussed the 3 main businesses in buying carbon credits from forest owners: NCX, Core Carbon, and Forest Carbon Works.

For each of these businesses, he explained what their requirements were for participating in their programs and the approximate payments they can make.

For a complete outline of Mr. Schroeder's presentation visit the NIFA website at:
www.nifatrees.org

Mr. Schroeder concluded that the carbon market is in a developing phase now and he recommends forest owners to wait a few years for the carbon market to stabilize before signing up for their programs. He also expects that the prices paid will increase for the carbon sequestered in the forests.

President Beach then called the regular business meeting to order at 8:03 pm. Officers and Directors present were: Ken Beach, Alvin Wire, Tom Arnold, Jay Solomon, John Schroeder, Kevin Cahill, Dick Pouzar, and Jerry Misek.

President Beach then recommended adding three more items to the meeting agenda: insurance coverage, audit report, and budget review.

President Beach asked if there were any additions or corrections to the December 14th meeting minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes. John Schroeder moved to approve the minutes. Tom Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Beach reported that the current balance in the checking account as of January 10th to be \$3,114.38. He also reported that CD 4378 has a balance of \$4,394.62 and CD 1124 has a balance of \$4,728.56. The total finances are \$12,237.56

Treasurer Beach continued with items not reflected in the above report. They were \$159.09 postage expenses and \$195.00 income from memberships with more membership payments coming in each day.

Dick Pouzar moved to approve the Treasurer's report. John Schroeder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer Beach then presented the 2021 NIFA Treasurer's Report that shows all expenses and expenditures for the year and compares the amounts with the two previous years. (The complete report is attached to these minutes.)

Dick Pouzar moved to accept this report. Tom Arnold seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer Beach then presented the proposed budget for 2022. He explained his reasoning for the amounts in the different categories (The complete 2022 budget is attached to the minutes.)

Dick Pouzar moved to accept the proposed budget. Tom Arnold seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer Beach then asked if this would be the right time to discuss the audit of the NIFA finances. The group agreed that it was an appropriate time. Kevin Cahill reported that his wife, Sharon, will perform the audit at no charge to the organization. Mr. Cahill continued that she will need the monetary documentations to complete the audit. Treasurer Beach said that he would provide the information and offered to meet with Sharon Cahill to answer any questions that she may have. The audit will be completed before the next business meeting in February.

Treasurer Beach then explained that he had registered the 990N Tax form. It appears that no taxes are levied if the finances of the organization remain under \$50,000.

Tom Arnold moved that Mr. Beach be approved as the registered agent for this tax form. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer Beach then reminded the group that he is still acting as the Treasurer, but this position needs to be filled by another person.

Membership Report

Tom Sleeter was unable to attend this meeting, but he did submit a membership report. His report showed a total of 164 members with 51 that have lapsed. There is one new member and 25 renewals.

Dick Pouzar reminded the group that those members who paid dues in 2021 are considered paid for 2022 since we waived the dues payments for 2021. So those people are not included in the present renewal numbers.

Old Business

President Beach then directed the group to move on to the calendar of planned events with the member noted who is responsible for arranging 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) This meeting will be delayed until late February.

March---Annual Dinner meeting with a featured speaker on Forest Management Plans. IDNR Forester, Paul Bane will be the speaker on March 29th. (Tom Arnold) Since there are still concerns about the COVID, the meeting may be delayed until summer and done in an outside environment. The final decision about this will be made at the February meeting.

April--- Possible forest burn demonstration with Brad Petersburg's group (Brad Petersburg) Since the burn is weather dependent, a certain date can't be set.

May---Tree planting tour with a Consulting Forester (either Kevin Oetken or Luke Koepp) leading the tour at his choice of a location and date. (Tom Arnold)

June---Consulting Forester (Kevin Oetken) describing Forest Management Practices at the Ken Beach property, (Tom Arnold)

July--- Tour of the John and Janie Dollinger Christmas Tree Farm on July 9th with a rain date of July 16th. (Jerry Misek)

August--- Tour of the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison (Jerry Misek) The tour is possible only if the COVID restrictions are lifted by August. The Lab is not presently doing any tours.

September---Tour of the Greg Hopton Tree Farm showing recent and past tree plantings as well as forest management (Greg Hopton) This may be moved to August if the Forest Products Laboratory can't do tours.

September--- Tree Identification tour at Oakdale Nature Preserve on Sept 10th (Ken Beach)

October--- CWD update with new CWD Program Manager or Jeff Horn, IDNR Wildlife Biologist (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 June and August with Jay Hayek as the instructor. (Tom Arnold)

New Business

The Annual Dinner Meeting planning is very much up in the air due to the COVID situation. However, if it is held in March, it was decided to ask for a "better" meal and charge \$20 per person. Non members and late registrations will be charged \$25 and at the door people will be charged \$30. These charges reflect the uncertainties of paying for extra meals just in case more people show up.

President Beach reported that he met with an agent from Country Financial about the NIFA insurance. Country Financial has dropped coverage for communicable diseases. They also recommend certificates of insurance from the 4H group serving a meal and the Church for holding the meeting. Even with these "new" developments, they are raising the premium for their insurance. However, with a reduced number of NIFA members, there is also some reduction of premium costs.

Dick Pouzar informed the group that he has been posting related Forestry items to the web site and asked if anyone has any objections to that, He continued saying that no advertising is in these articles. No one objected to the postings.

President Beach stated that the February meeting will also be delayed and February 22nd is the proposed meeting date,

President Beach asked if there was any more business to be discussed. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Tom Arnold moved to adjourn the meeting. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

