



Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of February 28, 2022

President Ken Beach introduced Richard Benning at 7:02 pm. Mr. Benning presented a program on Northwestern Illinois Woodland Birds. He discussed and showed photos of birds common to our woodlands. He put emphasis on the importance of woodlands to migrating birds. Several visitors were present in the audience as well as several people on Zoom for Mr. Bennings comments.

After a brief recess, President Beach then called the regular business meeting to order at 8:05 pm.

Officers and Directors present were: Ken Beach, Alvin Wire, Tom Arnold, Jay Solomon, Kevin Cahill, Dick Pouzar, and Jerry Misek.

President Beach asked if there were any additions to tonight's agenda. There were none.

President Beach asked if there were any additions or corrections to the January 25th meeting minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes. Tom Arnold moved to approve the minutes as sent. Kevin Cahill seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Acting Treasurer Beach reported that the current balance in the checking account as of February 10th to be \$2,091.75. He also reported that CD 4378 has a balance of \$4,397.05 and CD 1124 has a balance of \$4,736.99. The total finances are \$11,225.79.

Treasurer Beach continued with items not reflected in the above report. They were expenses of \$10.00 for Illinois Secretary of State and \$260.00 of income from 13 memberships and 2 donations.

The discussion then moved on to the audit report. Acting Treasurer Beach met with Sharon Cahill to assist with the audit. Mrs. Cahill was concerned about the lack of details from money coming in from membership renewals and from the chain saw safety classes. She suggested doing a more thorough accounting of who paid what. With that in mind she also suggested waiting until next year to do the complete audit. Her suggestions were accepted.

Acting Treasurer Beach then informed the group that he had submitted the 990N Tax form.

President Beach then turned the attention of the group to the open Treasurer's position.

He said that he found a possible candidate, namely Kevin Cahill.

Jay Solomon nominated Kevin Cahill for the office of Treasurer.

Tom Arnold moved to close nominations and elect the nominee. Alvin Wire seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Kevin Cahill accepted the office and said that he will work with Ken Beach in transitioning the records and getting the necessary forms signed.

Membership Report

Tom Sleeter was not at this meeting.

President Beach reported that NIFA is now at 85 active members according to his count.

Old Business

President Beach then reviewed the year's agenda and asked for any updates.

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)

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) The meeting will be held

at the Mt. Carroll Church of God with the 4H group providing the meal. Tom Arnold will provide the meats for the meal at his cost. The meal ticket costs will be \$20 for members and guests, \$25 for non-members and \$30 for walk-ins.

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, Kevin Oetken, 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) The date is not yet confirmed.

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 tour may be moved to August or October due to other meeting arrangements.

September--- Tree Identification tour at Oakdale Nature Preserve on Sept 10th (Ken Beach) The tour will be co- sponsored with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation.

October--- CWD update with new CWD Program Manager or Jeff Horn, IDNR Wildlife Biologist (Ken Beach) This meeting date may be changed to accommodate other tours.

November--- Business Meeting- Nov. 8th

December--- Business Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors-Dec.13th

Special Events--- Chain Saw Safety Classes for various levels in May with Jay Hayek as the instructor. (Tom Arnold) There may be sessions held in 2 different weeks due to the increased interest in these Safety programs.

New Business

The Annual Dinner Meeting was discussed since a decision needs to be made as to whether to go ahead with the inside meeting or do an outside meeting during the summer. The pros and cons of both options were discussed and the consensus was to go ahead with the inside meeting on March 29th.

President Beach said that he has received the insurance bill for NIFA from Country Financial. The coverages were listed the same as previous years, so did not reflect the lowered

membership numbers. President Beach called the insurance agent to question why the changes were not made. The agent was surprised by this and replied that he will discuss this with the main office. In the meantime, it was agreed to pay the insurance premium and maybe get a refund once the membership numbers are lowered.

Tom Arnold asked to discuss some options for the Chain Saw Safety meetings. He has been in contact with Jay Hayek and Mr. Hayek prefers to hold the sessions in May this year. Tom asked about possible locations to hold the sessions. The options brought up were: Oakdale Nature Preserve, Schurmeier Forest, Kevin Cahill woodlands and the JDCF location used last year. Tom will make the arrangements with the sites selected.

Mr. Arnold also talked about the number of classes to be held. Due to previous interest, he thought we need to plan for two level 1 and level 2 classes. These classes will be held in 2 consecutive days. He also wants to add an advanced class session or two. Then staying in line with the previous discussion about audit requirements, Tom suggested that we work with Wild Apricot to have the participants of the classes pay for their sessions on line with credit cards. The group agreed.

Jay Solomon informed the group that work is still going on about having a Tri- State Forestry Conference at Palisades Park near Savanna. The planned date for the conference is May 21st and the sessions will be held outdoors.

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. Kevin Cahill seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

