



Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of February 7, 2023

The meeting started with a panel discussion on solar energy at 7:00 pm.

President Beach introduced representatives from 3 solar energy companies and also introduced a customer of each company.

Each of the company representatives were given 5 minutes to explain their companies. Following the representatives, a customer from each of the companies talked about their experiences with obtaining the solar energy. They were given 3 minutes to discuss their situation to an audience of 37 people.

Dick Pouzar was then called upon to talk about the policy of JoCarroll Energy for people who did not want to erect solar panels but wanted to get involved with the solar farms that JoCarroll operates.

After the panel discussions were completed, President Beach opened up the floor for questions from the audience. Many questions and concerns were relayed.

After the solar energy discussions were finished, President Beach called for a brief recess before the business meeting.

President Beach called the business meeting to order at 8:20 pm. Officers present were Ken Beach, Alvin Wire, Kevin Cahill, Dick Pouzar, and Jerry Misek. Directors present were Tom Sleeter, Tom Arnold, Greg Hopton, and Wes Hepker.

President Beach asked if there were any additions to the meeting agenda. Hearing none, he asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the January 10 business meeting. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes. Kevin Cahill moved to approve the minutes. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Cahill gave a detailed report on the financial activities for the past year. His report is attached to the minutes.

Treasurer Cahill also reported that he has received the bill from Jay Hayek for last year's chain saw safety classes. He also asked if there will be any big changes associated with the Annual Dinner Meeting. It is expected for the costs to be in line with last year's costs.

He also explained the deficits posted in his report for the last 2 years were COVID related.

Tom Arnold moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Membership Report

Tom Sleeter reported that NIFA currently has 165 members with 20 of them being complimentary. He has also received 76 renewals and one new member.

Mr. Sleeter questioned if we should continue with offering complimentary memberships. Discussion followed and it was brought up that some of those receiving complimentary memberships renewed as dues paying members. It was decided to continue, which means that officers and directors may submit one complimentary membership to a forest interested person. That membership is for one year. Persons submitting the complimentary membership need to put their name also on the form.

Dick Pouzar announced that new membership brochures have been printed. There were 500 printed and Dick passed out the brochures to those who wanted them.

Old Business

President Beach started the discussion on the 2023 meeting and tour agenda.

January 10th---Guest Speaker of Tom Walsh, past president of the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) to discuss the role of IFA and its goals and how NIFA can utilize or partner with IFA. He could also talk about the role of the Illinois Forestry Development Council.

February 7th--- Panel discussion of solar energy options. A forum is planned with 3 or 4 solar panel providers and 3 or 4 users with recent installations.

Ken Beach and Wes Hepker will contact the panelists with the goal of 5 minute presentations from the providers and 3 minute presentations from the users.

March 14th---Possible Zoom business meeting to make arrangements for the Annual Dinner Meeting and any other open event items.

March 28th--- Annual Dinner Meeting with Kevin Oetken as featured speaker discussing archeology and showing his findings near our area. (Jerry Misek) President Beach will make contacts about a meeting place and caterers for the meal.

April---Woodland Burns with Jake Pulfer as the leader. This event will hopefully be held the first week of April with short notice because very specific weather conditions need to be met for a proper burn to occur. (Ken Beach)

May--- Tree planting on a DNR site with Jeff Horn as the leader at a location to be determined. (Tom Arnold and Brad Petersburg)

June 10th--- Sawmill Museum tour in Clinton Iowa encouraging attendance of the youth. Possibly see old circle sawmill in operation. (Ken Beach)

July 21st---Forest Products Lab tour at 1:00pm emphasizing attendance of youth. (Jerry Misek)

August 19th--- Wooded Wonderland tour with John Eisbach as the leader. (Tom Arnold)

September 9th-- Tree Identification tour with Ken Beach and Pam Johnson as leaders. A Forestry related contest involving youth will be held prior to the tour. (Ken Beach)

September---Second event with a Stihl representative to discuss and demonstrate chain saws and other outdoor equipment with emphasis on safety. Possibly add a health person to talk about injuries and how to treat. This will be an outdoor event in a park shelter area. (Ken Beach and Ted Jackson)

October --- Open with possible meeting or tour of the Abbey with John Schroeder as leader. (Ken Beach and John Schroeder) This could be a presentation following a winter business meeting.

November--- Business meeting

December--- Business meeting and election of Officers and Directors

Special Events---Chain saw safety classes. Tom Arnold will arrange the sessions and locations and contact an instructor. Classes will be scheduled between August and October. Mr. Arnold will also check to see if a session on battery powered saws is feasible.

New Business

Dick Pouzar stated that the annual prices for our web site managed by Wild Apricot has risen from \$640 to \$810 and wondered if we need to look for other web site providers. Discussion followed and it was pointed out that Wild Apricot does provide the services NIFA needs. Then it was also suggested that we seek a grant to cover these expenses.

President Beach proposed splitting the donated money (\$500) for honoring Walter Peaslee between the Stockton and Galena Libraries with \$150 going to each for the purchase of Forestry related books and the remainder of the donation going to fund the youth Forestry contest.

Tom Sleeter said that he had visited former IDNR Forester, Ralph Eads, in the Mt Carroll nursing home. Ralph has been there about one year. Ralph's wife, Linda, plans to donate some of Ralph's Forestry books as door prizes at the Annual Dinner Meeting. President Beach then noted other door prize donations and asked if anyone else wanted to donate something.

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 9:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

Attachment 1

2022 NIFA Treasurer's Report 2/7/22

Assets	2022	2021	2020
CD 60 months 0.65% to 9/14/2026	4423	4395	4334
CD 61 months 2.1%, to 2/21/2025	4828	4729	4639
Checking	4396	3114	3244
Unpaid estimated obligations	-2713		
Total Assets	10934	12238	12217
Income & Expense	2022	2021	2020
Income			
Membership Dues	1200	720	1905
Dinner Income	815	0	0
Chainsaw Seminar Fees	2320	2580	0
Interest from CDs	140	166	184
Donations	105	20	12
Total Income	4580	3486	2101
Expense			
Operational Expenses			
Postal Mailings	314	148	80
Insurance	163	441	304
Electronic Payment Fees	92	9	112
Website/Email	648	648	540
Domain Name	21	21	21
State Registration	10	10	10
Not for profit application fee	0	600	0
Donations	0	503	0
Discretionary Expenses	0	376	120
Chainsaw training costs	2713	2346	0
2021 Chainsaw carryover	1673		
Dinner Meeting			
Catering/Food	810	0	0
Room Rental	150	0	0
Door Prizes	108	0	0
Total Expense	6702	5102	1187
Income Less Expense	-2122	-1616	914

