

**MINUTES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION (IFA)  
CONFERENCE CALL  
FEBRUARY 22, 2008**

Present on the call were Ray Herman, Bob Sloan, J. B. Gates, Kurt Bobsin and Dave Gillespie.

The committee discussed alternatives to Sarah Dillman leaving the AISWCD, and the impact on the IFA. Sarah would like to continue to work for the IFA. Bob Sloan suggested moving the duties to the Marshall-Putnam SWCD. It was decided before a decision is made, we should discuss the situation with Rich Nichols since it is with the Association that the IFA has an agreement regarding secretarial duties.

Membership was discussed. Dave Gillespie reported that currently the IFA has 530 members for 2008. Letters to delinquent 2007 members will go out next week. A list of the delinquent members will be sent to the Board for possible individual contacts.

- Ray Herman will send a letter to the RC&D's regarding members.
- Bob Sloan will review contacts with the Walnut Council, Tree Farms, and other such groups regarding members.
- Kurt Bobsin will send the list of timber buyers to the membership committee.

The Legislative Committee will meet at 9 a.m. on Monday Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> at the AISWCD headquarters in Springfield. The IFA lobby day is scheduled for April 9, 2008. The Exec. Committee should reach out to the Directors to encourage them to contact their Legislators. Each member of the Exec. Committee lives in one of the IFA Regions, and therefore should coordinate with their respective Directors to accomplish this task.

The Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference on March 8, 2008. Ray Herman is planning on going. Bob Sloan will be there working. Dave Gillespie moved that the IFA pay the registration fee as an exhibitor. Bob Sloan seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dave Gillespie moved that IFA pay for the new IFA table skirts, \$452.00 plus postage. J. B. Gates seconded the motion. Motion carried. J. B. Gates moved that Ray Herman's fee to attend a meeting in Olney - \$25.00 – be paid by the IFA. Dave Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Distribution of the IFA Newsletter was discussed. It was suggested the newsletter should go to, in addition of members, Legislators, Partners, District Foresters, President of the IL Farm Bureau and its Directors, and the NWIFA President. Sending the newsletter by e-mail was discussed, but no definite agreement was reached. The cost of advertising in the newsletter was discussed. We will find out what other groups charge for advertising in their newsletters. The IFA could advertise in other organization's newsletters.

The Exec. Committee has not heard anything from Stephanie Brown regarding our position on Dixon Springs or the leadership conference. Dave Gillespie will attempt to contact her. As potential people to attend the conference, Dave Gillespie will identify the members who said they would be willing to serve on a committee so letters of invitation to the conference can be

sent to them. We can also invite people from other, partner organizations who will be potential leaders in forestry in Illinois.

Building partnerships was discussed. Ray Herman went to a recent IAA meeting and made some good contacts. He and Bob Sloan attended a recent meeting of the NWIFA. It was a good meeting. There is an interest in establishing a bio-fuel power plant in that area.

Under other issues – J. B. Gates expressed his desire for the newsletter to go out more often than quarterly. Kurt Bobsin said it was suggested the IFA give John Phelps, for his retirement, a gift certificate to a local Carbondale restaurant and a Life Membership in the IFA.

The next Exec. Committee meeting will be March 20, 2008 at Champaign at 10 a.m. Ray Herman will see if we can meet at the NRCS State Office.

Respectively submitted,

David A. Gillespie, Secretary