

MINUTES
ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION (IFA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JANUARY 26, 2008
Ray Herman's Home

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

Present were:

Ray Herman	Joe Newcomb	Rollie Spaniol	Beth Riley
Bob Sloan	J. B. Gates	Mike Kiefer	Kurt Bobsin
Mary Duff	Susan Romano	Lee Rife	Debbie Jones
Roy Bailey	Paula Purdue	Dave Gillespie	

Guests were Mary Kiefer and Jack Riley.

The minutes of the November 7, 2007 BOD's meeting were reviewed. Susan Romano moved that the minutes be accepted. The motion was seconded by Joe Newcomb. The motion carried.

The minutes of the December 19, 2007 Exec. Committee were reviewed. J. B. Gates moved that the minutes be accepted. Lee Rife seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dave Gillespie reported that as of today the IFA has 454 members so far for 2008. Of those 33 were Family memberships, 12 were Business members, 25 were Not-for-Profit members, 7 were Life members, 2 were Student members, 8 were sustaining, 1 was an honorary member, and the remaining were Individual members.

- Dave also reported that 58.6% of our 2008 members have given us their e-mail address, and 38.5% were new members.
- It was decided that Dave should send the 2008 membership database once each month to the BOD's.
- As suggested at the last BOD's meeting, Regional Directors should make an effort to encourage District Foresters who are not members of the IFA to join the IFA.

Bob Sloan presented the Treasurer's report. The current balance in the IFA checking account is \$30,438.48. J. B. Gates moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Lee Rife seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The subject of applying for grants was discussed. J. B. Gates has a person living near him that will help him write grants. BOD members should suggest to J. B. any possible sources of grants if they are aware of any.

- Kurt Bobsin said there is grant money available to do habitat restoration projects.
- Paula Purdue suggested posting a list of possible sources of grant money on our website.

Reports –

Regional

Mary Duff and Debbie Jones' Region 1 report was in the last IFA newsletter. They will be working on having meetings by county.

Susan Romano and Lee Rife's Region 2 report was in the last IFA newsletter. They are planning a Region 2 meeting in Springfield on February 16, 2008.

Technical Committee

Kurt Bobsin reported that the Issue Paper on the Dixon Springs situation will be done through the effort of Stephanie Brown and Jay Hayek. J. B. Gates reported that the Chancellor of the U of I and the Dean of the Ag. both said they will support keeping the Dixon Springs Ag. Center open. Kurt will continue to work with Stephanie and Jay on this Issue Paper. All of us should encourage meetings and other activities to be held at Dixon Springs. Debbie Jones suggested combining family activities with meetings to be held there to make such meeting more attractive. **Susan Romano said she would contact SIU and U of I to see if there is a way to write research projects at Dixon Springs.**

Annual Meeting

Rollie Spaniol and Roy Bailey from Region 3 will host the next Annual Meeting. It was suggested to have a one (1) day meeting. The Danville area and Ken Konsis with the Vermillion County Conservation District was suggested as a possible location. Joe Newcomb said the thing we missed at the last meeting was the local politicians. After some discussion, late August – early September was thought to be the best time to schedule the meeting. **Rollie and Roy will work on a more definitive date by the next BOD's meeting.**

Legislative Committee

Susan Romano reported the Committee met in Springfield at the AISWCD State Office on January 10, 2008 to discuss our lobbying efforts and legislative bills of interest. An agreement was signed for \$700.00 per month with Paula and Jenni Purdue. The IFA is grateful for their work this past year initiating contacts, providing information, and pursuing the passage of SB 17.

Current bills being considered in the Illinois General Assembly will be monitored. Paula and Jenni will review the bills and send a condensed list of bills that may be of interest to the IFA to the BOD's for their review. After review, it will be decided if the IFA will take a position on the bill, remain neutral, or to keep the bill under observation. The IFA will continue support for increased district forester positions in Illinois through meetings with the IDNR administration, and with a possible meeting with Senator Durbin concerning federal emerald ash borer funding for IDNR forestry staff. Proposed administrative rules for the Illinois Conservation Stewardship program are out. They are a result of SB 17. They are available at <http://dnr.state.il.us/legal/Proposed/2580-Emergency.pdf>

Susan also sent via e-mail to the BOD's the Committee's Legislative Action Plan for 2008. (Copy attached to the official minutes of this meeting.)

Paula Purdue reviewed with the Board some of the bills pending in the legislature from the list she and Jenni had prepared for the Board's review and comment. There was further discussion on how to handle this list. The Committee with Paula and Jenni's assistance will select proposed legislation that may have an impact on forests and forestry in Illinois. They will send this list to the BOD for comment. If a Board member states an opinion on a bill, he/she should state the reason for their opinion. The Committee and Paula will then take action on behalf of the BOD's and the IFA.

Kurt Bobsin reported that the proposed changes in the Illinois Forestry Development Act have been introduced as HB 4549. All of the proposed changes are there except the proposed change from 5 to 10 acres as the minimum acreage requirement for eligibility. It was thought that this change might be controversial if included in the original bill. The change can be added as an amendment at a later date. The Board discussed the proposed change from a minimum of 5 acres to 10 acres. The consensus of the BOD's was to support the bill, but remain neutral on the minimum acreage change.

Partnership Tree

Ray Herman will write a "definition" of a partnership. Ray also needs committee chairs for the Publicity, Membership, Partnerships, and Plan-of-Work committees.

Forestry Leadership Training Institute

Stephanie Brown joined the group via speaker phone to discuss this topic. Funding for this proposal was granted by the Illinois Forestry Development Council. Stephanie proposes to hold two (2) training sessions, one in S. IL at Dixon Springs Ag. Center, and the other in N. IL at a site to be determined. She is considering an early spring date for the S. IL session, on a Tuesday or Thursday. For the N. IL session she is considering a late August, early September date. **Debbie Jones will check into the possible location of the N. IL session at the Will/S. Cook SWCD. All Board members are encouraged to think of possible alternative locations for the training sessions and potential**

participants in the workshops. They should let Stephanie know within a month of any information regarding locations.

Stephanie agreed to take the lead in drafting the position paper on the situation regarding Dixon Springs. She will work with Jay Hayek. **Stephanie will call Jay and try to get the draft done within three (3) weeks.**

Proposed 2008 IFA Budget

J. B. Gates presented the proposed IFA budget for 2008, which contained reimbursement of \$.14 per mile for mileage while on official IFA business. After discussion, Susan Romano moved that the budget for 2008 be accepted. Joe Newcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mary Duff moved to direct the Treasurer to deposit into a CD or a savings account those funds derived from the Life Membership dues. Lee Rife seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Copy attached to official copy of minutes of this meeting.)

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

After the meeting the Exec. Committee met and agreed to meet via conference call at 9 a.m. on Friday, February 22, 2008.

Respectively submitted,

David A. Gillespie, Secretary