

MINUTES
ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION (IFA)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
December 19, 2007

The meeting began at 1 p.m. at the AISWCD State Office in Springfield. Present were: Ray Herman, Lee Rife, Dave Gillespie, and J. B. Gates and Bob Sloan by teleconference.

J. B. Gates will have a draft budget prepared for review 1 – 2 weeks prior to the scheduled Board of Director's meeting on January 26, 2008. Committees should send their budget figures to J. B. regarding their needs for 2008.

Networking – The IFA and the IL Forestry Development Council should join together to sponsor a Forestry Summit that includes all groups and organizations involved in forestry in Illinois.

- IFA would ask for their financial and/or support as an organization to contact legislators and/or to work through our lobbyist.
- IFA needs their support on our issues.
- These organizations might have their own issues that we could support and therefore add to our issue agenda.
- Ray will pursue this idea with the Council.

IL AG Roundtable – In addition to Susan Romano, Bob Sloan, Ray Herman, and Dave Gillespie will attend.

The IFA has again been invited to participate in the IL AG Legislative Day. Dave Gillespie moved that the IFA pay the \$150.00 registration fee. The motion was seconded by Bob Sloan. Motion carried.

The contracts with the AISWCD will be approved at the next IFA Board of Director's meeting.

Conservation Stewardship Law (SB-17)

- Ray Herman and Dave Gillespie met with Mike Mason, Wade Conn, and Shawn Wilcockson of the IDNR this morning to discuss IDNR's implementation of this program.
- Dave will attempt to add, or see that it's added, an announcement and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) on the IFA's website.

Dave Gillespie will present the proposal regarding a forestry leadership workshop by Stephanie Brown at the Council's next meeting on January 16, 2008.

John Phelps plans to retire from his position as Chair of the SIUC Forestry Department at the end of this school year. As he has been a great supporter and proponent of forestry in Illinois, the IFA should present John with an award upon his retirement.

- Lee Rife reported that John has sent his letter of resignation to the Illinois Wood Products Association.
- Lee Rife and Dave Gillespie will work together to compose an appropriate statement for a plaque that will be presented to John.

Committee and Committee Chairs –

- Ray Herman will send to the Board the drafts of the duties of committees and Directors and ask for their comments and/or revisions on these duties.
- We need to think of and/or encourage members to step up and become leaders in the IFA.
- Each committee should develop a “Plan of Action” for 2008.
- Betty Joubert has indicated she plans to retire from the NRCS next year (April, 2008) and will no longer be IFA’s Newsletter/Publicity Committee Chair.

E-mail IFA’s Newsletter –

- We should look into the possibility of sending our newsletter via e-mail.
- Dave will check with other organizations as to their cost for ads in their newsletters.

Pilot Volunteer Counties –

- Ray will work on establishing a pilot county in each IFA Region in which volunteer IFA members will assist the local District Forester. He will, in particular, work on establishing Crawford County as such a pilot county in IFA Region 3.
- Volunteers in each county could also get together to help each other with forestry work.
- We will sort our membership database by county to see how many members are in each county.
- Ray will send information he develops to the Exec. Committee who can work on similar counties in the other IFA Regions.

Grant Writing – J. B. Gates will work with John Schuller on this project after the first of the year.

Bob Sloan reported that a local District Forester asking for IFA, Tree Farmers, etc. to volunteer to look over his files and make recommendations.

Bob Sloan said the NW IL Forestry Association is planning their annual meeting on March 18, 2008, and has requested our assistance to stuff envelopes for this meeting. Dave Gillespie moved that IFA do so. Seconded by J. B. Gates. Motion carried.

Bob Sloan reported that in Carroll County an organization is wanting to establish a bio-mass power plant and wants endorsements. Bob will send an article to Betty Joubert for inclusion in the newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

David A. Gillespie, Secretary