

**Illinois Forestry Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Ballard Nature Center
November 7, 2007**

President Ray Herman called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m.

Present were: J.B. Gates, Ray Herman, Dave Gillespie, Kurt Bobsin, Beth Riley, Bob Sloan, Roy Bailey, Joe Newcomb, Sarah Dillman, and Susan Romano.

Ray Herman welcomed Beth Riley to IFA, and explained she took over for Dan Price as a Director at Large in S. Illinois.

Ray thanked Joe Newcomb for his work on the annual meeting and stated he felt the event was a success but was a little disappointed that there was not a legislator in attendance. Ray thought the roundtable discussions led to fruitful discussion.

Ray stated attendance for quarterly board meetings are usually not great, and wished to schedule board and executive committee meetings before the meeting adjourned. He asked for the board to discuss how to improve meetings later in the agenda.

Ray asked each member to have one action when leaving the meeting today.

Ray stated the board needed to start grooming future board members and a future president. Ray reminded board members that they may turn in mileage for reimbursement for their travel expenses to board meetings. Discussion was held on board involvement and filling empty positions.

Ray stated he felt leadership, lobbying, networking, member services, and growing membership were the five “Targets most Important” or key factors important to IFA. Discussion was held on how to get members to become more active in the organization.

Reports from Officers and Committees

Treasurer

Bob Sloan passed out a banking summary, and stated the checking account balance is \$18,922.46. Bob stated he felt a lobbyist would not be affordable in the future with the current fiscal situation. ***J.B. Gates made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report, seconded by Ray Herman, MCVV.***

Secretary

Minutes were distributed from the previous board meeting, and two executive committee meetings. Discussion was held on how often to distribute the membership list to the board. **Joe Newcomb made a motion to approve the August 17, 2007 minutes with amendment to state Bob Sloan and J.B. Gates were present, seconded by Beth Riley, MCVV.**

Bob Sloan made a motion to approve minutes from September 4, 2007, seconded by J.B. Gates, MCVV.

Joe Newcomb made a motion to approve minutes from October 4, 2007, seconded by Bob Sloan, MCVV.

Technical Support

Kurt Bobsin stated the Technical Advisory Committee met in the weeks previous to the meeting and held discussion on updating the Plan-of-Work, and made a list of tasks to address in 2008 from the Plan-of-Work. Discussion was also held on website changes. Kurt stated he would like to see a lobbyist report on the website, that would be updated monthly, or periodically for the members to view. Kurt stated the event and calendar page needed to be updated and everyone needs to be diligent in getting information on the site. The committee wished to create an archive for past position papers to highlight accomplishments. Other suggestions included an “about us” section and a list of charter members. Another project the Technical Committee will work on include the development of power point presentations on such topics as intermediate cutting, harvest cutting, and invasive species IFA members can use when addressing forest landowners at workshops.

The committee discussed possible position papers on emerald ash borer, urban forestry, Dixon Springs, carbon sequestration, inventory of urban forests, and managing state forest land. The committee felt a position paper on emerald ash borer, and how to handle the wood that is infected would be beneficial. A position paper on urban forestry and community areas was also a goal of the taskforce. Discussion was held on which position papers should be the priority.

Kurt distributed a database of gold and silver Illinois tree farms. He suggested that the IFA host regional meetings to recognize the gold and silver tree farms in their area. He also encouraged the Directors to contact the District Foresters in the area who are not members of the IFA and encourage them to join.

Bob Sloan stated Kathy McTighe informed him 256 plans had been approved for EQIP funding for 2007 during the latest signup period. Kurt stated a regional map that showed IDNR forester location was being developed with a regional director directory and would have contact information by region for use by the IFA.

Annual Meeting

Joe Newcomb stated the final bill was \$2,750 from Rend Lake, and there were 44 attendees. \$1,820 was collected at the event. Dave stated a bill needed to be sent to the Illinois Forestry Development Council for \$800 for their education sponsorship. JB stated he would prepare the bill and Dave agreed to deliver the bill.

Joe stated sessions were structured to deal with current issues. Roundtable discussions produced strengths and weaknesses dealing with IFA. Joe felt the group developed identity at the Annual Meeting, and gained a better understanding of the goals and how to accomplish them. Joe handed out a short article featured in The Carmi Times recently. Discussion was held on the article. \$2,237.63 was a loss on the annual meeting.

Susan Romano arrived at 1:00 p.m.

Discussion was held and determined the Annual Meeting should be held in the month of August, in IFA Region 3.

Guidebook

Ray showed the sample IFA guidebook to the group and explained the sections he wished to include in the guidebook. Discussion was held on items to include.

Legislative Update

Susan stated the current session of legislation was still underway and would probably continue until the next session would begin in January. Paula Purdue joined by speaker phone and reminded the board to work with legislators on fee increases for IDNR. She reminded the board to thank legislators for Senate Bill 17, which was passed. Paula spoke about increasing the real-estate transfer tax with legislators and those funds could be used to fund forestry positions within IDNR. Ray stated after the annual meeting he was approached by a director to prepare a combined thank you that would include information on current issues, Paula stated she would draft that and work with Susan on that issue. It was suggested that Paula develop a plan of work, or a plan of action to help us understand what actions she plans to undertake so as to maintain consistency between Board meetings. Discussion was held on Missouri's conservation tax and the real estate transfer tax and how to develop those taxes, or change how funds are spent in Illinois. Susan Romano will look into Missouri's conservation tax and report to the Board.

Region 2

Region 2 Directors will plan a meeting regarding carbon credits.

Region 3

Region 3 Directors are working on a meeting planned for March.

Region 4

Region 4 Directors have nothing planned for the rest of the calendar year.

Membership Categories

The Board discussed the new membership categories of a Family Membership and Life Membership. **J. B. Gates made the motion that the dues for the Family**

Membership be \$40.00 per year, seconded by Roy Bailey. MCVV

J. B. Gates made the motion that the dues for the Life Membership be \$500.00, that could be made in two installments, six (6) months apart, seconded by Bob Sloan.

MCVV

Proposal by AISWCD regarding certification of forest land for carbon credits

Dave Gillespie reported on the proposal by Rich Nichols of the AISWCD regarding the certification of forest land enrolled for carbon credits on the CCX. He stated the AISWCD would like to enter into an agreement with the IFA in which the IFA would coordinate the certification of tree plantations by consulting foresters who are IFA members on such plantations requesting enrollment in the carbon credits program. Currently there is not an immediate need for certification in that only plantations over 500 acres in size need to be certified by a forester. There are no plantations over that acreage currently pending enrollment. Dave will contact IFA member consulting foresters to see if any are interested in performing this task. Susan Romano said she would be interested in participation in this program.

Targets most Important

Discussion returned to the topic of the Targets most Important, particularly the implementation of SB-17. At the Annual Meeting the IFA determined that the Division of Forest Resources should take the lead to implement SB-17. Ray will write a letter to acting IDNR Director Flood stating IFA's position on this issue. The letter will be reviewed by the Technical Committee prior to sending it to Director Flood.

Proposal to the Illinois Forestry Development Council

As a result of the Annual Meeting, Stephanie Brown wrote a proposal for funding a leadership workshop that will target potential leaders in the IFA and forestry in Illinois. Dave Gillespie will take the proposal to the next meeting of the Council for their consideration.

IFA Dues Renewal Notice

Dave Gillespie showed a draft of the dues renewal notice to be sent to current IFA members. He will send the draft to the Board and Tech. Committee for comment. Notices will go out in late November, early December.

Future Board of Directors Meetings

The next Board meeting will be scheduled at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 26, 2008 at a location to be determined in Champaign. While no date was determined,

the Board meeting following the Champaign meeting will be a conference call meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Actions to be taken:

- Each Board member should determine one thing to accomplish before the next Board meeting.
- Directors should consider hosting a meeting in their respective Region to honor Gold and Silver Tree Farm members.
- Directors should encourage District Forests in their respective who are not IFA members to join the IFA.
- J. B. Gates will prepare a bill to the Illinois Forestry Development Council for our Annual Meeting and send it to Dave Gillespie who will deliver it to Michael Mason.
- Dave Gillespie and Sarah Dillman will continue to work on the IFA Guidebook.
- Paula Purdue should develop a plan of work, or plan of action.
- Ray will write a letter to acting IDNR Director Flood regarding the Division of Forest Resources implementing SB-17, to be reviewed by the Technical Committee.
- Dave Gillespie will take the proposal regarding a forestry leadership workshop to the Illinois Forestry Development Council.
- Dave Gillespie and Sarah Dillman will continue to work on an IFA dues renewal notice to be sent to current IFA members in late November, early December.

Respectively submitted,

David A. Gillespie, Secretary