

MINUTES
IFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MAY 17, 2007
CONFERENCE CALL

The conference call began at 8:30 a.m. Present were Ray Herman, J. B. Gates, Bob Sloan, and Dave Gillespie.

The Exec. Committee discussed the proposed change in the IFA By-Laws regarding when dues are to be paid, and the time period in the months in the current year when dues are paid to grant those members membership status for the next year. Bob Sloan moved that the IFA grant membership status to new members who pay their dues in the months of November and December to be extended membership status in the next IFA fiscal year, (January 1 through December 31). J. B. Gates seconded the motion. The motion carried.

J. B. Gates moved that Article III – Membership and Dues, Section 3, should read, “The annual dues of the Association shall be set by the Board of Directors. Dues are payable in January of each year. Membership in the Association shall be for twelve months accompanied with the appropriate annual dues for the membership category.” Bob Sloan seconded the motion. The motion carried. Dave Gillespie will make the needed correction to the By-Laws, which he will send to the Board of Directors with a copy of these minutes. The Board can then review this proposed change to the By-Laws prior to the next Board meeting and subsequent ratification at the IFA Annual Meeting in October.

The Committee agreed the next Exec. Committee meeting will be held in Springfield at the AISWCD State Office at 10:00 a.m. on June 12, 2007.

Ray Herman reported he is in the process of composing a letter to the IFA members regarding the status of some of the issues the IFA has been working on recently. One thing he will mention in the letter is a member feedback column in the IFA newsletter. This will be a column where members can respond to issues, state something that is on their mind, etc. This will be a regular feature in the newsletter.

Ray Herman has been discussing the possibility of organizations in Illinois, other than the IDNR, who have an interest in forestry employing foresters. Ray will write the appropriate leaders of the NRCS, the AISWCD, the Council of RC&D's, the State Department of Agriculture, and the IDNR inviting them to a meeting at which this topic will be discussed and plans for such employment can begin.

Ray Herman discussed the idea of providing volunteer help for local IDNR District Foresters, since most District Foresters do not have a secretary or technical help due to inadequate funding for these positions. He will work on a pilot project for his local District Forester, and write a proposal to be discussed at the June 12, 2007 Exec. Committee meeting.

The Finance Committee should begin asking for funds from companies and grants for conservation organizations and foundations. Dave will compose a draft a form letter asking for such funds for discussion at the June 12 meeting.

Dave Gillespie will send John Phelps a condolence card from the IFA on the recent passing of John's Father, and express the IFA's appreciation to Sarah Dillman for taking the minutes at the Board of Directors meeting last week.
The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectively submitted,

David A. Gillespie, Secretary
Illinois Forestry Association