

**ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION (IFA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 29, 2006  
BALLARD NATURE CENTER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a. m. by President Ray Herman. Introductions were made.

Present were:

Kurt Bobsin	Stephanie Brown	Joe Newcomb
Roy Bailey	J. B. Gates	Rollie Spaniol
Dan Price	Jay Hayek	Dick Little
Susan Romano	Ray Herman	Debbie Jones
Bob Sloan	Dave Gillespie	

Absent were Directors Mary Duff and Lee Rife, Director at Large Mike Kiefer and Technical Advisor Kathy McTighe.

Stephanie Brown has a new cell number – 618-638-6954.

Ray Herman asked the group to consider meeting on a Saturday if that would be more convenient. He asked that we let him know our views on this subject.

Ray Herman expressed a desire to have pictures of the Board in the Newsletter so members could put a face with a name. Pictures will be taken at lunch time.

Ray Herman said it was time for IFA to switch from organization to actions for our members. Regional forestry workshops are a great way to start this process. Our Tech. advisors are willing to help plan workshops.

The agenda was discussed and new items added.

Bob Sloan presented the Treasurer's Report. It was moved by J. B. Gates, seconded by Stephanie Brown, that the report be accepted. Motion carried. (A copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached to the official minutes of this meeting.)

The Executive Committee reviewed the minutes of the September 8, 2006 and October 10, 2006 Executive Committee meetings. Kurt Bobsin suggested that the wording in the October 10, 2006 meeting regarding to his report on the Illinois Consulting Foresters Association meeting be changed to “--- the Illinois Consulting Foresters Association would support and work with other interested groups in Illinois if it came to a suit regarding the proper use of the 4% harvest fee, ---“. J. B. Gates moved, seconded by Bob Sloan, that the Executive Committee minutes of these meetings be accepted as amended. Motion carried. Rollie Spaniol moved, seconded by Joe Newcomb, that Board of Directors except the Executive Committee minutes as amended. Motion carried. Bob

Sloan moved, seconded by Susan Romano, that the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of August 29, 2006 be approved. Motion carried.

Dave Gillespie passed around for the information of the Board two letters, one to Gov. Blagojevich regarding his appointments to the Woodland Assessment Task Force, and the other to Leslie Sgro of IDNR regarding IFA's involvement in the implementation of IDNR's Wildlife Action Plan.

Dick Little informed the Board on the latest information regarding the ICCI ( Illinois Climate Conservation Initiative). He distributed copies of a news release from the Governor's Office regarding Illinois joining the CCX (Chicago Climate Exchange), and a paper titled, "Forest Carbon Trading and Marketing in the United States." (Copies of the news release and the paper are attached to the official copy of the minutes of this meeting.) IEPA is the lead agency, and put together the agreement with the Delta Institute and CCX. About 90,000 acres have been signed-up so far, about 5,000 acres of that are trees. The tree acres are plantations planted after 1990. To sign up, a landowner has to fill out the paperwork and submit it along with the forest management plan to the local SWCD who verifies and certifies the data, plan, acreages over 500 acres, and sends it to the Delta Institute. They then package the acres submitted into units of 100,000 metric tons. CCX then sells the units twice a year. The ICCI is funded to 2010, when IEPA's funds to pay Delta Institute expire. If a landowner elects to get out early, a penalty must be paid. CCX and Delta Institute retain about 10% of the funds back to pay for such things as early outs. SWCD's are the certifying/verifying agency for this program. Woodlands 500 acres or smaller in size do not have to be certified/verified. Existing forests should be eligible, but so far are not. Michigan is working on moving this issue along. CCX has agreed, and Illinois will meet with CCX in January to convince them that Illinois forest land should also be included.

Ray Herman raised the question – does IFA need to develop a Position Statement on this issue? Dick said such a statement at this time probably would not help. Stephanie Brown said that education of forest landowners regarding ICCI is probably more important. After additional discussion it was the opinion that the IFA should consider this program of benefit to Illinois forest landowners, and IFA should become active in the promotion of the program and information regarding enrollment to its membership.

Rollie Spaniol said he'd submitted his grassland and forest land. His grassland will be fine, but there were questions regarding his forest land. He has submitted answers regarding the questions about his forest land and is now waiting for final approval.

CRP land is eligible for submission since payments to qualifying landowners come from private funds through sale of carbon credits, not public funds. Landowners should begin with the local SWCD. The program is evolving every day. Forest landowners will have to send a letter of commitment that states they will keep the land in trees.

Dick Little represents the Illinois Forestry Development Council, and Mike Mason and Debbie Bruce represent IDNR on the Advisory Committee for ICCI.

Today's price is about \$4.40/metric ton; in Canada the price is about \$7.00/metric ton; and in Europe the price is over \$40.00/metric ton. Members of CCX, in order to join CCX and then be eligible to bid on carbon credits, must know what and how much their pollutants are, and agree to reduce them by 10%.

Rollie Spaniol will prepare and submit an article on this subject for this coming IFA Newsletter, or the next Newsletter.

Reports – It is desired that reports be finished and submitted to the Secretary by e-mail before the Board meetings.

#### Regional Reports:

- Region 1 – Bob Sloan reported they had a forest workshop on harvesting trees – from marking the trees for harvest to marketing the trees for sale.
- Region 2 – Susan Romano reported they had a meeting at the Mason Tree Nursery. Ten people attended. A family offered their land to host a forestry workshop.
- Region 3 – Rollie Spaniol reported they worked with 3 local RC&D's and other organizations to get the word out regarding their workshop. Notices were sent to local newspapers. Most of the people got the information from the newspapers. The notices to the newspapers were sent by e-mail with the content of the message in the e-mail. The mill tour was the big draw for the workshop. Six-five people attended. (A copy of a more detailed report on this workshop is attached to the official copy of these minutes.) Region 3 has started a directory of forestry services for forest landowners.
- Region 4 – Joe Newcomb and Stephanie Brown reported a post card was sent to IFA members to invite them to their forestry workshop. J. B. Gates put together a brochure and program for the workshop. A copy was passed around for the Board's review. Twenty-four people attended the workshop. After the workshop a news release was sent to local newspapers. Joe passed around a copy of one of the newspaper articles. Joe suggested that a standard IFA news release form be developed for use. Dave Gillespie will pass this suggest on to Betty Joubert.

#### Committee Reports:

- Public Relations – Betty Joubert is working on the IFA Newsletter. She's working with Paige Buck and Kathy McTighe. Get any articles to her ASAP. There was a discussion on the budget cuts recently taken by the RC&D's. Stephanie Brown suggested the IFA should support the RC&D's since they were quite instrumental in the formation of the IFA, and many are members and Charter members of the IFA. Dave Gillespie will draft such a letter.
- Technical Committee – Jay Hayek will work during the week of December 4, 2006 to solicit and finalize the regional Technical Committee leaders. Contact him with any names for the state or regional tech. committees. Jay should be contacted for help on forestry workshops. He favors workshops with just 1 or 2 topics that last about a half a day over workshops that last all day and try to cover a lot of topics.

- Membership Committee – Ray Herman reported that the committee has been active in sending IFA membership information to members of the Illinois Tree Farm System. Membership chairs in all regions have participated in this endeavor. Dave Gillespie met with Wade Conn, the new Forest Stewardship Program Manager in the Division of Forest Resources at IDNR to discuss IFA helping the Division send out the annual FDA certification letters. Wade will begin working on this as soon as he becomes familiar with the program, probably soon after the first of the year. Mike Keifer as agreed to become the Chair of the Membership Committee. Bob Sloan moved, seconded by Stephanie Brown, that the IFA join the Northwest Illinois Forestry Association. Motion carried. Jay Hayek said he would write an article about the IFA for the Master Gardner Newsletter.
- Finance Committee – J. B. Gates reported the committee is forming. Ray Nitzsche represents Region 4, Aaron Vogel represents Region 3, and Mike Kiefer represents Region 1. He is still looking for a Region 2 representative. Some names were suggested from Region 2. The Finance Committee will conduct its business by instant messenger, conference calls and email. Only one or two face-to-face meetings will be held each year, at a place central to the members. Their function is to develop the IFA's Business Plan. The committee will develop an annual budget with input from the other committees. It would be appropriate to have at least a three year projected budget. We should be thinking about raising funds to carry on the programs as required. It will be the committee's responsibility to monitor income and expenses. The committee will have seven (7) members – the IFA Treasurer, an IFA Director at Large, one IFA Director or representative from each region, and the IFA Vice-President as the chairperson.

## Lunch

### Old Business:

- Jay Hayek reported he is now working with Riverwatcher Studios in the development of the IFA website. The total cost will be \$2,280 + \$720 Site Hosting for 3 years, for a total cost of \$3,000. A deposit of \$1140 has been sent to Riverwatcher Studios so they will begin programming. Our website address is [www.ilforestry.org](http://www.ilforestry.org). Work is being done to update the IFA brochure and brochure text. (more in a report later). Pictures and calendar events are needed for the website. Jay said he anticipates the website to be ready before Christmas.
- Kurt Bobsin and Dick Little reported that of the 4% harvest fee collected last fiscal year, \$650,000 was appropriated, and of that \$350,000 will be allocated to be used for FDA cost share practices. So far this year, \$448,000 has been collected in 4% harvest fees.
- Kurt Bobsin reported that the Woodland Assessment Task Force met the day before Thanksgiving, most members by teleconference. State Representatives and State Senators on the task force asked questions about forest management plans, who does them, how much do they cost, etc. and questions about IDNR staffing. Mike Mason addressed the staffing problems with IDNR. A number of the task force members, including the Director of Ag. Chuck Hartke and Senator

John Jones, said something should be done to get more foresters. The Task Force recommended their time to act be extended 90 days. Senator Sullivan and Rep. Granberg will try to push a resolution through to do this. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2007. Presently information is being gathered to answer questions raised by the Task Force. After answers are received, alternatives to resolve the assessment problem will be drafted, and then perhaps public involvement meeting will be established. Members of the Task Force are Senator John Sullivan; Senator John O. Jones; Rep. Kurt Granberg; Rep. Jim Watson; George Camille, IDNR Advisory Board; Jeff Robinson, Williamson County Assessor; Terry Pope, Illinois Farm Bureau; Brian Hammer, Illinois Dept. of Revenue; Mike Mason, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources; Chuck Hartke, Illinois Dept. of Agriculture; John Phelps, Southern Illinois University; and Kenneth R. Olson, University of Illinois.

- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) – Copies of a news release and question and answer sheet regarding a state-wide quarantine were distributed to the Board members. (A copy of the new release is attached to the official copy of these minutes.) Dick Little said he attended a meeting in Chicago last week on this subject. He said the first inch of wood must be removed from ash logs before they can be moved to another state. Larva can live in firewood for up to two years. A task group will work on utilization of ash wood. No economical way of controlling the EAB has been found yet. There is \$400 billion dollars of stumpage of ash in the U. S.
- Kurt Bobsin reported the committee is working on the revision of the IFA brochure, gathering graphics and new pictures. He is having trouble getting urban pictures, but recently acquired some from Mike Brunk, Urbana City Forester. Kurt passed around copies of pictures and a draft of the some of the text. During the discussion J. B. Gates recommended that the brochure be made a quad fold so the IFA membership application could fit on one fold, and the brochure could be stuffed into an envelope.
- Debbie Jones, J. B. Gates, Jay Hayek, Bob Sloan and Dave Gillespie have expressed an interest in attending the workshop for forestry association directors that will be hosted by the Wisconsin Forestry Association in March or April of 2007. Bob and Dave said they will not attend if additional Directors decide to attend.
- Ray Herman reviewed the list of committees and ad hoc committees sent to the Board members before the meeting. Ray distributed copies of the duties of these committees. (A copy of the committees and their duties are attached to the official copy of these minutes.)
- EQIP forest management plan incentive – forest acres must be 10 acres or larger. Sign-up at any field office of NRCS. Qualifying forest landowners will receive \$400 per plan regardless of acreage. The Board discussed the steps needed to sign-up for this program, and some thought the process a little tedious, but perhaps not as complicated as some government programs. Any steps in the sign-up process that we think unnecessary should be brought to the attention of the Program Directors in NRCS. Since the EQIP program will use funds to help write forest management plans, the IDNR has informed the District Foresters to use the FDA cost share money for other forestry practices, and to send their list of

requests for management plans to the local NRCS office. The IFA, through workshops and the newsletter, should inform members about the EQIP program.

New Business:

- Chicago Farmers – Dick Little and Mary Duff have met with the Chicago Farmers. Rollie Spaniol distributed a copy of an email he received from Michelle Fowler of the Chicago Farms in answer to questions he had raised regarding their Farmland Investment Fair. (A copy of this email is attached to the official minutes of this meeting.) After discussion, Stephanie Brown moved, seconded by Dan Price, that the IFA exhibit at the Farmland Investment Fair, and the IFA pay, or reimburse Mary Duff if she has paid the \$250.00 exhibition fee. Motion carried.
- The annual meeting for IFA is being considered to be held in the fall in Region 4 at Rend Lake. Stephanie Brown and Joe Newcomb will work on the meeting and the scheduling of dates and program.
- Dave Gillespie reviewed a copy of the agreement with the AISWCD regarding the use of their office equipment and part-time secretary for IFA use. He passed around a copy of that agreement for the Board's review.
- Ray Herman reviewed the Partnership Trees that was sent to the Board members prior to the meeting. He asked again that we review the tree and add any organization that should be on the tree. As an organization we should be contacting the organizations that are in the branches about the IFA and how we can work together on forestry issues. Ray passed out a sign-up sheet and asked each of us to select 3-5 organizations to liaison with on behalf of the IFA. We should send our finished sheet to Dan Price who will make a master list from each sign-up sheet.
- The Board discussed the need for urban issues and initiatives to work on, such as the EAB.
- Dave Gillespie reported he had been contacted by the National Wild Turkey Federation who want an article about the IFA in an upcoming issue of their magazine. They will have a special insert in the April issue of the magazine that will go to about 2000 people in Illinois. They will also send a copy of that issue of their magazine to our members if we send them our membership address list. Bob Sloan moved, seconded by Susan Romano, that we write the article and send them our membership address list. The motion carried. Dave Gillespie will write a draft of the article, send it around for review, and send the final draft and the membership address list to the National Wild Turkey Foundation.
- Legislative Contacts – We need to get a package together for legislators. Susan Romano will chair this effort. Rollie Spaniol, Ray Herman, and Mary Duff have expressed an interest in helping. Susan is making contacts with lobbyists she knows and other people that might be able to help.
- Jay Hayek will update the current copy of the power point presentation on the IFA.
- Calendar events should be sent by the Directors to Dave Gillespie or Sarah Dillman at the AISWCD state office. Sarah's e-mail address is [sarah.dillman@aiswcd.org](mailto:sarah.dillman@aiswcd.org). Her address is: Sarah Dillman, Administrative Assistant; Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts; 2520

Main Street; Illinois State Fairgrounds; Springfield, IL 62702. Her telephone number is 217-744-3414.

- The times and locations of our next meetings are: Executive Committee via teleconference at 8 a.m. on December 15, 2006. Executive Committee meeting at the AISWCD state office in Springfield at 10 a.m. on January 18, 2007. The Board of Directors meeting in Springfield on either February 26, 27, or 28, 2007. This meeting will be hosted by Region 2, who will decide the exact date after checking the availability of meeting places.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Note – if any Officer, Board Member, or Technical Advisor wants a copy of any of the attachments to the official minutes of this IFA Board of Director meeting, please contact Dave Gillespie.

Respectively submitted,

David Gillespie, Secretary  
Illinois Forestry Association