

**MINUTES  
ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION (IFA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
IDNR BUILDING, SPRINGFIELD  
FEBRUARY 27, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President Ray Herman.

Present were:

Ray Herman	J. B. Gates	Bob Sloan	Dave Gillespie
Lee Rife	Susan Romano	Roy Bailey	Joe Newcomb
Stephanie Brown	Mike Kiefer	Dan Price	Kurt Bobsin
Kathy McTighe	Dan Schmoker	Sarah Dillman	

Ray Herman asked Dave Gillespie to introduce Sarah Dillman, new part-time secretary for the IFA. This was followed by introductions of those present.

Ray Herman encouraged everyone who is scheduled to give a report at Board meetings to send their report via e-mail to either Dave Gillespie or Sarah Dillman before the meeting so the report can be distributed to other Board members prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Bob Sloan presented the Treasurer's report. The report showed deposits of \$32,086.00, with Expenses of \$13,122.00, a bank balance of \$19,464.00, with two outstanding checks (one for \$15.00 and the other for \$1,775.00). Stephanie Brown moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Lee Rife. The motion carried.

The minutes of the 11/29/06 Board meeting and the minutes of the 12/15/06 and 1/18/07 Executive Committee meetings were reviewed. Joe Newcomb moved that the Board of Directors meeting minutes of 11/29/06 be accepted. Susan Romano seconded the motion. The motion carried. Susan Romano moved that the Executive Committee minutes of 12/15/06 be accepted. Lee Rife seconded the motion. The motion carried. Dan Price moved that the 1/18/07 Executive Committee minutes be approved with the correction of the date to 07. J. B. Gates seconded the motion. The motion carried. It was suggested that in the future specific action items in the minutes should be underlined to call attention to the importance of these items. It was also suggested that the minutes of IFA Board of Directors and Executive Committee be sent out within thirty (30) days after the meeting. It was also suggested the minutes could be posted on the IFA website.

Regional Reports:

Region 1 - Ray Herman, Dave Gillespie, Mary Duff, Debbie Jones, Jay Hayek, and Kurt Bobsin attended the Chicago Farmers Farmland Investment Fair held on Saturday, February 3, 2007 at Joliet Junior College. IFA had a display, and Dave Gillespie and

Kurt Bobsin gave a program on the IFA and Forestry in Illinois. Mike Kiefer, with the help of the local SWCD, used aerial photos and various databases to identify forest landowners in Iroquois County who own 10 or more acres of forest land. These landowners were then sent letters inviting them to workshops to discuss the need for Forest Stewardship Plans, and how to get a plan prepared for their property, the EQIP program, etc. The first workshop was held on 2/26/07 with 140 people attending. A second workshop is scheduled for 2/28/07. Mike suggested this same procedure can be followed to sponsor similar workshops in other counties. Bob Sloan reported that about 50 people attended a pesticide conference, co-sponsored by the Black Hawk Hills RC&D and NIFA, on 2/16/07.

Region 2 – Lee Rife reported that planning is underway for a workshop to be held in the spring.

Region 3 – Roy Bailey reported concern regarding the implementation of the EQIP program, i.e. the time it takes for a District Conservationist to coordinate and process the application for a forest management plan, meeting with prospective landowners interested in a forest management plan, etc. Stephanie Brown suggested, for example, that the District Conservationist does not need to visit a property to determine if a plan is needed if the request for a plan comes from an IDNR District Forester. The District Forester has already determined if such a plan is needed. Kathy McTighe explained the EQIP sign-up process and asked that suggestions to improve the process be forwarded to her for consideration. Ray Herman reported that Betty Joubert has some grant money for a workshop on forestry activities scheduled on March 12, 2007.

Region 4 – Joe Newcomb report that he and J. B. Gates attended a public meeting attended by about 100 people regarding the woodland property tax issue. The meeting was sponsored by the White County Farm Bureau on 1/20/07. Joe distributed a copy of a news article about the meeting. (A copy of that article is attached to the official minutes of this meeting.) A question/answer meeting is scheduled with the Supervisor of Assessments on March 7, 2007. Joe attended the meeting of the Illinois Consulting Foresters Association. Joe and Dave Gillespie will meet with State Forester Mike Mason to discuss the recommendations that came from this meeting regarding the need for training in forest management plan writing. Joe attended a meeting of the Woodland Taxation Task Force (Dick Little, Kurt Bobsin, Stan Curtis, and Joe) of the Illinois Forestry Development Council to develop a Council position and recommendations on the woodland tax issue. The Task Force recommended that the Farmland Assessment (35ILCS200/10-125) remains as it currently exists; that the Forest Management Plan provision (35ILCS200/10-150) remain as it currently exists; and that forest land, 10 acres or more, which is unmanaged forest lands or lands managed for non-timber production be assessed at 8 1/3 percent of the fair market value of the property. Joe attended the Township Officials of Illinois Spring Conference. Their monthly magazine, "Township Perspective," reaches 13,000 members. Joe suggested IFA put a Q&A article in this magazine with a copy of our latest newsletter. Joe also spoke to Senator John O. Jones, R-Mt. Vernon, and to Rep. (117<sup>th</sup>) John Bradley D-Marion, about IFA's willingness to help on forestry issues and the woodland tax issue. Rep. Bradley is chair of the House Revenue Committee. He is currently working on the Americips Electric Rate increase. Dan Price reported on the newly formed Southeast Illinois Prescribed Burning Association. The purpose of this organization is to conduct prescribed burns on private

property in Southeastern Illinois. They received a start-up grant from IDNR's Conservation – 2000 program. There are currently about 30 members of the organization.

#### Technical Advisor's Reports:

Kathy McTighe distributed a copy of the report on the EQIP Special Project - Forest Management Plans. (A copy of that report is attached to the official minutes of this meeting.) Kathy again discussed the EQIP procedure, and asked that questions and comments regarding the EQIP program be forwarded to her for action. One problem was discussed – i.e. the confusion of the term “cut-off date.” This term, as used, is not the cut-off date for the program, but the cut-off date for the current batching period. Forest landowners can still sign-up for the program after that date. This misunderstanding has caused some forest landowners to think it is too late to sign-up for the program. Perhaps a different term could be used to mark the end of a batching period.

Kurt Bobsin reported on the Woodland Tax Task Force. A meeting of the Task Force was held on February 20, 2007. At that meeting a subcommittee was formed to work out the details of the Task Force's recommendations. That subcommittee is meeting today. The next meeting of the full Task Force is scheduled for March 9, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the Department of Revenue Building in Springfield.

Lunch – During lunch, the IFA Executive Committee met. Dave Gillespie moved that the IFA give our speaker, Maureen Magliocco, a \$50.00 honorarium gift. The motion was seconded by J. B. Gates. The motion carried.

Following lunch the Board was addressed by Maureen Magliocco, a volunteer lobbyist. Ms. Magliocco discussed with the Board how to coordinate, meet with, and successfully lobby State Representatives and State Senators regarding IFA/Forestry issues.

#### Correspondence:

Stephanie Brown reported that we need to again contact the Congress regarding the RC&D funding issue. Stephanie will send Dave Gillespie a copy of a letter sent by the Shawnee RC&D on this issue. Dave can then edit the letter to come from the IFA, and send it to IFA Board members. Ray Herman will write a letter to the Governor regarding our three (3) position statements. Dave Gillespie reviewed the letters sent to potential branch and root members of the Partnership Tree. He distributed a database prepared by Sarah Dillman that shows the names and addresses of the organizations that so far have been sent a letter inviting them to join the Partnership Tree. Board members were encouraged, if they have not already done so, to let Dan Price know the organization(s) on the Partnership Tree they will be IFA's liaison.

The Board discussed the relative position of importance of IFA's three (3) position statements. After discussion of how each position statement relates one to the other, through a show of hands, the Board ranked the position statements – 1<sup>st</sup>, the need for additional IDNR staffing; 2<sup>nd</sup>, the return of the use of the 4% harvest fee to its original intention; and 3<sup>rd</sup>, the woodland tax assessment issue.

Dave Gillespie reported on the upcoming conference, sponsored by the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, on improving woodland associations. The conference will be held in Green Lake, WI on April 12 -14, 2007. The Board has already agreed to send Bob Sloan, Debbie Jones, Jay Hayek, and Dave Gillespie to the conference.

The Board discussed sending 2007 dues notices. It was recommended that after the second week of March such notices, perhaps a postcard, should be sent to those members who have not by that time renewed their IFA membership for 2007. Dan Schmoker suggested a telephone tree be developed for such matters. After additional discussion it was recommended that the IFA revisit the membership section of the IFA By-Laws to resolve misunderstandings on dues, and the possible addition of Family Membership and Lifetime Membership categories.

Betty Joubert intends to get the next issue of the newsletter out by the end of March. Send articles, reports, etc. to her by the middle of March.

#### Annual Meeting:

Stephanie Brown distributed a draft program and proposed costs for IFA's annual meeting. The proposed draft agenda suggested the meeting be held at the Rend Lake Resort in October over a 2 ½ day period. After discussion it was suggested that the length of the meeting be changed to 1 ½ days, and that comments, suggestions, etc. regarding the meeting be sent to Stephanie with the next week. Joe Newcomb is scheduled to meeting with people at the Rend Lake Resort on Thursday of this week.

Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference – J. B. Gates will plan to attend this meeting if he can reschedule his already planned activities for March 10, 2007. If he cannot attend, Bob Sloan will plan to attend.

J. B. Gates distributed a copy of the IFA proposed budget and audit report for 2007. After discussion, J. B. suggested that the Board adopt the report. Stephanie Brown moved that the report be adopted as written. Joe Newcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried. (A copy of the budget and audit report is attached to the official minutes of this meeting.)

Mike Kiefer distributed copies of the Membership Committee's portion of the IFA's Plan of Work. Due to the hour, it was determined that this report and the draft of the IFA's Plan of Work will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Stephanie Brown suggested the IFA consider becoming a co-sponsor of the Illinois Tree Farm program.

Stephanie Brown moved that the Board meeting adjourn. Roy Bailey seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the Board adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Action Items:

1. Send copies of reports to Dave Gillespie or Sarah Dillman via e-mail prior to the next Board of Directors meeting.
2. Correct the 1/18/07 Executive Committee meeting minutes to reflect an 07 date.
3. Send any comments and/or suggestions regarding the implementation of the EQIP program to Kathy McTighe.
4. Joe Newcomb and Dave Gillespie will meet with Mike Mason to discuss recommendations from the Illinois Consulting Foresters Association.
5. Consider writing an article for the magazine "Township Perspective."
6. Stephanie Brown will send Dave Gillespie a copy of the letter sent by the Shawnee RC&D regarding the RC&D funding issue.
7. Ray Herman will write a letter to the Governor regarding IFA's position statements.
8. Board members who have not already done so should contact Dan Price regarding Partnership Tree organizations they will volunteer to be the IFA liaison.
9. Send dues notices after the second week of March.
10. IFA consider changes to the membership and dues section of the IFA By-Laws.
11. Send articles to Betty Joubert for the next newsletter by the middle of March.

Respectively submitted,

David A. Gillespie, Secretary  
Illinois Forestry Association