

MINUTES
ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 26, 2008
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Ray Herman.

Present were:

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| J. B. Gates | Kurt Bobsin | Beth Riley |
| Lee Rife | Rollie Spaniol | Jack Riley |
| Ray Herman | Joe Newcomb | Stephanie Brown |
| Bob Sloan | Dave Gillespie | |

Ray Herman discussed the upcoming issue of the newsletter (the retirement of Betty Joubert) and thanked Stephanie Brown and Lee Rife for their respective articles in the latest issue of the newsletter.

Stephanie Brown brought to the Board's attention the RREA – Renewable Resources Extension Act – Federal money that comes to the Land Grant Universities for their Cooperative Extension programs. Currently the University of Illinois uses these monies to fund the temporary Director at the Forest Resource Center at Dixon Springs Ag. Station. We should watch what happens when the current temporary Director of the Center retires.

Kurt Bobsin passed out information regarding the IL Forestry Development Act (FDA) program. The Board discussed the FDA and EQIP current status. Ray Herman will write Senators Durbin and Harkin in support of the Farm Bill with funding for EQIP.

Jay Hayek will hold a Big Tree Workshop at the Ballard Nature Center on June 21, 2008 at 9 a.m. There will be indoor and outdoor sessions.

Website – changes were made to the legislative page of the IFA website. No other changes have been made as yet.

Joe Newcomb requested that any reference to the Wicky Website on the IFA website be removed since it has not been maintained.

The minutes of previous meetings were discussed. Bob Sloan moved that the minutes of the 1/26/08 Board of Directors meeting be accepted. Lee Rife seconded the motion. Motion carried. J. B. Gates moved that the minutes of the 2/22/08 Executive Committee meeting be accepted. Bob Sloan seconded the motion. Motion carried. Bob Sloan moved that the minutes of the 3/20/08 Executive Committee meeting be accepted. Joe Newcomb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Treasurers Report was discussed. Lee Rife moved that the report be accepted. Joe Newcomb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Stephanie Brown discussed the upcoming first Leadership Training Institute to be held at Dixon Springs on June 3. Participants need to register with Stephanie by May 16, 2008. Letters should be sent to those IFA members who indicated they would be interested in participating on committees inviting them to attend the training. Ray Herman will write such a letter. Dave Gillespie will send the list of these members to the Regional Directors so personal contacts can be made.

Kurt Bobsin reported that the recent IFA Legislative Day was a success even though few IFA members attended.

The Board reviewed the pamphlet regarding C-FAR. Bob Sloan moved that the IFA join C-FAR as an Organizational Member. J. B. Gates seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next Board meeting will be held on July 8, 2008 at the Ballard Nature Center.

Lunch

After lunch Stephanie Brown facilitated a discussion regarding IFA's current and future status. Below is a summary of that discussion:

What is Working?

Membership has grown to 716 members as of this date.

IFA has a good working relationship with the IDNR; NRCS; AISWCD; and the RC&D's.

IFA has good leadership

The IFA website is being updated and improved

IFA has developed positions on current forestry issues, and has acted on those issues.

IFA has a lobbyist

IFA has a good method of evaluating issues in which IFA's technical advisors help define the issues. This method is much less cumbersome than such methods the IL Society of American Foresters and the Illinois Forestry Development Council has to follow.

IFA is an information source for woodland tax assessment

IFA has a great newsletter to the membership

IFA has a professional brochure and banner

IFA has a Regional delivery structure

Factors that Limit Further Success of the IFA

With some exceptions, there is a lack of participation in some Regions. Factors that may explain this:

- Lack of interest in topics at forestry workshops
- Distance to travel to workshops
- Cost of workshops
- Timing of workshops
- Short notice of workshops
- Lack of awareness or belonging
- Lack of motivation on the part of leaders to organize workshops and/or informational meetings

Limited relationship building (workshops are good for this)

Limited coalition building

More work than people are available to do

Not sharing workload with other organizations

Lack of experience/training in organizing workshops – need to act as facilitator

People are reluctant to step up because they think they have to do it all

Insufficient cadre of leadership to sustain the organization

We are all volunteers

Overlapping leadership responsibility in multiple organizations

Tomorrow's Leadership

Build relationships

- Personal contacts
- Have workshops
- Mingle
- Work the crowd
- Shake hands – pat backs
- Have fun
- Celebrate success
- Peer to peer
- Dinners and picnics

Improve communications

Ask people to get involved to do a specific task to help with a workshop

How do we fill seats at the Leadership Training

Send letter to interested “yes” members

Follow-up contacts within Regions

Board members invite people

Invite other organizations to participate – Tree Farmers; Walnut Council; Illinois Consulting Foresters; IL Society of American Foresters; Illinois Forestry Development Council

Bring spouse/ a friend

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

David A. Gillespie
Secretary