

MINUTES
ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – CONFERENCE CALL
5/23/08

Present on the conference call were: Ray Herman, J. B. Gates, Bob Sloan, Dave Gillespie, and Jack Wohlstadter, Chair of the Illinois Tree Farm Committee.

We first discussed how we, the IFA and the Tree Farm Committee, could work together to better reach out to our constituents and better deliver our collective message to them. The IFA assured Jack that the IFA was not “trying to take over,” but wanted to work with all groups and organizations concerned with forestry in Illinois to achieve our respective goals. Jack said the majority of the members of the Tree Farm Committee were State employees, which would be a problem at times when a position taken might put these people in a conflict with the State. We thought a situation like this could be avoided by stating the position an IFA position, not that of any other organization. The number of Illinois Tree Farms is just under 1000. Jack said it is hard to get volunteers to serve on the Tree Farm Committee. We discussed the possibility of send out a joint news letter; both organizations working with the AISWCD, and setting up a meeting with the Illinois Walnut Council and the Northwest Illinois Forestry Association to discuss future plans of working together.

It was decided to hold a joint meeting with the above mentioned organizations on either June 6 or June 27 at Henry at the Prairie Rivers RC&D office or the SWCD office. Bob Sloan will make the meeting arrangements.

Mike Mason has indicated they are willing to accept volunteers to help District Foresters.

Jack asked if we were aware of the Build Green LEAD Building Green Global program. The IFA was not aware of this program. Jack said that it basically is a list of standards to build structures to high environment and energy standards. However, the problem is that these standards exempt wood coming from Tree Farms. Tree Farms do require standards that meet “green” regulations. The State of Virginia had legislation that would require all public buildings or structures built with public money to be build to LEAD standards. The Tree Farm Committee in Virginia was able to have that law amended to include Tree Farms as acceptable sources of material. Dave will check with Paula on what is happening in the Illinois Legislature regarding any pending legislation on this matter.

The IFA Annual Meeting will be held on August 23, 2008 in the Charleston area. Paula will work on contacting a local State Rep. or Senator, or both, to speak at the meeting. We should be thinking of speakers and program ideas. Bob Sloan suggested the Green Issue.

Possible amendments to the IFA By Laws were discussed. Dave will work on a draft of a change that would stagger the term of office for the Regional Directors.

Ray said he has asked Kurt Bobsin to chair a nominating committee, but has not heard back from him yet.

We discussed the upcoming Training Institute. So far advanced registration was not going as planned. After discussion it was decided to postpone the first scheduled training session and concentrate on getting attendance to the planned second training session. J. B. Gates moved that Stephanie Brown should contact the company that publishes the course materials and purchase at least thirty-five (35) sets of the training material. Bob Sloan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

We discussed budget concerns. We will move to send correspondence via e-mail, plus sending the newsletter via e-mail also. The newsletter now comes out quarterly. Perhaps in between issues of the newsletter the Regional Directors, or the officers could send, via e-mail short, news items, announcements, etc. to the membership.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectively submitted,

David A. Gillespie, Secretary
Illinois Forestry Association