

**MINUTES**  
**ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**JULY 8, 2008**  
**BALLARD NATURE CENTER**

The meeting began at 10:15 a.m. Present were:

Susan Romano	Joe Newcomb	Beth Riley
Lee Rife	J. B. Gates	Roy Bailey
Ray Herman	David Gillespie	Kurt Bobsin

Guests were: Jack Riley, Charles Everett and Tom Benjamin.

The minutes of the April 26, 2008 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. Lee Rife moved that the minutes be accepted. Joe Newcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Executive Committee meeting minutes of May 23, 2008 were reviewed. The acronym LEAD should be corrected to LEED. Susan Romano moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected. Joe Newcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried.

J. B. Gates reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Beth Riley moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Susan Romano seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ray Herman thanked J. B. Gates for conducting today's meeting, and reported his eye surgery went well.

Kurt Bobsin and Dave Gillespie reported on the status of forestry related legislation. All non budgetary legislation is being held up as a result of the conflict between the Governor and the Legislative leaders. HB4549 (FDA law) did not pass out of the legislature as a result.

**Region 2 report** – A forestry workshop was held in Springfield in April. Dick Little and Dick Breckenridge were the speakers. A workshop is being planned in late September or early October at Dan Schmoker's property. Lee Rife reported he will be having surgery on Thursday, and will be "out of service" for a few weeks.

**Region 3 report** – Work is underway in planning two workshops, one in Effingham County and the other in Crawford County, to be held in September. These workshops are being planned in conjunction with the Wild Turkey Federation and the S. IL Tree Farm Committee.

**Region 4 report** – Joe Newcomb conducted a survey in Region 4 to get feedback regarding the types and location of meetings. Meetings and workshops will be planned to meet the results of the survey. On May 3 the IFA helped host the Tree Farms Gold and Silver awards banquet for the Southern Illinois.

**Technical Advisor's report** – Kurt Bobsin reported an article on financing your forest management plan had been written and mailed out to the general membership along with a letter written by Ray.

The IFA website has been totally updated. He encouraged the Board to check the website periodically, especially the Legislative Issues and Meeting & Events pages. These contain

messages, reports and minutes that allow all members to keep current on what is going on and to prompt specific actions to take on legislative bills and issues of importance. Suggestion was made to develop a space on the website where specific articles and information sheets could be posted for viewing, printing and distributing at meetings and events.

### **Old Business:**

Meeting with other groups –

Members of the Executive Committee (Ray Herman and Bob Sloan) met with Jack Wohlstader, Chair of the Illinois Tree Farm Committee and Steve Felt with the Illinois Walnut Council. The groups are interested in working together. Such topics discussed were having joint “annual meetings” with a common program and separate business meetings. Each group will write an article for the other group’s newsletter. On this topic, Dave Gillespie reported he has agreed to assist the Regional Tree Farm Committee in contacting their members to keep them informed on current forestry issues.

Ray Herman and Kurt Bobsin met with Heather Green and Mark Duntemann with the Illinois Arborists Association (IAA) regarding working together on forestry issues. The IAA is interested in cooperating with the IFA on legislative matters. Dave Gillespie and Kurt Bobsin will meet with the IAA to work out an agreement regarding using IFA’s lobbyist.

### **Annual Meeting -**

Tom Benjamin, representing Rollie Spaniol, reported that the meeting will be held on August 23, 2008 at the Worthington Inn located on Rt. 16 on the west side of Charleston. Meals have been determined, in addition to coffee and donuts. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. After discussion, Joe Newcomb moved that a \$20.00 registration fee be charged to defray the cost of the meeting. Lee Rife seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Board suggested topics for the program to include the Big Tree Program, Prescribed Burning in Illinois Forests, Mushroom Production, Carbon Sequestration, and Chestnut Trees. The names of contact people for these topics were given to Tom to forward on to Rollie for contact.

Paula and Jenni Purdue are working on contacting local State Legislators to invite them to the meeting.

Susan Roman moved that the IFA make an award she called the Great White Oak Award, to Senator Sullivan and Rep. Reitz for their service to forestry in Illinois. Ray Herman seconded the motion. The motion passed. Ray Herman will arrange for the awards which should be similar to the IFA Charter Member clocks, but made of white oak.

### **Newsletter –**

The deadline for submission of articles for the next newsletter is August 1, 2008. Articles should be sent to Kathy McTighe at the NRCS State Office.

### **Nominating Committee Report –**

Lee Rife moved that we set aside the By-Laws for this year so that we can accept nominations for Directors for terms of one (1) or two (2) years. Joe Newcomb seconded the motion. The motion

carried. Kurt Bobsin provided a sample ballot to discuss progress of the committee to date. After discussion it was determined which candidates for Regional Director would run for a one (1) year term and which candidates would run for a two (2) year term. The committee will continue to work on securing candidates for the Treasurer position.

#### **Changes to the By-Laws –**

Dave Gillespie reviewed the proposed changes to the IFA By-Laws. One proposed change is in Article IV, Section 3. The proposed change would read, “The term of office for the regional representatives shall be so structured that one representative from each Region will serve a two (2) year term and the other representative will serve a one (1) year term. The directors-at-large shall be a two (2) year term, and Regional representatives and directors-at-large may be eligible for reelection to a second term.” The second proposed change is in Article IV, Section 4. A new sentence proposed at the end of the Section should read, “ Newly elected officers of the Association will begin their term of office at the first Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting.” After discussion Susan Romano moved that the title “regional representative” be changed to “regional director” wherever it appears in the IFA By-Laws. Joe Newcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ray Herman moved that the proposed changes to the IFA By-Laws be accepted. Lee Rife seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **New Business –**

Craig Willenborg of the Illinois Wood Products Association (IWPA) approached John Schuler, Post Oak Flats RC&D Coordinator, regarding the IWPA joining other groups in action on forestry issues.

Stephanie Brown wants to know how many of the Board plan to attend the planned Leadership Institute. Of those present, 7-8 said they plan to attend.

#### **Upcoming Meetings –**

October 4 will be the Tree Farm Annual tour; the Illinois Walnut Council will meet on October 11; and October 16-19 will be the National Tree Farm Convention in Oregon.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

David A. Gillespie, Secretary