

**MINUTES
ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

October 9, 2008: IDNR Building, Springfield, IL

The meeting began at 10:07 a.m. Present were:

J. B. Gates	Dan Schmoker	Susan Romano
Joe Newcomb	Bob Sloan	Kurt Bobsin
Paul Deizman	Ray Herman	Mike Medley
Roy Bailey	Mark Duntemann	Dave Gillespie

Lobbyist Paula Purdue joined the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Since this was the first meeting following the election of new officers and directors at the IFA Annual Meeting, the new slate took office with this meeting. Introductions of new officers and directors were made, as well as officers and directors who were reelected to office. In addition, all present stated on which IFA committee they wished to serve.

New IFA President J. B. Gates reviewed his intentions for IFA as he did in the e-mail of welcome he sent to the officers and directors prior to this meeting.

The minutes of the July 8, 2008 Board of Directors meeting and the August 5, 2008 Executive Committee meeting were reviewed. Susan Romano moved that these minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Ray Herman. The motion carried.

Dave Gillespie reported that our membership has increased to 775 members, just 25 short of our goal to have 800 members by the end of the year. Dave showed a membership form he just received with a note attached by Matt Siemert, Regional IDNR Forester. This note said "Membership in IFA was not required (as an FDA participant) but highly recommended. This organization does great work in representing the interests of forest landowners." Dave said he has received six (6) such membership forms in the last few weeks, and thanked Matt for this effort to encourage new members. Dave will inform the other IDNR foresters of Matt's initiative. Ray Herman suggested that J. B. Gates also send a letter to Matt thanking him for his efforts.

After a discussion about the latest membership forms received and what may have prompted any new members to send in their form and dues, it was suggested that Jay Hayek add some type of identifier to the IFA membership registration form that can be downloaded from the IFA web site so we can tell if the web site is being used to join IFA.

Dave also reported that in conversations with April Toney, Executive Director of the Illinois Arborists Association (IAA) she informed him of new IRS regulations regarding not-for-profits. Such groups need a whistle blower policy, record retention policy, conflict of interest policy, and a travel reimbursement policy. While the IFA has a

conflict of interest policy, we need to develop the others by the end of 2008. April sent copies of such policies for the IAA to use as templates. Dave will write drafts of the needed policies and circulated them for review prior to our next Board of Directors meeting.

Dave also reported that April suggested the IFA look into joining the American Society of Association of Executives where we could keep current on regulations and laws that affect not-for-profits.

The Board reviewed the Region 4 report and asked questions of Joe Newcomb. Joe also reported that they will have an organizational meeting on October 22 to plan their next forestry workshop. Susan Romano reported there will be a Region 2 Forestry Workshop at Dan Schmoker's Tree Farm in Greene County on November 8. She will be sending a flyer soon.

Kurt Bobsin discussed the status of the appointments to fill the vacancies on the Illinois Forestry Development Council. Suggested names of interested individuals have been submitted to the Governor's office to fill the vacant positions, but no action has been taken by that office. The IFA Board should take what action it can to help push for these vacancies to be filled. Paula Purdue will check with the Representatives and Senators currently listed as Council member to see if they are still interested in serving on the Council. If not, she will ask if they might suggest someone to replace them. Kurt asked that Board members send him by December 1, 2008 names of potential forest and/or ag. landowners who would serve on the Council. Dave Gillespie said he would see if he can find the names of the individuals that were previously sent to the Governor's office.

Paula Purdue gave her legislative report (copy attached). She then discussed the status of HB 4549. Basically, due to the political infighting occurring in our legislature, HB 4549, with no dissenting votes in any committee or in the House and Senate, is in limbo. However, the bill could be revived in the Fall Veto Session which will occur November 12 – 14 and November 19 – 21. IFA members should be encouraged to contact their respective Senator and Representative to encourage Senator John Sullivan and Representative Dan Reitz, the main sponsors of the bill, to have them find a way to pass the bill during the veto sessions so it can go to the Governor's desk. This should be done before November 7, prior to veto session. After further discussion Dave Gillespie will send the IFA e-mail database to the Board members, plus contact all IFA members on that list asking them to contact their respective Senator and Representative asking them to contact Senator Sullivan and Representative Reitz to get HB 4549 passed during the Fall Veto Session.

Bob Sloan presented the Treasurer's Report. Dan Schmoker moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Joe Newcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Board then discussed the status of the funds currently in the IFA's accounts. Dan Schmoker moved that the Board direct the Treasurer to purchase a three (3) month CD

and a six (6) month CD, putting \$5,000.00 in each CD. Susan Romano seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Kurt Bobsin discussed the IFA's website and the ability to list timber for sale on the website. IFA members should take advantage of this service. Jay Hayek has the list of licensed Illinois Timber Buyers, and is planning to contact them to make them aware of the website and its list of timber for sale.

The Board discussed the IFA newsletter and its distribution. One of the largest expenses IFA has is the mailing the newsletter. The last newsletter was distributed via an e-mail note to IFA members on the e-mail database, and via the mail to those IFA members not on the e-mail database. One distribution option discussed was charging different dues rates for those members who provide the IFA with their e-mail address than those members who do not give IFA their e-mail address. The placement of ads in the newsletter and on the website was also discussed. No action was taken.

Dave Gillespie reported he had applied for an "E number" for the IFA at the State Department of Revenue. We were denied the number. He will check into the exact reason why the organization was denied sales tax exemption. Dave also reported he and Kurt Bobsin would be attending a meeting on October 15 with the IAA to work on the legislative agenda for the next few months. Any other Legislative Committee members are welcome to attend. Susan Romano said she would meet Dave and Kurt and ride with them to the meeting.

Kurt Bobsin has a supply of "Backyard Woods" for each of the Directors to distribute at workshops and other such events. All new members will be sent a copy with their membership card. Kurt also discussed the Agroforestry Workshop coming up and Cornell University's forestry extension program.

Paul Deizman brought a motion seconded by Ray Herman that as an incentive, any IFA member who brings in five (5) new members will receive a free membership for a year. The motion carried.

Mark Duntemann discussed what he plans to do through grants he has applied for to work with the S. Suburban Urban Forestry in woodland management in an urban setting. He will speak at the Chicago Wilderness meeting next month on native trees in the urban setting.

Dave Gillespie will see that IFA 3-ring binders are made for all new Board members. (at least 4 such binders)

Kurt Bobsin said he would coordinate IFA volunteers who would be willing to assist District Foresters. Directors should solicit such people from their respective Regions when they have workshops or attend meeting where IFA members are present. All such names should be sent to Kurt. Also mentioned were IFA members doing forestry work such as TSI, and donating a portion of the proceeds to the IFA.

The Board was reminded to keep up the interest in Stephanie Brown's Leadership Training coming up soon.

The Illinois Green Industry's Association was mentioned as a possible place for future meetings in Springfield.

The Illinois Walnut Council is sponsoring a chain saw safety course.

Dan Schmoker suggested that the IFA have more of a presence at the Farm Progress Show the next time it is in Decatur (August 25 – 27, 2009). A display area in the Varied Industries Tent, while it cost \$700.00 at the last Farm Progress Show, would bring the IFA into contact with more people than the Conservation Tent. Dan also suggested an article in the next newsletter regarding the publication "Maintenance and Safety Manual" put out by Oregon chains.

J. B. Gates passed out a calendar for the year (copy attached to official minutes) that highlighted the Board of Directors meeting dates, the dates that are deadlines for submission of reports to the Secretary prior to Board meetings, and the dates that are deadlines for submission of articles for the IFA Newsletter. The Board of Directors is scheduled to meet on January 14, 2009; March 18, 2009; May 20, 2009; and July 16, 2009. August 15, 2009 is selected as the date for the IFA Annual Meeting, to be arranged by Region 1 Directors.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

David Gillespie, Secretary