

MINUTES
ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARCH 18, 2009
IDNR BLDG., SPRINGFIELD

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Chairman J. B. Gates.

Present were:

J. B. Gates	Susan Romano	Joe Newcomb
Stan Sipp	Kurt Bobsin	John Gunter
Dan Schmoker	Roy Bailey	Paul Deizman
Bob Sloan	Dave Gillespie	

Treasurer's Report - Bob Sloan gave the Treasurer's report. Stan Sipp moved that the report be accepted as presented. Dan Schmoker seconded the motion. The motion carried. Bob Sloan reported that a CD was coming due soon. Dan Schmoker moved to let the CD roll-over. Susan Romano seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Legislative Committee – Kurt Bobsin and Dave Gillespie reported on the status of HB 1087, SB 1413, & HB 36. Joe Newcomb questioned the \$400 EQIP forestry management plans being illegal. The names of potential IL Forestry Development Council names were discussed. Kurt Bobsin has some names. He will summarize his list and send it out. We should have names of forest landowners available to send to the Governor's office once either of the Council bills passes and is signed by the Governor. The IL Farm Bureau indicated they will be happy to provide names of farmer landowners to the Governor's office. The plans for the upcoming second IFA Lobby Day were discussed.

J. B. Gates raised the question as to commenting on the proposed changes to the Administrative Rules for the IL Forestry Development Act. After discussion it was decided we should send our comments, if we had any, individually.

Membership numbers (257 renewed members at this date) and contacting delinquent 2008 members were discussed. Dan Schmoker proposed a plan – first send a reminder by mail, followed up 10 days later with an e-mail reminder, followed 3 days after the e-mail by a personal telephone call. Reasons and benefits for continued IFA membership support should be listed in all three methods of contact with delinquent members. Dan said we had to convince, cajole, and coerce. Dave Gillespie will coordinate with the next IFA Newsletter coming out soon.

The IFA brochure was discussed. It was suggested that the brochure be increased to a quad-fold to include the IFA membership application form. Dan Schmoker moved that we do such. Roy Bailey seconded the motion. The motion carried. Dave Gillespie will coordinate.

Annual Meeting – Bob Sloan reported that the Annual Meeting this year will be hosted by IFA Region 1 on August 15, 2009 at the Oregon Country Club, hosted by the White Pines Lodge. Possible topics and/or program ideas were discussed. Suggested were a tree ID course; a canoe trip on the Friday before the meeting; a tree ID course in conjunction with a canoe trip; a talk by an attorney; carbon credits; income tax for forest landowners; Manfred Mielke to talk about the latest forest insect and disease information; and the history of forestry associations across the country.

Nominations for officers were discussed. Kurt Bobsin and Paul Deizman will work as a nominating committee, and expect help from others if needed.

John Gunter reported on working with Ray Herman on making contacts with local units of the IL Farm Bureau regarding the possibility of getting IFA/Farm Bureau members on local Farm Bureau GRIT (Grass Roots Issue Team). IFA Regional Directors who know of IFA members who are also Farm Bureau members should get their names to John or Ray. Ray is also going to write the President of the IL Farm Bureau again regarding the IFA.

Dan Schmoker reported the IL Walnut Council has requested the IFA help promote the Game of Logging course. Dan explained the set-up of the course. The cost would be about \$350.00, and said this is an extremely good course. Dan also said another course that is needed is one on the care and treatment of trees in S. IL. resulting from the recent ice storm. He, Dave Johnson, and Bob Wagoner are working with Stephanie Brown on a workshop for communities on this subject. Kurt Bobsin wondered if there was a video/CD that would help promote the Game of Logging. Dave Gillespie moved that the IFA partner and help the IL Walnut Council promote the Game of Logging. Bob Sloan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Regional Reports – Region 1 will host a forest workshop at Woodstock in McHenry Co. on 10/2/09 and will work with the NW IL Forestry Assoc. on a workshop scheduled for 5/1/09.

Region 2 is working on a grafting workshop with Bill Totten to be scheduled in May in the Galesburg area.

Region 3 – Ray Herman attended the Marion Co. SWCD Annual Meeting.

Region 4 – Joe Newcomb reported on the forestry workshop held in Perry Co., and plans to follow-up with a similar workshop in Wabash Co.

The Forest Leaders Workshop conducted by Stephanie Brown is scheduled for May 28, 2009 at Dixon Springs Ag. Center prior to the annual Shawnee RC&D steak fry. May 8 is the last day to register.

New Business – Dan Schmoker suggested a handout for future legislative day could be white oak wooden bowls made by Dan's woodworking club. Dan will check into this.

The subject of the IFA working with the Friends of Forest Preserves was discussed. Paul Deizman and Dan Schmoker will work with Mary Duff to possibly set up a meeting with this organization.

The upcoming Farm Progress Show was discussed. Joe Newcomb moved that the IFA participate again in the Conservation Tent, pay all necessary fees, and get pencils as a handout. Paul Deizman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Kurt Bobsin said the IFA website needs some updating, which he will do. If there are events coming up that were not mentioned today, get their dates to him ASAP.

The Railway Tie Association contacted J. B. Gates about linking their website with ours.

Kurt Bobsin and Mike Medley attended the Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference. Four-hundred and forty (440) landowners attended. Kurt said that this was the last time the conference will be held at the site in Wisconsin.

Kurt Bobsin and Joe Newcomb have IFA table skirts and IFA's poster display boards.

Kurt Bobsin passed out the first draft of the IFA Position Statement regarding the status of the Dixon Springs Ag. Center's forestry program for our review.

Joe Newcomb said the IFA should develop a certificate to pass out to speakers at workshops, meetings, etc. Kurt Bobsin said he will look into this.

The Board discussed the possibility of getting the Governor to issue a proclamation to establish a tree day. Dan Schmoker will investigate.

J. B. Gates passed out an article about the certification of wood for the Board to read.

Kurt Bobsin reported that following a meeting between Ray Herman and the Assoc. Dean in charge of the Dixon Springs Ag. Center, the open forestry position at the Center was posted.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

David A. Gillespie, Secretary