

**MINUTES**  
**ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**CHAMPAIGN CO. NRCS FIELD OFFICE**  
**MAY 20, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were:

Roy Bailey	Lee Rife	Dan Schmoker
Kurt Bobsin	Ray Herman	Bob Sloan
Joe Newcomb	J. B. Gates	Stan Sipp
Kathy McTighe	Dave Gillespie	

The minutes of the 3/18/09 Board meeting were reviewed. One correction was made. On page 2, Manfred Mielke is the correct spelling of his name. There was a question as to what is meant by the term EQIP Activity Plan. Kathy McTighe explained that that is the new term for the management plan, changed to comply with the regulations for the EQIP program. Lee Rife moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected. Stan Sipp seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The financial report was presented and reviewed. Ray Herman moved that the report be accepted. Joe Newcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dave Gillespie reported on legislative activities. Both SB 1413 and HB 1087, the bills that reactivated the Illinois Forestry Development Council and makes changes to the Illinois Forestry Development Act, both sponsored by the IFA, passed out of the General Assembly and were sent to the Governor's office for his signature. Since both bills are the same, it is not known what will happen when it comes to the Governor signing the bill(s). Dave also reported on the meeting he and others had with Director Miller of the IDNR. The topic was the harvest of timber on IDNR properties. The result of the meeting was the Director authorized a pine harvest on Lowden-Miller State Forest.

There as a discussion on training IFA and IAA members on how to work with legislators. Kurt Bobsin said he would pursue the idea with Paula Purdue and the IAA to perhaps set something up with the School of Public Affairs at UIS in October.

Dave Gillespie reported that the current 2009 membership is 329, with 439 delinquent 2008 members. After discussion, Dave will send a letter to the delinquent members next week. We will give them until June 15 to reply. Following that date Dave will send the Directors the list of then delinquent members for their respective region. The Directors will then make personal contact with these delinquent 2008 members. If the Directors need help from other Board members, they should ask for help. The Board also discussed the advantage of dividing regions into small, county sized groups that would make it easier to "get the word out".

Kurt Bobsin said he will be working on the IFA website this week and early next week. We should e-mail him any up-coming events that could be posted on the website.

Bob Sloan discussed the plans for the upcoming annual meeting. His choice for the lunch was accepted. The tentative agenda include the topics of “Keep the Forest in the Family” and “Timber Marketing”. The committee will pursue these topics. Another topic the committee will look at is “Hazard Trees/Storm Damage”. The invited legislators are scheduled from 1:00-1:30 p.m.

Kurt Bobson reported that Mike Medley will run again as a Region 3 Director.

Under Old Business, Ray Herman said he is continuing to work on the Farm Bureau’s GIRT program. He still wants Directors to go to local Farm Bureau meetings and talk about the IFA.

Dan Schmoker passed around a sample of a wooden bowl made of white oak that the Lincoln Land Woodturners could make as a handout on our next Lobby Day. The cost would be about \$5.00/bowl for about 200 bowls. Also would be the cost of purchasing the branding iron to engrave the IFA’s name, slogan, and website. Dave Gillespie move that Dan be authorized to work with the Woodturners Club to make and purchase the bowls and the branding iron. Ray Herman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Farm Progress Show was discussed. Dave will check with Stacy as to the current status of the Conservation tent. Dan Schmoker moved that the IFA purchase pencils at the amount where the price break occurs that gives us the best price for the number of pencils received. Bob Sloan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Governor’s Tree Day was discussed. Dan will continue to work on that project. Forest Products Week is the second week in October.

Past President’s Report – No report

Region 1 – Bob Sloan reported there was a Forestry Field Day in Stephenson County; that we helped sponsor the NW Illinois Forestry Association’s Annual Meeting; a Field Day will be held with the help of the McHenry Co. SWCD in October; and a similar event is being planned with the Will/S. Cook SWCD at a time to be determined later.

Region 2 – Lee Rife reviewed his written report regarding the grafting workshop held at Bill Totten’s greenhouse. He also noted an Urban Forestry workshop is being planned in October perhaps in Nauvoo.

Region 3 – Roy Bailey reported on his contacts with individuals and business contacts regarding joining the IFA. He also wants to make contact with communities about Tree City USA, and meet with local Tree Farm Committee. He reported on his own research on forestry related use of pesticides and herbicides, and the use of a brush saw in cutting

bush honeysuckle. He will work with Dan on an article for the July newsletter on the use of the brush saw and back pack sprayer.

Region 4 – Joe Newcomb said that Stephanie Brown still has openings for the upcoming Leadership training course.

Names for the landowner members of the Illinois Forestry Development Council were discussed. Kurt Bobsin said he has about eleven (11) names he will contact to see if they are interested in serving on the Council once the Governor signs the bill. We still need a Republican Senator and a Democratic State Representative.

Kurt Bobsin said he has the forms needed to apply for a Tree Farm Grant if any of the Directors wanted to apply for such a grant.

Kurt Bobsin reviewed the fourth draft of the IFA position paper on the Dixon Springs Illinois Forest Resource Center, and asked each of us to get any further comments to him by the end of this week so the final version can be completed prior to J. B. Gates meeting with Dean Easter.

Articles for the upcoming newsletter are due to Kathy McTighe by July 1, 2009.

Bob Sloan formally resigned as the IFA Treasure effective with the close of this Board meeting. After thanking Bob for his many years of service to forestry and the IFA, J. B. Gates appointed Dick Little to fulfill the remainder of Bob's term as IFA Treasurer.

Joe Newcomb thanked the Board for inviting his Granddaughter to share our lunch.

Kathy McTighe said the EQIP information is on the NRCS website.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 16 at a site to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Gillespie, Secretary