

**MINUTES**  
**ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**JULY 15, 2009**  
**EXTENSION BUILDING – SPRINGFIELD**

The meeting was called to order by J. B. Gates at 10 a.m. Present were:

J. B. Gates	Dan Schmoker	Kurt Bobsin
John Gunter	Stan Sipp	Wade Conn
Paul Deizman	Dave Gillespie	

The minutes of the May 20, 2009 Board meeting were reviewed. Paul Deizman moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Stan Sipp seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. The IFA currently has checking accounts in two banks – one in Lacon and the other in Springfield. The reason for this is that the IFA is in transition between Bob Sloan leaving as the IFA Treasurer and Dick Little taking on that responsibility. The Board expressed concern that the bank in Springfield is planning to charge the Association a fee related to the bank's fees to the FDIC. The Board recommended that Dick Little try to convince the Springfield bank to wave the fee, or the IFA will move our account there to another local bank that does not charge such a fee, or move all of IFA's funds to the bank in Lacon where the IFA is not charged a fee. The Board also would like to check into an interest bearing checking account. Stan Sipp moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Dave Gillespie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Wade Conn from IDNR's Division of Forest Resources was present to discuss the IDNR/IFA project to send the FDA renewal letters to FDA cooperators. It is now the time to send these letters. The IFA will continue to cooperate with the IDNR to stuff the FDA letters. Dave Gillespie will coordinate this project with the AISWCD who will stuff the envelopes. Kurt Bobsin will write the IFA cover letter that will be stuffed into the FDA envelopes. Wade also discussed the "FDA Dead Letters" that are returned by the Post Office as undeliverable. In the past these letters were sent to the District Foresters to try to track down the forest landowners. Since there are now fewer District Foresters, Wade requested that the IFA take on tracking down the forest landowners associated with the FDA Dead Letters. After a discussion, Paul Deizman moved that the IFA help the Division of Forest Resources with this project by whatever means necessary to identify these forest landowners, and by doing so also encourage them to join the IFA. Stan Sipp seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Legislative Report – The status of SB 1413 and HB 1087 was discussed. These two bills are identical and restore the IL Forestry Development Council and make changes to the IL Forestry Development Act. Both bills are in the Governor's office for his signature. It is not know how two identical bills will be handled by the Governor's office, nor when or

if he will sign one or both of them. If he takes no action the bill(s) within 60 days they automatically become law. Wade Conn explained how the Administrative Rules for the Forestry Development Act define contiguous forested acres, and how the attorneys for IDNR had taken issue with that definition. Wade and Mike Mason will meet with the new IDNR attorney to attempt to resolve the situation. In the meantime the IFA will consider discussing the problem with some of the State Legislature.

Dave Gillespie reported that Paula Purdue had called him to say the State Legislature is still working on a budget with the Governor. The climate looks bad for any new money. It looks like the IDNR will come out with an appropriation, but there will be no new money for foresters.

Kurt Bobsin is still working with others on contacting perspective landowner members of the Illinois Forestry Development Council, pending the Governor signing the bill(s). He is also working on a short list of Legislators who could potentially be on the Council. Kurt also discussed the IFA's position paper on the 4% harvest fee and distributed a table that showed the status of the fee and its sweep from the Forestry Development Fund. He related the concern of the Illinois Farm Bureau in that "if the fee does not work as the law intended it to work, get rid of the fee."

Dave Gillespie reported that the IFA has 570 members so far for 2009, with 256 members delinquent from 2008. Our membership initiative between the last Board meeting and this meeting has been successful in the approximately 140 delinquent 2008 members have paid their 2009 dues.

The upcoming Annual Meeting was discussed. We need three (3) additional tables. Paula Purdue should be asked to invite Senator Bivins to the meeting.

John Gunter said he had discussed the Illinois Farm Bureau's GRIT program with Nancy Erickson of the Farm Bureau. She said we should work through the county GRIT to make our wishes known. Directors did not supply names of IFA members who were also Farm Bureau members. August 14 is the last day to apply to local county Farm Bureaus for membership on a GRIT. The county then sends these names to Bloomington, who picks the people to serve on the local GRIT. The county GRITs meet twice and pick three issues of concern. John also said the Farm Bureau's forestry policy is weak to non-existent. Kurt will work on an e-mail to send to Dave to send to IFA members regarding GRIT.

The Friends of Forest Preserves were discussed. Mary Duff should select a group that is part of this organization the IFA can work with on problems in that area.

Farm Progress Show – 2000 pencils have been ordered. Dave will order the admission passes through the AISWCD. We will also work on a box in which people can put the name and address for a drawing of an IFA membership and other prizes. A tentative work schedule was worked out – Monday, Sept. 1 – Kurt Bobsin & Paul Deizman;

Tuesday, Sept. 2 – Lee Rife & Dave Gillespie; and Wednesday, Sept. 3 – Ray Herman & Stan Sipp.

Kurt Bobsin distributed a report on the number of hits on the IFA website.  
Ray Herman's Past President's Report was distributed via e-mail.

Regional Reports – John Gunter said there are two more timber casualty loss and minimizing income taxes on timber sale revenue workshops planned in Region 4.

Dixon Springs – Dean Easter has moved up in rank at the U of I, so he is no longer Dean of the Ag. Department. The IFA should contact the acting Dean to check the status of the vacant forestry position at Dixon Springs.

New Business –

Carbon Credits (Cap and Trade) – J. B. Gates has the information and will e-mail the Board as to where to find the information.

The status of the IFA newsletter as discussed as a result of Kathy McTighe leaving the NRCS for the U. S. Forest Service. Randy Timmons, District Forester with IDNR, suggested Sandra Levin might be contacted to coordinate the newsletter.

John Gunter distributed information on Association Management Companies who could contract with the IFA to help manage the Association. There is also liability insurance the Association could look into. We decided to work on this after the Annual Meeting with the new Board of Directors.

Dan Schmoker reported that 225 white oak bowls are finished. Stan Sipp moved that an additional \$2.00 per bowl go to pay for these bowls. Dave Gillespie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dan Schmoker moved that 4000 pencils be purchased for the Farm Progress Show. Stan Sipp seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dave Gillespie requested that the IFA be one of the sponsors of the Ag. Award Luncheon at the Illinois State Farm. Dan Schmoker moved that \$50.00 be allocated for this sponsorship. Paul Deizman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

David A. Gillespie, Secretary