

MINUTES
ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SANGAMON CO. SWCD OFFICE
SPRINGFIELD, IL
OCTOBER 7, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Vice President Dan Schmoker.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Bob Sloan, the Treasurer and a Charter Member of the IFA who recently passed away.

Present were:

Dan Schmoker	Susan Romano	Stan Sipp
Kurt Bobsin	Ray Herman	Paul Deizman
Roy Bailey	Lee Rife	Dave Gillespie
John Gunter	Joe Newcomb	Mark Duntemann
Paula Purdue	Dick Little	

The minutes of the 7/15/09 Board meeting were reviewed. Lee Rife moved that the minutes be accepted. The motion was seconded by John Gunter. The motion carried.

Dave Gillespie reported that the IFA now has about 650 members. There as been a recent influx of new members as a result of the IFA stuffing envelopes for the IDNR to be sent to FDA clients for renewal of their FDA contract. In each envelope, in addition to the FDA renewal form, is a letter from J. B. Gates that describes the IFA and an IFA membership registration form. Dave reported that since we are near the end of the calendar year he is sending anyone who registers as a new IFA member now, a membership card for 2010. The Board discussed the IFA By-Laws as they relate to when a new member is given membership in the current calendar year or is granted membership in the next calendar year. At a previous Board meeting, the IFA Board granted membership in the next calendar year to new members who paid their dues in November or December of the previous year. Dan Schmoker asked Joe Newcomb, Ray Herman and Dave Gillespie to review the By-Laws to answer questions as to this membership question.

Paula Purdue gave her legislative report.

- Paula reported that a bill, SB 54, increased the lobbying fee for non-profits from \$150 to \$1000. She and other lobbyists are working to change the fee back to \$150. The bill takes effect on January 1, 2010. She will let Dave Gillespie know the bill number of any pending legislation that will change the fee back to \$150 so we can inform our membership and other interested groups.
- The Board discussed our effort to fill the landowner and legislator positions on the Illinois Forestry Development Council. We should get the names of the landowners to Mike Mason since he and the IDNR will be the agency that

- approves the names before the Governor appoints them to the Council. Paula is making contacts with legislators to see if they would be willing to serve on the Council. There is a Senate Democrat and House Republican willing to serve. We need to get a Senate Republican and a House Democrat. She will contact Senator Jones and Rep. Mautino to see if they would serve. After discussion it was decided that the IFA should become more proactive on submitting the names of prospective members of the Council to the Governor's office. Ray Herman moved that the IFA recommend the landowner members of the Council in a letter to the Governor, and cc Director Miller and Mike Mason of the IDNR. John Gunter seconded the motion. The motion carried. Dave Gillespie will write a draft of the letter and send it to the Board for comment.
- Paula discussed the possible tax increase in February after the primary election. She believes this will not happen since a vote on a tax increase at that time will come before the general election.
 - Paula discussed with the Board the need to contact State Legislators regarding the forestry issues that we face in Illinois. We should work to make our Legislators aware of the desperate need for additional funds to hire foresters in the IDNR. We should personalize the story with District Forester input as to the demand for their services and forest landowner testimony on this subject. Private citizens can put real numbers to the problem, i.e. increase in property taxes without a forest management plan, the time it takes to get forestry service, the benefits of good forest management such as better wildlife habitat, watershed protection, etc. After discussion, the Board decided that each Director and other Board members should first contact their respective Legislators. They should then organize a meeting with key Legislators at the Legislator's home office. The Director should take with him/her IFA members who are from the Legislator's District who can speak to the forestry issues.
 - Paula will work on a target list of important legislators the IFA should contact.
 - The legislative committee will meet soon with Paula to work out the details of this project.

Regional Reports –

Region 4 – John Gunter reported that he and Debbie Gaddis met with the IL Consulting Foresters Assoc. regarding federal taxes and establishing a basis for future timber sales. He also reported that on November 10 (at John A. Logan College) & 12 (Metropolis) there will be two workshops with the morning program on storm damage to shade trees and the afternoon program on storm damage to forests. He and Stephanie Brown will conduct the workshops.

Region 3 – Roy Bailey reported he will join the Effingham GRIT this month. Mike Medley is still covered up with crop insurance work. Roy met with District Forester Shane McDearmon to plan a forestry workshop.

Region 2 – Susan Romano reported she has talked to Tom Green at WIU regarding an urban forestry workshop, but has not been successful as yet. She will work with the local RC&D for a workshop in November.

Region 1 – Mark Duntemann reported that he is getting involved with wood utilization in the urban area. He has applied for a grant to harvest dead trees in an urban cemetery and mill them into furniture for schools. Paul Deizman reported that Bob Sloan had set up a forestry workshop at Chain-of-Lakes State Park at which about 30 people attended. There is a forestry workshop in cooperation with the Will-S. Cook SWCD scheduled for October 30, 2009. TSI and reforestation will be demonstrated. The IAA is also participating.

Treasurer's Report –

Dick Little distributed a copy of the report to the Board. He discussed the two CD's at the Lacon Bank, and suggested the Board leave them there for another 90 and 180 days before determining if the CD's should be put in longer term CD's. The Board agreed with Dick suggestion. The IFA made about \$351.16 at the recent Annual meeting. John Gunter moved that the Treasure's Report be accepted. Roy Bailey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Board discussed various scenarios for establishing a memorial fund in the name of Bob Sloan to be used for forestry scholarships. One scenario the IFA could follow is to establish a 501 (c) (3) foundation for this purpose. Another scenario is to work through university scholarship foundations at U of I and SIUC to establish forestry scholarships. The Board agreed to table discussion on this project until the next meeting in order to gather further information. Dave Gillespie will contact the lawyer who said he would help the IFA to get an opinion on these, and other scenarios. In the meantime, Ray Herman moved that a memorial fund be established in Bob Sloan's name with \$1000 coming from the IFA's general fund, and to solicit funds from our members and others for forestry scholarships for Illinois students at our state's forestry schools. Lee Rife seconded the motion. The motion carried. Dan Schmoker will contact Bob's wife to inform her of this project.

IFA Newsletter –

- The next newsletter will go out sometime during the first 10 days of December, 2009.
- Ray Herman and Kurt Bobsin will contact the two individuals who may be interested in editing the newsletter, including Ray's daughter-in-law, plus the new NRCS Agroforester.
- Dan Schmoker will coordinate the next newsletter in the absence of an editor. He will work with Ray Herman and Jody from the NRCS state office.
- Send articles and pictures to Ray Herman by Nov. 1, 2009.
- Dave Gillespie will write a dues notice for 2010 membership renewal to accompany the Dec. newsletter. The notice should contain a line for contributions to the Bob Sloan Memorial Fund.

Wade Conn from IDNR Forestry Division brought with him about 100 “dead letters” from the recent FDA recertification project that were returned to his office for lack of a proper address. He had discussed previously with the Board the possibility of the IFA Directors helping to find better addresses for these people. The Directors agreed to sort the 100 letters into IFA regions and then take their respective region’s letters with them to see if they could find current address for the returned letters.

Wade reported that the new FDA law as gone into effect. Forest landowners with between 5 to 10 acres of forest land have until the end of December, 2009 to get their approved plan to the IDNR. He also reported that the new IDNR legal team is reviewing the new proposed Admin. Rules for the FDA law. The next step is for the proposed rules to go to JCAR.

Stan Sipp, Ray Herman and John Gunter have been accepted to participate in the Farm Bureau’s GRIT. The first meeting will be in Bloomington on December 12, 2009. Our delegates need information on the 4% fund sweeps; Illinois logs going to other states; and forestry staff needed at the IDNR.

The proposal regarding an Association Management Company managing various functions of the IFA was discussed by the Board. Another benefit that could be realized as a benefit for IFA members is liability insurance for hunting by our members. An ad hoc committee of John Gunter, Dick Little and Paul Deizman was formed to study these two ideas and make a recommendation to the Board at the next Board meeting.

The Board discussed the need to up-date its Plan of Work for next year. Susan Romano moved that the Board of Directors of the IFA schedule a retreat for the purpose of developing a Plan of Work on January 15 and 16, 2010 at a location to be chosen. John Gunter seconded the motion. The motion carried. Susan will help coordinate the retreat.

Ray Herman reported that the IDNR nurseries are in need of seed, particularly oak seed.

Ray Herman stated we need to keep in contact with Director Miller of the IDNR to keep him informed on the forestry needs for Illinois.

Ray Herman said he was contacted by Charles Fitzpatrick regarding Chicago’s Adopt-a-Tree program. Their goal is to obtain 30,000 seedlings by next spring. Ray intends to meet with additional people at the upcoming IFA sponsored forestry workshop at the Will-S. Cook SWCD regarding this project before he makes a formal proposal to the IFA Board of Directors.

Lee Rife discussed the need to form small IFA Districts within the existing IFA Regions. Such Districts could be one or more adjacent counties. Smaller Districts would make it easier to plan meetings and workshops. The Board will continue to pursue this idea.

John Gunter reported that our position statement on filling the vacant forestry position at Dixon Springs was completed. John said he has scheduled lunch with Jeff Brawn, the new Chair of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at the U of I while he will be attending the SIU Ag. Leadership Board meeting on October 16, 2009, to discuss the IFA's Dixon Springs position statement. He asked Dick Little and Dave Gillespie to accompany him since they will also be attending the meeting on October 16.

John Gunter reported that District Forester Dave Johnson will be conducting a chainsaw safety course, sponsored by the Shawnee RC&D, for women at Dixon Spring Ag. Center on November 5 & 6, 2009.

Dan Schmoker said that a course on 1000 cankers, a new disease, will be conducted in Missouri. The cost of the course will be \$75.00.

The 2010 IFA Annual Meeting will be planned and hosted by IFA Region 2.

Ray Herman said he needs 200 pounds of unhulled butternut seed. The Walnut Council is also collecting such butternut seed.

The next scheduled IFA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled on December 30, 2009 in Springfield.

Respectively submitted,

David A. Gillespie, Secretary

Action to be Taken:

- Ray Herman, Joe Newcomb, and Dave Gillespie will review the IFA By-Laws regarding membership.
- Paula Purdue will continue to make contacts with legislators, and coordinate with the Legislative Committee, to fill the legislator seats on the Illinois Forestry Development Council.
- Paula Purdue will make a contact list of key Illinois legislators the IFA should contact regarding forestry issues, and then meet with the IFA Legislative Committee to help coordinate the legislative contacts.
- Paula Purdue will continue to monitor and report to the Legislative Committee on the issue of raising the Not-for-Profit lobbying fee from \$150 to \$1,000 per year.
- Dave Gillespie will contact the lawyer who said he would help the IFA regarding the questions about a foundation for administering a Bob Sloan memorial fund.
- Dan Schmoker will contact Bob Sloan's widow to inform her of the IFA's intention regarding a memorial fund.
- Dan Schmoker will coordinate the next IFA newsletter with Ray Herman and Jody from the NRCS.

- Ray Herman and Kurt Bobsin will contact the individual(s) who had expressed an interest in editing the IFA newsletter, including Ray Herman's daughter-in-law.
- Dave Gillespie will write a 2010 IFA dues notice to be included in the next IFA newsletter.
- John Gunter, Dick Little and Paul Deizman will study the proposal regarding an Association Management Company and hunting liability insurance for IFA members prior to the next Board meeting.
- Susan Romano will begin to coordinate the IFA Board retreat scheduled in January 2010, and will call on other Directors and Officers to assist in this effort.