

MINUTES
ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JANUARY 27, 2010
NRCS STATE OFFICE – CHAMPAIGN

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by President J. B. Gates. He welcomed and introduced Jay Markuson, the new Region 1 Director appointed to fill Bob Sloan's unexpired term until the IFA annual meeting.

Present were:

Roy Bailey	Stan Sipp	Jay Markuson
Kurt Bobsin	Joe Newcomb	Ray Herman
Dan Schmoker	John Gunter	J. B. Gates
Wade Conn	Mark Duntemann	Dave Gillespie

Minutes of Last Meeting - The minutes of the October 7, 2009 meeting were reviewed. John Gunter moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Joe Newcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Copies of the Treasurer's report were distributed and reviewed. After discussion, Ray Herman moved that the funds in the checking account at the First National Bank be converted to a money market account. Dan Schmoker seconded the motion. The motion carried. Regarding the CD coming due, Joe Newcomb moved that the Treasurer use his judgment as to the disposition of the CD. Jay Markuson seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ray Herman moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted with a note of thanks for the detailed report. John Gunter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Legislative Report - Dave Gillespie summarized the legislative report Paula Purdue gave at our recent planning retreat. Paula is continuing to pursue the IFA's nominations to the Illinois Forestry Development Council. Senator Demuzio requested a copy of the letter to the Governor's office regarding the nominations to the Council so she can pursue the State Legislature nominations to the Council. Dave announced that our Lobby Day this year will be held on March 17, 2010. We will again partner with the IAA and any other partner organization that will join us. The Board reviewed possible T-shirt patterns for use on that day, and sizes were taken from those who plan to attend. Dan Schmoker passed around samples of the white oak bowls his wood working club is making for distribution on our Lobby Day. Other items need for Lobby Day was discussed. Litter bags and the possibility of walnuts from the Walnut Council were mentioned. Roy Bailey moved that up to \$2000.00 be authorized to spend on such items. Mark Duntemann seconded the motion. The motion passed. Kurt Bobsin discussed our review of legislation pending before the State Legislature. Jenni Purdue sends a list of bills introduced that could possibly affect forestry. The Legislative Committee and others review the list and then returns comments to Jenni. We should add J.B.'s and Wade's e-

mail address to those reviewing proposed legislation. The Board discussed the possible raise in our lobbyist fee with the State. Ray Herman moved that if the fee does go to \$1,000 we pay that fee. Roy Bailey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Regional Reports – Region 1 - Mark Duntemann reported on the Park Holmes Cemetery Wood Utilization project he has undertaken. He is working with the Park Home Cemetery in LaGrange Park to remove nineteen (19) dead white oak trees. These trees will be milled in Morris and made into furniture for schools and other such entities. Mark intends to remove six (6) of the trees first. Mark plans to have a series of videos made by a person from Oak Park that document the project. The videos will show the taking down of the trees, the milling of the trees, the making of the furniture from the wood of the trees, and the children using the furniture. Region 1 IFA members will be invited to the taking down of the trees. Kurt Bobsin suggested that Craig Willenborg might be a person who could remove the remaining trees. Kurt also suggested that the IFA could send a letter to the cemetery officials in support of the project. Mark Duntemann should send a draft of the letter to Dave Gillespie.

Mark reported he is working with others on the Urban Needs Task Group for the State of Illinois. Mark said at present the majority of urban forestry activities center around the Tree City USA program. This concentrates the work mainly in the Chicago and collar counties area, since the majority of Tree City USA recipients are located in this region of the state. One of the goals of the Task Group will be to get the county seat in each county qualified and then designated as a Tree City USA. Mark discussed the urban tree assessment software I Tree. A web training packet will be developed. Another project the Task Group has undertaken is a re-write of the 10 year strategic plan for urban forestry in Illinois written in 2005 by the IDNR. Mark will send a copy of the plan for the Board's review. Mark and the Urban Needs Task Group was encouraged to work with and coordinate with the State Forester and the Illinois Forestry Development Council on their projects since the IDNR through the Council is working on such a plan for Illinois to comply with a new planning process required by the U. S. Forest Service.

Region 2 – Dave Gillespie reported that Dan Schmoker, Lee Rife, and he met to plan a meeting of Sangamon, Christian, and Morgan County IFA members. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 27, 2010 in Springfield. A discussion of possible topics of the meeting were suggested, such as someone to speak on the EQIP project, what pesticides/herbicides work best for forestry work, and forming a local cooperative of IFA members to help each other completed forestry work on their property.

Region 3 – Roy Bailey reported that they are also working on having local meetings in Region 3, and intend to open any local meeting to non-IFA people in hopes of acquiring new IFA members. The Region 3 leadership will meet February 16th to develop a regional plan of work for 2010.

Region 4 – Joe Newcomb reported that he and John Gunter have divided Region 4 in half. He will have the east half, John the west half. Joe reported that as a result of the survey he did last year of IFA members that said they want information on forestry

services and tax structure, he has discussed with the RC&D Coordinator in Hamilton and White Counties setting up a workshop to discuss these topics. He is planning to have District Forester Dave Johnson speak on forestry services and a local tax assessor speak on tax structure. John Gunter reported he is considering a forestry bus tour on the west side of Region 4 this coming spring.

Old Business – Ray Herman agreed to be Membership Committee chair. Wade Conn will assist him. Ray is also interested in public relations. He is working with Paige Buck on new releases. Ray will contact Charter Members who have not renewed their dues as of yet. The Membership Committee will send out dues notices to 2009 members who have not renewed their dues for 2010. Dave Gillespie will send Ray 2009 and 2010 membership list so as to keep him current.

Dan Schmoker reported on the chainsaw safety courses planned the Illinois Walnut Council. One course will be given in Crawford County March 11 & 12 with the follow-up session on March 29 & 30. The other course will be held in Knox County near Galesburg on March 8 & 9 with the follow-up session on April 1 & 2.

The Bob Sloan Memorial Scholarship Fund was discussed. Ray Herman moved that the IFA donate \$1,000.00 to the fund. Jay Markuson seconded the motion. The motion carried. There was discussion as to how to determine the recipients of the scholarship. Get input from the chairs of the forestry departments at U of I and SIUC; have applicants write an essay on a selected subject; and the BOD review the essays and award the scholarships, for example. Dave Gillespie reported he had contacted the IFA member who is an attorney who said we could contact him with a legal question. Dave contacted him with the question, should the IFA set up the fund or work with the two university's foundations? He did not reply to his inquiry. J. B. Gates will consult with his attorney on this question.

Annual Meeting – Susan Romano sent a report to the BOD with suggestions as to possible sites for the meeting in Region 2, and asked the question if the Annual Meeting should rotate from IFA Region to Region, or should the BOD pick a permanent site for the meeting? After review of Susan's suggestion and question, it was the consensus of the BOD to let the Directors in Region 2 pick the site. It was also the consensus of the BOD to continue to rotate the Annual Meeting between IFA Regions.

Trees for Chicago Public Schools – Ray Herman said that 29,000 seedlings are needed to give to first grade school children in Chicago. They already have 16,000 seedlings already committed to the project. Ray Herman moved that the IFA donate 1000 seedlings to the project, not to exceed \$1000.00 in cost, to this project. John Gunter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

GRITS (Grass Roots Initiative Teams) – John Gunter reported he is on the Renewable Resources and Energy team, and the Ray Herman and Stan Sipp are on the Specialty Crops and Labor team. John supported funding of IDNR and the proper use of the 4% harvest fee. His team is meeting with State Forester Mike Mason on February 11, 2010.

John's intent is to pursue the IDNR's use of the 4% funds, even if it takes filing a Freedom of Information Act request for the information. Stan Sipp reported that his team's top project is the leakage of technology, followed by the availability of labor and immigration. They will meet again on February 22, 2010.

Frontline Association Management – The BOD reviewed the report from this firm. After discussion, it was decided that John Gunter, Dick Little, Paul Deizman, and Dave Gillespie should meet with a representative of the management firm to discuss their proposal in more detail.

2010 Plan of Work – Dave Gillespie had sent via e-mail a draft copy of this document to the BOD prior to this meeting. He asked that BOD members review the draft Plan of Work and get their comments, suggestions, changes, etc. to him by close of business on Friday, February 5, 2010. Ray Herman commented that we need to fill all the committee positions statewide and within IFA Regions, and each Action should be accompanied by who will accomplish the Action and by when will the Action be accomplished.

New Business – After discussion as to the problems Dave Gillespie is having with his printer, Stan Sipp moved that the IFA allocate up to \$250.00 to purchase a new printer for Dave Gillespie. Ray Herman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Kurt Bobsin passed out information about the Put Back Amendment and asked that the BOD review the information. Kurt reviewed the draft revisions of the IFA position papers on the use of the 4% harvest fee funds and the need for more IDNR foresters. While he did receive some suggested changes to the draft documents, BOD members should get any comments on the draft revisions to the position papers to Kurt ASAP.

The BOD discussed the progress the Directors have made to find new addresses for IDNR's FDA renewal letters that have been returned for insufficient addresses. The Directors agreed to continue with the project, and sorted into IFA Regions additional "dead letters" Kurt Bobsin brought to this meeting.

Dave Gillespie and Paula Purdue will see that IDNR Director Miller and his staff receive the revised IFA position papers as soon as they are finished.

Ray Herman asked that articles be sent to him ASAP, and at least by February 4, 2010 so he could get the IFA Newsletter out by February 15, 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Action Items –

- Treasurer convert checking account at First National Bank to a Money Market account
- Treasurer to renew expiring CD to the best rate possible
- Pursue action on the IFA recommended nominations to be the Illinois Forestry Development Council

- Add J. B. Gates and Wade Conn to the list of those reviewing legislative bills
- Work on Lobby Day – purchase IFA litter bags and other such give-away items
- Mark Duntemann draft a letter of support and encouragement from IFA to cemetery for his tree removal and utilization project
- Mark Duntemann to send 2005 10yr Urban Strategic Plan to IFA Board members
- J. B. Gates consult with his attorney regarding the Bob Sloan Scholarship Fund
- John Gunter, Dick Little, Paul Deizman, and Dave Gillespie meet with Frontline Association Management
- Get comments on draft 2010 Plan of Work to Dave Gillespie by Feb. 5, 2010
- Get comments on draft position papers to Kurt Bobsin ASAP
- Dave Gillespie and Paula Purdue get new revisions of position papers to Director Miller and go over recommended actions. Determine IDNR support and action
- Regional Directors contact IDNR foresters to solicit their membership/renewal
- Ray Herman – Membership Chair
 - Contact Charter members who have not renewed their membership
 - Send renewal notices to all 09 members not renewed in 2010 yet

Respectively submitted,

David A. Gillespie, Secretary