

**MINUTES**  
**ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**MARCH 20, 2008**  
**NRCS STATE OFFICE, CHAMPAIGN**

The meeting began at 10 a.m. Present were:

Ray Herman	J. B. Gates
Bob Sloan	Dave Gillespie

Bob Sloan moved to reimburse Dave Gillespie the \$161.00 fee charged by the Secretary of State for the registration of our Lobbyist. J. B. Gates seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The committee reviewed the C-FAR information and discussed joining the organization. It was the feeling the IFA should join C-FAR, but it was decided to obtain additional C-FAR pamphlets to be sent to the IFA Board members so the decision to join C-FAR can be taken up at the next Board meeting. Dave Gillespie will get the pamphlets from Dick or Karen Little and send them to the Board members.

J. B. Gates moved that the IFA reimburse Susan Romano for the expenses she incurred at the Region 2 Forestry Workshop. Bob Sloan seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dave Gillespie will contact Susan to determine the exact amount to be reimbursed.

The committee discussed the working relationship with the AISWCD since Sarah Dillman left her position there. Dave Gillespie said that so far everything was working well. He will continue to work with Rich Nichols to resolve any problems. Bob Sloan moved that the IFA give Sarah a \$50.00 gift certificate to Sarah with the thanks from the IFA for a job well done. J. B. Gates seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dave Gillespie will take care of this job.

The committee examined and discussed the purchase of packets called "Backyard Woods". It was decided we should send a copy of this packet to each IFA member. Jay Hayek said he could purchase them for \$1.00 each. After discussion it was decided to try to find a grant for \$1,000 to purchase 1000 copies. Dave Gillespie will talk to Mike Mason to see if funds were available at the IDNR. Bob Sloan will contact Mark Jackson to see if funds were available from his sources.

The committee discussed the upcoming Lobby Day on April 9, 2008. Fact sheets that express the IFA position on more foresters for the IDNR, the use of the 4% harvest fee, HB 4549, and SB 2120 need to be developed or reviewed before that date. Ray and Dave will help Kurt stuff litter bags with the fact sheets and IFA "goodies".

J. B. Gates moved that the IFA purchase name badges for the Officers, Board Members, and Technical Advisors. Bob Sloan seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dave Gillespie will see that the badges are made, hopefully before the Lobby Day.

Following lunch the committee began to assess the IFA. Topics discussed were:

Should the IFA hire an Executive Director?

- The need to do so was recognized, but raised several questions
- How much should we pay this person?
- How will we fund the position?
- Who could (would) we hire?
- What are the potential issues/problems? i.e. contracts, social security benefits, others?
- Location? Probably should be Springfield
- How much time should this person spend on IFA business? 1 day/week, 2 days/week?

The IFA could hire a consultant to develop a marketing plan the IFA Board could use to “sell itself”, or find a graduate student working on their thesis to do this, instead of hiring an Exec. Director.

Who are leaders in forestry in Illinois – for the IFA Board and for the up-coming training courses?

- Who are they? – We know the current leaders, but what about the future?
- Several names were discussed, but a list was not developed.
- See the list Dave Gillespie provided of those who said “Yes” on the membership form that they would be willing to serve on a committee.
- All see this as critical now and into the future. There were no real answers on building a list.

Combine affiliate groups – There seems to be a significant need to pull several groups together to defray costs, support each other, and perhaps share leadership for committees. We could also extend an invitation to these groups to send delegates to IFA’s upcoming leadership training courses. Potential groups mentioned were:

- Illinois Walnut Council (1)
- Northwest Illinois Forestry Association (1)
- Illinois Tree Farm Committee (1)
- Illinois Consulting Foresters Association (1)
- Illinois Society of American Foresters (3)
- Illinois Wood Products Association (2)
- Forestry Committee of the Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts (1)
- Southern Illinois Prescribed Burning Association (1)
- Forestry contractors (2)
- Timber Buyers (3)

The number in parenthesis is the rank given as to priority for invitation to training courses.

Changes to the By-Laws were discussed. Proposed changes for consideration mentioned were:

- Possible elimination of the Director at Large positions
- Add a termination clause to Section 10.
- Add language to stagger terms of office for Directors (1 year, 2 year, 3 year ?)
- Amend Article 4, Section D to include language regarding receiving money.

What is working? (We ran out of time – these items were added by Ray)

- We are growing
- We have a lobbyist
- We are building recognition
- We have a good website
- We have a good brochure
- Assistance and working relationship with the Illinois Forestry Development Council, the NRCS, and the IDNR is generally good
- The budget is on track

What is not working? (We ran out of time – these items were added by Ray)

- Too few seem to have time/commitment for IFA committees and other activities
- There are committee without chairs
- Some committees are not active
- Board meetings are not consistently well attended
- There are few reports prepared for Board meetings
- Sporadic regional functions
- Some Board members are inactive

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

David A. Gillespie, Secretary