



Eugene O. Frye, Secretary
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January 19, 1992

MINUTES OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

January 18, 1992
Marshalltown, Iowa

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by President Ritter. Present were Treasurer/Director Alman, Secretary Frye, and Directors Gnewikow, Grimes, Handley, Harman, Miller and Yocom. Also present were State Forester Bill Farris, State Horticulturist Dan Cooper, and Legislative Committee member Bob Grau.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Handley that the reading of the Board minutes of October 12 be waived inasmuch as copies of the minutes had been mailed out to all officers and board members shortly after the meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer Alman distributed copies of the IWOA Financial Report as of December 31, 1991. Moved by Grimes, seconded by Yocom to approve this statement with minor change in wording. Motion carried. Grimes reported that he had received no response from the Starlight Motel to his communication disputing a \$60 charge for the 1991 Annual Meeting.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Handley to authorize payment of \$100 to the Iowa FFA Foundation toward an award for Excellence in Woodland Management to be given February 15 by FFA. IWOA, Iowa Tree Farm Committee and Iowa Wood Industries Association all contribute like amounts for this award. Motion carried.

President Ritter declared a recess at about 10:20am to allow the Legislative Committee (Grimes and Miller co-chairpersons) to meet and report. A summary of this meeting follows.

Grimes reported that the first meeting (December 10) with DNR on the subject of animal damage was not very productive, with the DNR people taking the stand that the "deer population is about right."

Grimes distributed a number of pictures of beaver and deer damage to his woodlands.

Considerable discussion on browsing and antler rubbing damage ensued. It was stated that in some areas browsing damage was sufficiently severe to prohibit natural regeneration of trees.

Cooper stressed the importance of people filling out the wildlife damage questionnaires that the Iowa Horticulture Society (IHS) had distributed to all its constituent members in order to create a factual data base on the problem. He stated that about 700 surveys had been returned so far, representing about a 50% response, which indicates strongly that there is indeed a problem.

It was generally agreed that multiple types of animal controls should be available in order to cope with the many different conditions experienced by woodland owners. The two general types are control of deer herd size, and fences, tubes and other devices to protect individual stands or trees. Herd control is a DNR problem, and cost sharing should be available to landowners for installing devices.

Conclusions and Action Items:

Grimes is to schedule a meeting with Al Farris, head of DNR Fish and Game Department as soon as possible after the results of the wildlife damage survey are in.

Farris thinks that the Game Commission is getting ready to do something.

Generally agreed that IWOA should cooperate actively with other groups experiencing similar problems.

Harman agreed to serve as IWOA representative to the IHS Legislative Committee. (This was thought to be the best way for IWOA to cooperate with other groups interested in the problem)

Ritter reconvened the Board meeting at 11:30.

Ritter reported that Roger Howell had resigned the post of Membership Committee Chairman. Frye reported present membership status as 228 members paid up through 1992, 89 paid through 1991 (past due), and 20 receiving complimentary copies of the Newsletter. He stated that there has been a steady decrease in paid members for the last several years, and that an aggressive membership development activity needs to be initiated. Various means of obtaining a "prospect" list were discussed. Secretary was directed to attempt to get a piece about IWOA's animal damage activity in the next Extension Service Woodland Owner's Newsletter. Moved by Grimes, seconded by Handley that President appoint a committee to select a new Membership Charman. Motion carried. Ritter appointed President, Treasurer and Secretary as the committee members, with a charter to report at the next Board meeting.

Ritter reported that the Quade's have tentatively agreed to head up IWOA's 1992 Iowa State Fair activity, and that Handley would again be scheduling the volunteers to man the IWOA booth. Cooper stated that IHS is also sponsoring a booth at the Fair, and is looking for 225 volunteers. IHS is seeking Iowa-made wood products for sale in the Iowa Store. The Fair will run from August 20-30, with setup day the 19th.

Gnewikow reported on the 1992 Annual Meeting arrangements. The meeting will be headquartered at the Holiday Inn on I-80 near the Amanas and will be held in conjunction with the National Walnut Council meeting. Current plans are that the IWOA Board will meet the afternoon of August 2, and a General Meeting of the IWOA will be held that evening, then IWOA members would attend Walnut Council inside and field meetings of their choice. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn. Special registration fees have been negotiated for IWOA members. Arrangements are being firmed up rapidly.

Bill Farris gave a report on status of the DNR.

The new Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) has been approved at the Federal level, is in place, and signup is scheduled to begin in mid-February. Paperwork will be handled by ASCS offices, and approvals will be made by DNR foresters. (Grimes is a member of the Stewardship Coordination Committee)

Although the Governor's Select Committee recommended sale of the State Forestry Nursery, the proposal appears dead at this time. More detailed investigation indicates that it would be a very poor proposition for the taxpayers because the need to duplicate its expensive infrastructure at a new location would consume any profits from the sale of the SFN real estate in Ames. Because of a hold in hiring temporary staff, there was a real problem last fall in obtaining the temporary workers necessary to lift the seedlings, and he anticipates an even more difficult time this spring.

Vacancies in the state Forestry staff (23% of the authorized level) are creating real problems in providing the level of service to woodland owners that has been experienced in the past.

Cooper reported on the facilities available to IWOA from IHS, and stated that IHS has found a need to broaden communications among its constituent groups. As a means of accomplishing this, IHS has organized a "Strategic Planning Retreat" February 28-29 at the Super-8 (old Westmark) motel just off of the Ashworth Rd. access to I-80 west of Des Moines. Board members of all of IHS's affiliates (including IWOA) are invited to this event. Schedule is that all attendees are to meet as a whole the morning of Feb. 28, then the separate Boards will each meet with a facilitator to work out directions, strategies, etc. Cooper sought a determination of IWOA Board's desires. Moved by Alman, seconded by Handley that the IWOA Board attend, and attendees be reimbursed for the \$70 registration fee and mileage to the event. Attendees are to be responsible for their own room charges. Motion carried. IHS will mail out registration forms, etc.

Moved by Alman, seconded by Harman that because of lack of attendance at Board meetings for well over a year, Board Member Sollien be given an opportunity to resign this post in order to make way for a person who can devote more time to IWOA activities. Motion carried. Secretary directed to communicate same to Mr. Sollien.

Alman asked if IWOA wanted to participate in the Jones County Conservation Education Fair March 21, maybe with a booth. No action taken.

Grimes distributed copies of and quickly reviewed draft Bylaws that he had prepared to reflect a number of suggested changes. He urged Board members to scrutinize them carefully and be prepared to take action on them at the next Board meeting.

Next Board meeting was set for the evening of February 28 at the IHS retreat near West Des Moines. Secretary is to distribute written notice of the meeting at an appropriate time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Eugene O. Frye, Secretary