

The Iowa Woodland Owners Association Board members Paul Millice, Russ Glime, Al Wagner, Phil McCune, and Ann Schneckloth were in attendance at the 7:30 am Trees Forever Breakfast at Room 15 at the Iowa State Capitol Building on March 7, 2018. Also attending with IWOA were Dave Bartemes and Kevin Karr. We were introduced to Jeff Goertner, Head of the State Forest Nursery and head of Forestry under the DNR. Shannon Ramsay, President of Trees Forever, addressed everyone and then turned it over to our lobbyist, Jim Obradovich. He briefed us on simple ideas to talk with our Senators and especially our Representatives. The Utility Company bill that has a provision under the present law for these companies to reforest and ecologically enhance Iowa with a percentage of their funds is being voted on by the House of Representatives. We were also told to ask for increased funding for Forest Health. The Legislators also need to know we are looking at all the possible alternatives to reinstate the DNR Forestry Bureau. REAP funding should be increased, and the Iwill initiative funding for the Natural Resources Trust Fund be voted in. The rest of the morning was spent talking to our individual Representatives. Larry Wiley had our banners and a display table with IWOA flyers set up in the Rotunda. Many retired foresters were there to give advice. Then the IWOA Board members went to the cafeteria in the lower level for lunch and to secure a table for the Board meeting.

Minutes of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association March 7, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Millice at 12:21 pm. Board members present were Russ Glime, Paul Millice, Phil McCune, Al Wagner, Tom Brady, and Ann Schneckloth. Also present were Dave Bartemes, Kevin Karr, and Jon Schneckloth. Russ made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting, Tom seconded, and they were approved.

The Financial report was discussed. Kevin said that PayPal causes the amount for dues to not equal the amount it should be if all paid with cash. There is a 10% fee charged by PayPal. Al made a motion to approve the Finance Report, Tom seconded, and it was approved. The Membership Report was discussed. There are currently 408 members, and 11 have been added from the new mail campaign. Kevin said he and Cathy Wilke, our Membership Secretary, are working on 5 counties in Iowa. He said we even need to update some of the counties records that are 3 years old. Dave said that we need to know the total acres of Iowa's Forest Reserve to compare with 37,391.12 acres owned by IWOA members. Al made a motion to continue with the mailings, Ann seconded, and the motion carried. Al then made a motion to accept the Membership Report, Russ seconded, and the motion carried. Kevin asked if we should keep giving free new memberships. Al said it is minimal cost to us, and half or more renew with paid memberships. Al made a motion to continue giving some free memberships to new applicants, Russ seconded, and the motion carried.

The Spring Field Day will be near Harper's Ferry on April 24. Jesse Randall is on the afternoon schedule, and the DNR District Manager will talk about Chronic Wasting Disease. At noon there will be a talk from the Representative of that district. A plaque for Woodland Owner of the Year will be presented to the owner of the property where the field day is held. IWOA will supply porta potties, coffee and donuts.

Kevin gave an update on the Tree Identification Project. He showed a mock up of the information that will be put on plastic stakes at the Iowa State Fairgrounds near each special tree. There will be a picture of the tree species, and 2 phone reader cards that 1, will give information about the IWOA, and 2, the tree's special qualities. This is a good project and a way to get ourselves known. Kevin said that the stakes and starter kit is \$449, and then added parts will be a little over \$300. Al made a motion to spend the money needed to complete the Tree ID Project, Phil seconded, and the motion passed.

Paul said that many of the Board Assignments are being handled. Russ has done a very good job getting updates on the IWOA web site.

Paul said that we will need to spend some money on the plaques that we give for hosting field days. We will need 2 per year. Tom made a motion to spend what it costs to have them made, Al seconded, and the motion passed.

Paul attended the Forestry Advisory Council meeting. Ideas for the DNR were put on the table. One is to allow logs to be taken from the State Parks and the money from those sales be deposited for support of a Forestry Bureau. Dave said that the general public does not understand the culling of trees, especially in their parks. Another idea is to put a severance tax on logs at the time of harvest on woodland owners. A 4% tax was suggested. It is a can of worms but it has potential. Dave will talk to other groups and give feedback to Paul.

Paul did checking on the Iowa State Forestry Scholarship with their representative, Sarah Roelphs. He wanted to make sure there is only one scholarship per year given by IWOA. Also it should be given to an Iowan. All contracts are probably open ended.

Larry Wiley covered the Krirkwood Garden and the Prairie View events with IWOA brochures and information. No new members were gotten from that.

There will be no mass mailings to the particular counties with Representatives on the committees. Cathy will make the information user friendly so that certain Senators can be zeroed in. Phil may be able to help with membership mailings.

A site for the Fall Field Day was discussed. The Iowa state Fairgrounds could be a good place and we could view the Tree ID Project and interpretive trail. Our Legislators could be invited.

Our next Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 20 at the Ronnenburg Restaurant in Amana, Iowa, at 10:00 am.

Ann Schneckloth, Secretary. It is noted that these minutes have not been approved by the Board of the IWOA