

Minutes of the IWOA Board 11/5/19

The meeting was called to order by President Russ Glime at 10:00 am at the Pizza Ranch in Vinton, Iowa. Present were Russ Glime, Al Wagner, Ed Kocal, Tim Meyer, Ann Schneckloth, Phil McCune, Craig Semler, the Timber Talk publisher Steve Meyer, and the President of Trees Forever Shannon Ramsey. The Treasurers report was given by Russ, with \$13,584 in our account. The Membership report went in by Cathy Wilkie showed 519 members of IWOA. The Iowa Tree Farmers has 76 members who are also IWOA members. Ed made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, Tim seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Russ then directed our attention to the Coalition that IWOA is a member of. The Coalition has member fees that are used for advocacy, publications, a lobbyist, and Capitol Day. Motion by Phil to have the IWOA pay the Trees Forever Coalition the sum of \$1,000 for calendar year 2017, the sum of \$1,250 for calendar year 2018, and the sum of \$1,250 for calendar year 2019, for a total of \$3,500. Further that the Trees forever Coalition will submit an invoice in the future to the IWOA Board President for review and approval of the board of Directors of the IWOA. Motion seconded by Al. The motion carried.

Shannon gave a report on the Trees Forever Coalition. She passed around a sheet with the names of other members of the Coalition. The Coalition was begun when the Iowa State Nursery was threatened by legislative action and was nearly abolished. The IWOA had a huge influence working with Paul Tauke, the Iowa State Forester. She said we should consider having one of our future meetings at the Iowa State Nursery. Jeff Goernt is our State Forester now, and the position in Iowa is needed to keep our Federal funding. There are 14 Foresters in Iowa at this time, but there is no hint that the Forestry Bureau will be reinstated. Right now there is a backlog of cost share applications and the incentive through USDA and NRCS is not there. There is now a Forest Advisory Committee with many members, and Paul Millice, Russ Glime, and Dave Bartemes are IWOA members who are on it. Shannon said that the FAC will recommend \$3 million to the legislative committee to spend on Forest Health and Technical Assistance to forest land owners. Shannon said that Ken Rosenbloom wants to bring up the Forest Reserve tax issue again in committee this session. Shannon recommended that IWOA members talk to Farm Bureau people on Capitol Day to see what their stance is on climate change. March 11, 2020, is the capitol Day. She also recommended that we consider small acreage affiliate members in IWOA. She said IWOA could have a field day and meeting at the Trees Forever Marion office.

September 25, 2019, IWOA Board members Al, Tim, Phil, and Russ met with the Governor's Conservation Liaison Jake Swanson. On September 30, 2019, they met with Todd Bishop, Director of the Wildlife Bureau that Forestry is under.

Tim Meyer has been going to a lot of field days in Iowa and has signed up new members for the IWOA. He said the State Foresters are awesome people. He has learned something at every field day. There are interesting little places all over the state.

Russ told us about a letter from the DNR inviting IWOA to participate in putting white pine back into northeast Iowa. They asked for volunteers and matching funds. Russ said we are not directly participating but we do support their efforts.

Russ said the Listserve needs updating. He said it is hard to get on the list, and people don't know if they are on the list or not. Julie, our webmaster, said to look at a different site in the future.

The IWOA could give money to be listed on the Iowa State Extension Field Day publication. We are currently not listed. Dr. Billy Beck of ISU is doing research on Trees and Flooding in Iowa.

The Iowa Deer Classic is March 6 through March 8, 2020. IWOA will have a booth, and the request is to have many volunteers to man it. Steve suggested we print brochures to hand out. There will probably be 18 to 20,000 people attending.

The December Timber Talk publication needs more articles. Steve said he would like the articles to be sent to him by November 10, 2019.

The Kirkwood Winter Gardening event is February 15, 2020, at the new location on Boyson Road. There will be an IWOA booth there. There are lots of people who attend.

The Landowner Assistance Program discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

The DNR has published a listing of all Forest Reserve lands in Iowa, sorted by counties. There are 782,000 acres of Forest Reserve in Iowa.

Cathy Wilkie, our Membership Secretary, has been invited to attend any meeting or field day to meet the IWOA Board of Directors.

Russ said to think about increasing the dues and perhaps making electronic correspondence discounts.

Russ then discussed assignments that are given to the Directors on the Board. Ed mentioned that he needs someone to stand by the booth to sell shirts and hats on field days.

The next meeting will be mid January probably in Vinton. Russ asked everyone to think of topics to discuss. Al made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Ann Schneckloth, secretary.