

IWOA BOARD MEETING APRIL 16, 2026 Amana, Iowa

The meeting was called to order by President, Steve Meyer at 9:57 AM.

Board members present were: Steve Meyer, Jim White, Ray Lehn, Phil McCune, Ed Kocal, Linda Haugen, Ruth McAndrews, Paul Millice, and Tim Meyer.

R. Lehn moved to approve the agenda. Second was by J. White. Motion carried.

T. Meyer moved to approve the January 14, 2026 minutes of the meeting in Amana. R. Lehn seconded. Motion carried.

T. Meyer moved to approve the February 25 minutes of the meeting in Des Moines. Seconded by P. McCune. Motion carried.

E. Kocal moved to approve the treasurer's report. Second was by R. Lehn. Motion carried.

Linda has had some training and can now update some of the website items.

Membership is increasing, partly due to free ones for new members. E. Kocal will bring a supply of membership applications to the field day in May. The effectiveness of the free initial memberships will not be known until the renewals are due next year. S. Meyer will check with Cathy to see that renewal reminders are being sent to current members by electronic or postal mail. President Meyer will also write an explanation of the free membership experiment for the existing general membership. Cathy sent a report to S. Meyer with the breakdown of membership by county. P. Millice suggested that we include a member's legislative district in our membership data base which would be helpful in sending out legislative bulletins and notices for contacting their representatives and senators. The Iowa Tree Farmers are going to try to hire a student from Iowa State to update their data base with emails for all tree farmers regardless of membership.

R. McAndrews moved to change name from Iowa Woodland Owners Association to Iowa Woodland Owners Alliance. P. Millice seconded the motion. Motion carried. The name would encourage membership and participation by those interested in preserving woodlands, but do not have ownership. It would also reflect our collaboration with other like-minded forest conservation groups.

P. Millice moved for Ruth to proceed to apply for the 501c3 status under the name of Iowa Woodland Owners Alliance. L. Haugen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lobbyist, Jim Obradovich, joined the meeting by phone with an update on the status of SF633. Representative Gearhart has presented an alternative that would administer the forest reserve more like the CRP enrollment process. The amount of funding for the lobbyist was tabled until the next meeting. President Meyer had sent a letter regarding Federal

funding for forestry and conservation to each of Iowa's two senators and four representatives in Washington, D.C. The only response received was from Senator Grassley who expressed support for conservation.

The scholarship opportunity was sent to all colleges and universities in Iowa who had natural resources programs. We received one inquiry but no completed applications. There is concern that the requirement to have a family member belong to the IWOA may be a barrier. E. Kocal moved we remove the requirement. T. Meyer seconded. Motion carried.

L. Haugen reviewed how Facebook is structured for an organization. Having a profile allows us to have a page on which to post to the community. We do have a group, but posts are internal discussions that stay within the group. It is important to post regularly and these can be scheduled in advance. L. Haugen moved that she set up a new Facebook profile. P. Millice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Tristate Forestry Conference in Dubuque March 7 was attended by T. Meyer, J. White, L. Haugen, and R. McAndrews. The maximum registration of 300 was reached. It will stay in Dubuque for the next few years due to its central location.

We received a free booth at the Deer Classic in Des Moines. It went well despite being the same day as the Tri-State Forestry Conference. 90 free one-year memberships were given out. Discussion was held on ideas to encourage attendees to stop and chat at our booth. Ideas included a state map show where their woodlands are, "Guess the number of acorns in the jar" with a prize, and a screen with videos playing.

We were represented on Tree Day at the Capitol with the Environmental Alliance.

The spring field day is May 19 at Edgewood, Iowa. The two sites are about 10 minutes apart. 21 people are already registered. E. Kocal will add the on-line registration link to the poster. Cathy will send out the fliers. S. Meyer will order plaques for Christiansens and Kendrick Forest Products.

New Business

Cathy Wilkie has been membership secretary for 25 years. L. Haugen moved that we work toward combining the membership secretary and treasurer positions into one administrative assistant position. P. Millice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Meyer wants to have a general meeting at both the spring and fall field days. Spring is a good time to inform members of updates and get input. The by-laws require a general meeting in the fall and provide an opportunity to finalize agenda items.

Practical Farmers may ask for help on a field day such as a place to host or providing speakers. Their events are usually only a half-day or an evening. If it works, we will try to collaborate with them in the future.

Larry Wiley needs someone to take over handling the display. He is willing to mentor them for the next couple years. J. White and L. Haugen can help.

We had previously discussed having a short mentoring session or mini-field day. P. Millice submitted a list of potential topics and offered to host the first one. It would be on Saturday, September 19 at 9AM to noon on his property near Iowa City. Donuts and coffee would be provided by IWOA. As it would be on a Saturday, DNR personnel would not be available. Registration would be limited to 20 people, but he would consider a second afternoon session if there was enough demand.

The next newsletter will contain a call for help on committees.

The Legacy Tree planting in honor of our nation's 250th anniversary will be on Arbor Day, April 24. 350 hardwoods will be planted at the Roundhouse County Park in Atkins, IA. In addition to local Vinton-Shellsburg and Benton Community FFAs and Benton County Conservation partners, 45 students and some elementary classrooms will be coming to learn about trees and tree-planting.

The next meeting will be a short board meeting after the general meeting at the field day. The next regular meeting will be July 16 at the Ronnenberg in Amana.

E. Kocal moved to adjourn the meeting. P. McCune seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 P.

Ruth McAndrews, Secretary