

IWOA Board Meeting January 14, 2026
Brau Haus Restaurant Amana

Called to order by President, Steve Meyer, at 10:15 AM

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

Russ Glime was unable to attend to receive his plaque. S. Meyer will deliver it to him.

R. Lehn moved to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2025 meeting in Amana. Second was by E. Kocal. Motion carried.

Old and Ongoing Business:

Financials:

P. Millice moved to approve the financial report. R. Lehn seconded. Motion carried.

P. Millice recommended that on the check register summary, the treasurer define the purpose of the payment when the funds were dispersed to a board member.

T. Meyer moved that the CD maturing in January be renewed for another six months. L. Haugen seconded. Motion carried.

T. Meyer moved that we clarify the coverage of the umbrella insurance and then purchase it. P. Millice seconded. The motion carried.

Committee Organization:

President Meyer believes the organization would benefit by establishing five standing committees: 1. Legislation, 2. Membership, 3. Special Events, 4. Communications, 5. Scholarship

They would be standing committees which should meet a minimum of twice a year with objectives that address our mission statement.

P. Millice moved to accept the plan. T. Meyer seconded. Motion carried.

Steve Meyer will send out guidelines.

Board members volunteered to serve as follows:

1. Legislative: Paul Millice, Tim Meyer
2. Membership: Steve Meyer, Tim Meyer
3. Special Events: Ed Kocal, Ray Lehn
4. Communications: Linda Haugen, Steve Meyer
5. Scholarship: Linda Haugen, Ruth McAndrews

Scholarship update:

The guidelines and application forms and criteria were updated. Notice was put in the newsletter with contacts of Linda and Ruth. No potential applicants have reached out at this time. Linda and Ruth will find all the college natural resource programs in Iowa and send notices of the opportunity to the schools.

IWOA goals and objectives: Steve Meyer will report at next meeting

Legislative issues:

633 passed the Senate and was sent to the House too late for action. There are serious concerns that the bill as written is not constitutional. However, we should still all contact our state representatives to

let them know it is a property tax increase not a fee. Other proposals are in process so we need to remain vigilant regarding legislative proposals.

In the past IWOA have paid 1500/yr to Trees Forever as part of a coalition that supports a lobbyist. Trees Forever is not doing any legislative work this year and is no longer going to organize this coalition.

Therefore, we need to collaborate with other interest groups to support conservation. Further action was tabled for now with the expectation of raising our budget for lobbying to at least \$2000 this year.

Lobbying fees are invoiced at the end of a legislative session.

Membership:

Cathy's report was reviewed. Cathy has indicated that she prefers communication via text. Cathy has been handling the membership data for several years and S. Meyer will contact her to determine if she is still willing to continue in this capacity.

E. Kocal reported he received 40 responses, about a 10 per cent, from his survey. Average age of those responding was 77. With respect to the complimentary memberships, he presented a draft form that can be sent to Cathy. There was a recommendation to add a "referred by" line on the application.

Copies will be made available for distribution and a copy sent to Cathy.

Field Day:

Ed has an idea and potential location in northeast Iowa for a spring event, possibly in May. He will go forward with contacts to see if arrangements can be made.

Further conversation included discussion on possibly offering small group (up to 15-20) opportunities.

They could be held on a Saturday morning to allow hands-on mentoring and motivation. One topic could be invasive species.

Conferences:

P. Millice will send out notices to membership regarding Tree Day on the Hill, Deer Classic, and Tri-state events. He is coordinating with Larry Wiley and Tree Farmers for display, literature, and, banners, for Deer Classic and Tri-state forestry conferences. R. Lehn and E. Kocal will help. P. Millice will set up for the Deer Classic. Ed will check inventory and re-supply as needed. Several board members indicated they would be available for the Tri-State Conference in Dubuque.

R. McAndrews has an appointment with an attorney next week to discuss proceeding on the 501c3 application.

New Business:

President Meyer will send a letter to Washington, DC in support of continued levels of forestry funding.

T. Meyer and E. Kocal reported that the state forest action plan is looking for input from all the stakeholder. Any input from board members is welcome.

S. Meyer talked to a representative from Practical farmers of Iowa. Hopefully, there will be continuing dialogue and collaboration.

Marketing:

Social media is the most effective current method of outreach.

Back Forty could do part of the proposal they presented instead of all of it.

S. Meyer and L. Haugen talked with the Iowa Non-Profit Alliance. We could join for \$100 giving us access to their resources. They also have a division, AMP, which also assists membership.

T. Meyer moved to join. R. Lehn seconded.

Legacy plantings: Discussion centered around how they are of benefit. There was consensus in that it puts trees in the ground and has permanent signage giving the public notice of our organization. There was concern that there should be a nomination process with criteria including how the planting would be maintained in the future. The subject was tabled.

Tree Day on the Hill: IWOA is now an Iowa Environmental council member. Tree Day on the Hill is February 25. P. Millice has reserved a table and will set up about ten o'clock. He will hand out free membership fliers and encourages all board members to attend.

Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association: President S. Meyer and Vice-president T. Meyer are arranging a face-to-face meeting with members of the WWOA board that will be held in Platteville, WI. The purpose of the meeting is for an exchange of ideas. Other IWOA board members are welcome to attend also.

Tree Farm Meeting: Jan 20 11AM Ox Yoke: President S. Meyer and Vice-president T. Meyer and other board members will be in attendance.

Upcoming Meetings:

Brief board meeting at capitol Feb 25

April 16 Ronnenberg Restaurant in Amana 10 AM

Adjourned at 1:05 PM