

**AISWCD Quarterly Board Meeting
Forestry Committee
Monday, December 10, 2012**

Present: Terry Davis
David McCormick, Chairperson
Randy Molitoris
Dick Breckenridge, IEPA
Ray Herman, IFA
Rich Nichols, AISWCD
Julie Gillmore

Call to Order: David McCormick called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Terry Davis motioned to approve the June 2012 Minutes as presented.

2nd by: Randy Molitoris **Carried: Yes**

Updates: There were no updates to report.

Advisor reports:

IDOA: No report

IDNR: No report

NRCS: No report

IEPA: Dick Breckenridge didn't report on IEPA, but instead asked questions pertaining to the NRCS EQIP program and how it addressed forestry projects. The committee discussed the program and various requirements, such as the need to use a Technical Service Provider (TSP) to obtain a Forestry Management Plan (FMP), and the fact that all FMPs still need to be approved by an IDNR Forester before the EQIP program will pay the landowner.

Old Business

Forestry Issues: Ray Herman discussed the 4% Forestry Tax that the state of Illinois imposes on landowners. He explained that the revenue from that tax was supposed to go into a fund that was to be used for cost-share on forestry projects throughout the state. Instead, those funds have been consistently swept by the State and used for other purposes. Mr. Herman requested that the Forestry Committee send an official letter to the Governor's Office urging the state to either allocate those funds as originally intended, or do away with the tax completely. He went on to explain that the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) wanted to handle the situation differently and that he disagrees with their intended approach. He recommended having the AISWCD create a forestry subcommittee to address this issue, and feels that the individual SWCDS should receive more forestry training. He agreed to

Speak to the IFA to see if they would be willing to have someone speak at the AISWCD Annual Meeting in July.

Mr. Herman also asked Chairperson McCormick what the AISWCD policy was on becoming a full voting member of the Forestry Committee. Rich Nichols researched the by-laws during the meeting and stated that to be a full voting member, an individual must also hold a seat on an SWCD Board of Directors in good standing with the AISWCD.

Terry Davis motioned to send a letter to invite the IFA, the Northwestern Forestry Association, the Walnut Council, and the Tree Farm Group to the next Forestry Committee meeting.

2nd by: Randy Molitoris Carried: Yes

New Business

The committee discussed whether to hold a workshop this coming year. Chairperson McCormick stated that he would check with some of the other SWCDs to see if there was any interest in organizing one for Summer Conference.

Ray Herman asked that the committee provide him with a list of contact information for its members. Chairperson McCormick stated he would see that he got one. Terry Davis then suggested that Chairperson McCormick ask the AISWCD Board for clarification on the committee's role regarding issues like the Forestry Tax.

Adjournment: Terry Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

2nd by: Randy Molitoris Carried: Yes

Minutes taken by Julie Gillmore, AC, Menard County SWCD