

North Central Forest Landowners Association, Inc.
General Membership Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2009

Due to the severe weather forecast for Saturday, July 11th, the General Membership Meeting and Annual Picnic were rescheduled to Sunday July 12, 2009, at Ken and Jane Cogan's Tree Farm, Cosby, PA. The meeting was called to order by the President, Larry Schultz at 12:00 pm., with 30 in attendance, including the following:

Officers:

Larry Schultz, President
Marie Petrick, Treasurer
Verda W. Knowlton, Secretary

Advisor:

Tim G. Pierson, Ph.D., McKean Co. Cooperative Extension

Service Foresters:

Stan T. Hess, Potter/McKean Co. DCNR Bureau of Forestry

Directors:

Rick Smith, McKean Co.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the membership meeting held on February 8, 2009 to review and approve the Corporate Bylaws were read by the Secretary. Motion made by Frances Crew, seconded by Donald Comes to approve the minutes as read.

Reports of Officers & Committees:

President's Report:

- After the picnic lunch, members will share "Practical Tips for Controlling Pests and Invasive Species" and we will also discuss the defoliation by the Forest Tent Caterpillar.
- The Sagamore Hunt Club Woodswalk—has been canceled.

Treasurer's Report:

Marie Petrick reported that earlier this year we merged the small savings account with the checking account and the current balance is \$4,951.78. She has received \$1,645.00 in dues and a total of \$935.86 was paid out in expenses. As of May, 62% of have renewed their membership. (copy of report attached).

Property Tax Committee:

Jim Herzog reported that the Committee (consisting of himself, Larry Schultz and Dave Lombardo) continues to pursue lower taxes for forest landowners. Jim reported that his personal property tax appeal in McKean County requesting a reduction to \$1.00 per acre from an assessment of \$6.30 per acre was finally heard in May and he is awaiting the judge's decision. If he wins, this could spread to other property owners. He and Dave Lombardo spoke with the newly elected representative for Elk Co., Matt Gobler, to educate him about issues such as the Clean and Green forestry tax situation. Stan Hess reported that in Potter County a topic of great concern is the need for a "Landowner's Bill of Rights" because in Pennsylvania, the subsurface rights take priority over the surface owner's rights.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Election Procedure:

Larry reported that a Nomination Committee has been appointed consisting of Jane Cogan, Roy Knowlton and himself, since he is not running for office again. Nominations are due September 1, 2009 and those received after that date will not be counted. All nominees will be contacted by the Committee to ascertain their willingness to serve. A mail ballot is required by our bylaws and will be mailed out by September 14th and the deadline for return is October 24th.

Annual Membership Meeting & Banquet:

The Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 1, 2009 from 12:30 pm. to 4:00 pm. at the Red Fern Inn, in St. Mary's. The topic: "Seeing Beyond the Trees to What Else is in Your Forest".

NEW BUSINESS:

Best Practices for Woodland Owners Associations Conference:

The conference which will be held at Penn State University on November 21, 2009 with a maximum of four representatives per WOA allowed. Since Walt and Marie Petrick are on the Steering Committee and will already be at the conference, they, along with Roy and Verda Knowlton, will be our Association's four attendees. Marie reported that each WOA is to prepare a poster to depict their proudest accomplishments and she is asking for ideas as to what to include on our poster such as--we are the largest WOA with over 200,000 acres represented; we hold many educational opportunities for our members; we have a real diversity in our members—foresters, teachers, artists, horticulturists, etc.

Tim Pierson agreed with all of those but also mentioned that unlike some other WOA's, we have a complement of eight officers and directors who are volunteering their time to do the work of the Association. Walt Petrick suggested we acknowledge the help of our Penn State Extension Adviser and our DCNR Service foresters. Jim Herzog: we stopped the tax increase in McKean County and got them to reduce it from \$2.91 to \$2.55 per acre which saved forest property owners in that county \$300,000 in taxes. Please let Marie know if you have any other ideas.

Tax Exempt Status Application:

Larry reported that on July 13th, he, Marie and Verda will be meeting with CPA Tim Gooch, of Parente Randolph, regarding completing the tax exempt status request forms for our Association.

Penn State Extension Update:

Tim Pierson reported that:

- Saturday, September 19th, Part 2 of Matt Miller's Woodswalk will be held with horse logging demonstrations and tree felling.
- On October 4th, there will be a Woodswalk at Ken Comstock's with hands-on activities on measuring and marking trees.

- Tim also distributed copies of a flyer and registration form for the Allegheny Chapter of the Society of American Foresters summer meeting which will be held on July 22-24, 2009, at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford Campus (copy attached). Some topics to be covered include: impact of OGM Leasing and Production on Forest and Wildlife Management; Impact of Gas Well Drilling on Pa's Water Resources; and The Changing Hardwood Marketplace.

Smethport Woody Biomass Project:

The Smethport Woody Biomass Project was featured in the June issue of the Biomass Magazine, a copy of which was passed around by Jim Herzog. The magazine's website is: www.BiomassMagazine.com. John Stratton suggested that we put a link to the magazine article on the NCFLA website.

Tim Pierson reported that the contractual selections have been made--Leymeyer International of Germany (known for heating systems in Europe) and O'Brian and Gere Engineering and the due diligence process will now begin. In addition to the combined heating and power plant, there will be a special research and development project to re-capture gases for use in local greenhouses. The actual location of the research and technology outreach center is part of the consultants recommendation. By October 1, the permit application process will begin with projected startup of the combined heating and power plant and its wood chip handling facility in about 18 months. Funding will be from both private and public sources with the borough retaining a 51% interest. The project will produce the hot water and heat for all the downtown buildings, schools and government buildings. Providing the woody biomass will help local loggers with dependable jobs for the next 20 years and approximately 44 green energy jobs will be produced. There will also be opportunities for forest landowners to get a monetary return for their "junk trees" and to receive funds for carbon sequestration from the coal companies.

Website Update:

Walt Petrick reported that we can now e-mail directly from the NCFLA, Inc. website although we did have a few e-mails bounce back due to incorrect addresses.

Motion made by Don Comes, seconded by Jim Herzog to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Submitted by,

Verda Weder Knowlton
Secretary

Attachment:

Treasurer's Report
Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting

Cc: Walt Petrick, Webmaster