

NORTH CENTRAL FOREST LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
September 14, 2010
9:00 a.m.

The Board of Directors Meeting was held at the DCNR Office, Emporium, PA. In attendance were:

Officers:

Tim Pierson, President
Walt Petrick, Vice President
Marie Petrick, Treasurer
Verda Knowlton, Secretary

Directors:

Ken Comstock, Potter Co.
Dave Lombardo, Cameron Co.
Lynda Pontzer, Elk Co.

Advisor:

Tim Pierson, McKean Co. Ext. Office

DCNR Bur. of Forestry, Service Foresters:

Toby Herzing, Cameron-Elk Co.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Tim Pierson at 9:07 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Dave Lombardo, seconded by Marie Petrick to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2010 meeting which were sent to Board members prior to the meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Marie reported that she has received the reimbursement from the Tree Farm Program for the luncheon at the June 19th "Forestry, Wildlife, Conservation & Stewardship Field Day." The current balance in the checkbook is \$4,022.16. While most of the members have renewed, there are still a few coming in. (copy of Treasurer's report attached)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Program Committee:

Woodswalk at Rick Smith's Property—Sept. 26:

Walt Petrick reported that the committee visited Rick Smith's property to see what will be offered at the Sept. 26th Woodswalk. Participants will be viewing wildlife food plots, a re-circulating pond, spring development, apple orchard care and maintenance, tree planting, bee keeping and Garlon treatment of interfering plants. Walt has put all of Rick's wildlife camera clips into a 3-4 minute video and he will bring a 32" TV on which to show it. There will also be a discussion on "ATV Use and Abuse". Tim said there will be a limit of 40 participants, so register early.

The flyer has a statement that there will be utility vehicles available to transport participants to the remote practices to encourage attendance by people who are unable to walk longer distances. The Smiths will be providing food and a campfire for those who are willing to stay around after the woodswalk.

Wildlife Camera Pictures:

It was suggested that we may want to solicit wildlife camera pictures from members and digitize them for a display.

Carbon Markets & Carbon Sequestration:

Tim Pierson reported that they are trying to put together a program on this subject for the beginning of 2011 with Matt Smith, Finite Carbon; Paul Roth, DCNR Carbon Management; and Mike Jacobson, Penn State University, as presenters.

Forest & Wildlife Plan Development:

Tim said that we have kicked off this issue with an article in our Newsletter and included a Forestry and Wildlife Management Plan Landowner Information Questionnaire to help landowners understand their goals and objectives. There will be one or two more articles in the Newsletter that will discuss the components of the management plan. We will then have an afternoon workshop and spend the day on management plan development—sometime in early spring, 2011. Tim said there is a point in the plan development that may encourage using a forester to prepare an inventory and he suggested that Service Foresters could sign off as co-authors of the plans. Lynda Pontzer suggested having some Forest Stewardship plans available at the workshop for people to review.

Tim also reported that our “Forestry, Wildlife, Conservation & Stewardship Field Day” program is being replicated in other counties and will turn into a package that will be modeled elsewhere in Pennsylvania and in other states.

Estate Planning for the Private Forest Landowner:

Tim said that this workshop will be done sometime next year. Tim mentioned that Gary Misky, Mercer County, whose specialty is forestry estate planning could be a resource for this workshop. He distributed a copy of the October 13th workshop to be held in Ridgeway, Pa. on “Forest Ownership Through the Generations: Forest Land Succession.” (copy attached) Walt Petrick will put this information on the website and will send out an e-mail announcing it.

Ken Comstock mentioned that landowners can have their OGM’s separated out and put into a different trust or Limited Liability Corporation—you can have a surface estate and a subsurface estate. This establishes the current value of OGM’s, a stepped up basis, which can save as much as 25% in estate taxes. This can also be done for timber value.

Woodswalk at Lynda Pontzer’s Property:

Tim asked if we could plan to have a woodswalk at Lynda Pontzer’s Elk County property in the spring of 2011. She felt that her forester would be available.

“The Impact of Elk in the Forest”:

Lynda Pontzer passed out newspaper articles regarding the opening of the \$10 million Elk Country Visitors Center in Benezette, Pa. and suggested that we hold a future meeting there. The Keystone Elk Country Alliance is renting the building and running the program. Tim said we will have a program there, including a DCNR forester, the land manager from the Game Commission and do a program on “The Impact of Elk in the Forest.” He also mentioned that the Game Commission has a link to the Visitors Center on their website.

Program Planning Questionnaire:

Tim reported that a questionnaire will be mailed out to our members requesting their input and ranking of proposed future educational programs. A survey form will be prepared to send out with the November Banquet notice and copies could also be brought to the banquet. The results could be used at our December Board meeting to help plan the 2011 Calendar of Events.

“Understanding Your Deed”:

Ken Comstock said he would be willing to do a very simple 1.5 hour session on understanding your deed and surveys and people could bring theirs to the meeting. Developing a map requires knowing your survey and deed. It was decided this will be discussed at the next Program Committee meeting.

Newsletter Committee:

Walt Petrick reported that the Newsletter went out and everyone agreed that Marie Petrick did an excellent job producing it. Marie said she would like to see us add other programs to our calendar of events. Tim suggested keeping our calendar for NCFLA programs but said we could add a section at the end of the Newsletter—“Other Programs That May Be Of Interest” that are held by other organizations. Tim said he could contact Sandy Thompson, Toby Herzing, and Stan Hess to ask for topics related to forestry to get a start on this. Walt reported that only a few members have asked to receive the Newsletter electronically.

Tax Committee:

Dave Lombardo reported that Cameron County did raise their tax rate for their school districts for next year and that counties are now accepting a species inventory that might lower the Clean and Green taxes. He has not heard anything from the meeting in Harrisburg this spring. Please let Dave know if your Clean and Green rates go up.

Nothing about changing the taxation for landowners regarding gas development has been heard; however, the severance tax should pass before the end of the month, which is a true tax on the landowner.

OLD BUSINESS:**New Membership Brochure:**

Marie Petrick reported that we corrected the old Membership Brochure and it has already been printed and distributed. Tim feels the current brochure is well done.

New York Statewide Forest Landowner's Association:

Tim reported that it is basically a model that will not work in Pennsylvania, unless we have regional chapters and a State umbrella leadership.

Annual Membership Meeting—Nov. 7:

The Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet will be held at the American Legion, Route 155, Port Allegany, Pa. and the cost will be \$15.00 per person. We will pay the \$100.00 clean up fee. The program on "Invasive Plant Species in the North Central Region" will be presented by Art Gover, Pa Wild Land Management, College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State University.

Lynda Pontzer will obtain another \$100.00 wood carving and she will provide the table decorations. We will also purchase two wildlife trail cameras. Marie Petrick will contact Larry Schultz who said he would be willing to obtain additional door prizes. Verda Knowlton will prepare the flyer which will include the statement that "donation of door prizes will be greatly appreciated."

Lynda Pontzer suggested bringing the wildlife video to the Annual Banquet.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pa. Forest Stewards Workshop—Nov. 20:

Marie reported that there will be a table on communication among the groups and she needs some ideas for the NCFLA display. Tim suggested using one of the repeating picture frames and have changing photographs from our events. Tim reported that he has a USB flash drive with nothing but NCFLA photos on it. It was agreed that our display should list our programs that have been presented. Verda Knowlton said she can provide a copy of the History of the NCFLA document she has prepared which lists programs presented by year.

Dave Lombardo asked if the Forest Stewards or WOA's would be interested in having joint meetings on statewide issues for forest landowners such as taxes, clean & green, and how the Conservation Stewardship Program could have more forestry components in their program.

Emerald Ash Borer:

Tim attended a study and field tour in Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania on the Emerald Ash Borer with Extension professionals, foresters, private landowners, and the Forest Service. All of Ohio and the lower part of Michigan is quarantined and our area is now in the 43 counties quarantined in Pa. Ash products cannot leave the quarantined area without inspection or a compliance agreement in place. The only effective treatment is kiln drying—you can't move green lumber if there is bark on it

Tim learned from Ohio and Michigan researchers and forestry professionals that the Emerald Ash Borer will likely negatively impact most of the ash trees in Pennsylvania over time. We have probably about 5-7 years (based on the Michigan and Ohio experience) to carefully evaluate our ash and regenerate the stands with a high percentage of Ash before the Ash Borer impacts it. Typically Emerald Ash Borer prefers to start in the smaller diameter part of a tree (4 inches and less) to infest first. This makes it hard to find evidence in sawtimber size trees until the infestation is well established. Statewide guidelines need to be

developed on how to manage for Emerald Ash Borer. If 10% to 20% or more of your stand is ash—you need to do something and need to plan how to deal with it before Emerald Ash Borer mortality starts in the stand. This does not mean a rush to remove Ash, but a well-thought-out plan on replacing that component with desired species. Our Association will play an important role in the years to come in providing private forest landowners in our region with understanding sound decision-making regarding suggested guidelines when available.

NCFLA Sympathy Card:

It was reported that Larry Stratton, has recently died and it was suggested that we send a sympathy card to his wife, Starr Stratton. Ken Comstock made a motion that we make it a policy to send a sympathy card to the families of Association members; seconded by Dave Lombardo; motion carried. Marie Petrick will design an NCFLA sympathy card on her computer, which the secretary will send to the family.

Motion made by Walt Petrick to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m.; seconded by Dave Lombardo. Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Verda Weder Knowlton
Secretary

Attachments: (2)