

NORTH CENTRAL FOREST LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

September 20, 2011

9:00 a.m.

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

Officers:

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

Directors:

Rick Smith, McKean 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.
Stan Hess, Potter-McKean Co.

Guest:

Wade Kisler, DCNR Assistant District Forester

The meeting was called to order by the President, Tim Pierson at 9:15 a.m.

Introduction of Guest:

Tim introduced Wade Kisler, DCNR Assistant District Forester, whose focus is timber management of the state forest land, and who will be sitting in on today's meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Marie Petrick, seconded by Rick Smith to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2011 meeting which were sent to Board members prior to the meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Marie Petrick reported that she did not prepare a report but the balance in the checkbook as of today is \$3,205.41. She said the upcoming expenses will be for mailing, the bill from the Jim Herzog woodswalk and the Annual Banquet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Program Committee:

Woodswalk at Jim Herzog's:

Tim reported that Jim did a great job at his woodswalk, particularly with setting up a lecture area. We all enjoyed trying out his remote-controlled boat on his pond which he uses to deter Canada geese. The information he provided about the windmill he uses to aerate the pond was very informative.

Woodswalk at John Stratton's Property—October 9:

Walt Petrick reported that the pre-work for this woodswalk will occur on Thursday, October 6. He also reported that 14 participants have registered to date, with a limit of 40 participants. The Stratton property is located near Smethport, in Farmer's Valley, McKean County.

Annual Membership Meeting & Banquet—November 6:

The fire hall in Emporium needs to be contacted to schedule the banquet and Rick Smith will handle this. Tim said he should tell them we expect 70 attendees. Tim said that we will advertise this to the general public. The speaker, Michael Bardon is a certified forester and will be discussing “Wind Energy & It’s Impact on the Forest”. Tim said that he was surprised to learn that the payback time on windmills is 18 years.

Lynda Pontzer suggested giving voting members paper ballots to use in voting on agenda items since the general public is being invited to the meeting.

Newsletter Committee:

Walt Petrick said that it is time for another Newsletter and asked Tim if he could submit an article by Friday of next week.

Tim mentioned that in the Newsletter, we should include in bold red the question, “in order to save the Association money, would you like to get an e-newsletter?” Walt said that when that was included in the covering memo for the e-newsletter, we only got one or two responses. There is a separate list of the 5 or 6 members who do not want a hard-copy. Walt and Marie Petrick agreed to continue to produce the Newsletter into 2012.

Tax Committee:

Tim said that Jim Herzog knows more than anyone else about the tax values used to calculate forest land assessments under Clean and Green. Jim has an appeal on uniformity with McKean County as there are three different assessment values being used and he feels this is not in accordance with the tax code. Jim Herzog may take a look at Potter County Clean & Green in the future.

Dave Lombardo reported there is not much to report at this time as Penn State is not going to change their formula for calculating forest values. Tim expressed the Association’s appreciation for the Committee’s work. Larry Schultz is no longer serving on the Committee.

Clean & Green Law Change:

Tim Pierson reported that there is a change in the law that allows the county to charge rollback taxes for land permanently taken out of production for gas well pads or compressor stations. The rollback taxes are triggered by the Reclamation Plan sent to the county. Pipelines don’t count as they are returned to production. The law was effective December 19, 2010.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fund Raiser Ideas:

Walt Petrick said that as long as we can keep the treasury where it is, we don’t need a fund raiser at this time. Marie Petrick felt that if the membership drops, then we could look at a fund raiser. Tim Pierson did not want to do any fund raiser this year or next year. After considerable discussion, Walt Petrick made a motion that we do not want to engage in fund raisers this year or in 2012. Seconded by Rick Smith. Motion carried.

Hats:

Marie reported that we have a lot of hats which continue to be on sale at the reduced price of \$8.00 each or two for \$15.00.

Door Prizes:

Since the door prizes were such a success at last year's banquet, Rich Smith suggested that we include in the Newsletter a request for the donation of door prizes for this year's banquet on November 6th. Tim said that he feels the big door prizes are a benefit of membership and doesn't want to charge more for them to make money.

Lynda Pontzer can get another chainsaw carving and was given a budget of \$150.00. Walt will check with Larry Schultz to see if he is interested in getting some door prizes. Toby Herzig will check on obtaining a John Sidelinger painting. Lynda Pontzer suggested having auction bidding on the large prizes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee Report:

Verda Knowlton distributed a copy of the ballot which will be mailed after the Board meeting. There is no candidate for secretary—Larry Schultz suggested that we ask for write-in candidates. Tim suggested amending the ballot to include "write-in" next to the blank nomination lines under each office. After a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed to send out the ballot with the above addition. Tim said we are fortunate to have this many people interested in serving on the Board.

Elk Management Tour Expenses:

Tim Pierson reported on the successful tour that was held at the new Elk Visitors Center in Benezette since the last Board Meeting. He praised John Dzemyan for taking the group behind closed gates where we saw 50 Elk and for the other informative stops highlighting the efforts to clean up the acid mine drainage before it enters the creeks and tributaries. Toby Herzing's presentation at the shelterwood cut was also excellent. Marie Petrick will provide the pictures she took at the Elk Tour and Jim Herzog's woodswalk to Tim.

Tim reported that the actual cost per person was \$29.15 rather than the \$25.00 per person estimate resulting in a \$319.36 shortfall. The extra cost was from the bus rental. There are three sponsoring agencies: NCFLA, Inc., Penn State Extension and DCNR. Toby Herzig will look into whether DCNR has any funds available to help with the cost. Motion made by Dave Lombardo to split the additional expense between the Penn State Extension, DCNR, if possible, and the Association. Seconded by Marie Petrick. Motion carried.

Marie Petrick suggested that we should hold another woodswalk at Jim's and Tim said we should get out into the woods more.

2012 Calendar of Events:

Suggested Program Topics:

Marie Petrick suggested a Second Woodswalk at Jim Herzog's property.

Verda Knowlton suggested having Thad Taylor, Ag Choice Farm Credit, make an Availability of Woodland Financing presentation as most members are probably unaware of this source of loans for purchasing timberland.

Marie Petrick suggested having Norm Conrad present a program on Lyme's Disease.

Rick Smith suggested "Walking the Woods with a Forester". Our three foresters could each chose a location. Stan Hess suggested the trail beside the Pa. Lumber Museum which works for those who are not very mobile.

Rick Smith also suggested a birding walk; Tim said we could do something with the Upper Allegheny Bird Club. He also suggested visiting a stand of "virgin timber"; Tim said that could be done at "Hearts Content" on the Allegheny National Forest or the Tionesta Scenic Area which has a stand of black cherry 38" in diameter.

Landowner's Conference—Tim asked if we want to hold one in St. Mary's again. He would be willing to work on putting one together. There is one scheduled in Williamsport and one in Erie. Lynda Pontzer suggested putting information on these in the Newsletter.

Toby Herzig suggested holding a woodswalk on the 1,200 acre Sagamore Hunt Club Woodswalk property located in the Quehanna Wild Area. He would be willing to contact them.

Marie Petrick suggested "Visiting a Gas Well"—before and after. Toby Herzig suggested it be one with a compressor station.

Program Committee Meeting:

Walt Petrick suggested scheduling a Program Committee meeting to draft a 2012 Calendar of Events. Program Committee members are: Tim Pierson, Walt Petrick, Rick Smith, Ken Comstock, Marie Petrick and Verda Knowlton. Stan Hess asked if the DCNR Service Foresters could attend Program Committee meetings and it was agreed that they could. The meeting was set for December 6, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. at Walt & Marie Petrick's house.

Marie Petrick distributed copies a Speaker's List for the Association which she prepared from our previous events; Tim Pierson will add to it to come up with a final list which will be retained by the Program Committee and the Secretary.

Lifetime Memberships:

Marie Petrick suggested giving Al McCullough a Lifetime Membership in the Association for his long history of service. Tim said that retiring board members are always given a plaque recognizing their service to the Association. He felt we should come up with criteria for a Lifetime Membership such as service as a board member, participation in events, length of membership, etc. After some discussion, it

was decided that individual Lifetime Memberships will be awarded to Al McCullough, Jack and Jean Culver, Ken and Jane Cogan and Merle Zetler at the Annual Banquet.

Historian:

Verda Knowlton suggested having the history of the Association completed to include the names of the 35 original founding members, the names of all officers and board members and years they served, etc.

Motion made by Marie Petrick to appoint Verda Knowlton as the temporary Historian to gather the information and provide it to the Secretary who will then act as the Historian in the future. Seconded by Rick Smith. Motion carried.

Motion made by Walt Petrick to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 a.m.; seconded by Lynda Pontzer. Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Verda Weder Knowlton
Secretary