

NORTH CENTRAL FOREST LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

March 10, 2009

9:00 a.m.

The Board of Directors Meeting was held at the McKean County Extension office, Smethport, PA. In attendance were:

Directors:

**Ken Comstock, Potter Co.
Dave Lombardo, Cameron Co.**

Officers:

**Larry Schultz, President
Marie Petrick, Treasurer
Verda Weder Knowlton, Secretary**

Advisor:

Tim Pierson, McKean Co. Extension Office

Guests:

**Walt Petrick, Webmaster
Jim Herzog**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Larry Schultz. Larry reported that Stan Hess is sick and cannot attend today's meeting and Toby Herzig e-mailed Verda that he was unable to attend the Board meeting today.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Marie Petrick, seconded by Dave Lombardo, to approve the December 16, 2008 minutes which had been sent to all members. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Marie Petrick reported that in accordance with the motion made at the December 16th Board meeting, the savings account was closed on December 18, 2008 and the balance of \$1,435.00 was deposited into the checking account. The ending balance for December, 2008 was \$4,242.64 and the balance as of February 12, 2009 is \$3,922.04 (copy attached).

Final Corporate Bylaws:

The corporate bylaws were reviewed, amended and approved at the February 8, 2009 Special Membership Meeting held for that purpose. Verda reported that she will distribute copies of the minutes of that meeting to Board members along with the revised corporate bylaws. A copy of the revised bylaws was provided to the Webmaster for posting on the website.

Incorporation Next Steps:

Verda Knowlton reported that after the tax season ends on April 15th, we need to schedule a meeting with Tim Gooch, CPA, to get help with the process of obtaining our tax exempt status. Larry Schultz and Marie Petrick also plan to attend that meeting.

2009 Calendar of Events:

Potato Creek Trail Woodswalk—May 17:

Tim Pierson said there is a Potato Creek Trail Association meeting tomorrow night and he will bring up the May 17th date for a Woodswalk utilizing the Ryans to present Indian Trail Trees and to GPS their locations that day. He will let us know.

Northcentral Forest Landowner's Workshop:

This event will be removed from the schedule.

Summer Membership Meeting and Picnic—July 11:

Walt Petrick suggested a discussion on “Practical Tips for Private Forest Landowners on Controlling Pests & Invasives” and that we add to the picnic flyer that “we would appreciate members sharing their experiences in this area”. Tim said that Ken Cogan has a very good methodology for controlling multi-flora rose which they could share and Tom Leete could give us a rundown on treating striped maple, beech and ironwood which he did on multiple acres three years ago and what was the response to that treatment. Tim Pierson will identify some people to lead this discussion.

Ken Comstock suggested inviting both Glenn Thompson, Matt Gobler and Martin Causer and their families to our summer picnic.

Sagamore Hunt Club Woodswalk:

Tim Pierson will contact them regarding holding a woodswalk in August or September.

Woodswalk at Ken Comstock's—October 4:

Ken said we need to bring 4-wheel drive pickup trucks to provide the transportation.

Annual Membership Meeting & Banquet—November 1:

This will be held at the Red Fern Inn. The room will cost us \$50.00 with a meal costing \$12.95 that includes two hot dishes. Our topic, “What are Those Other Things in the Forest Beside Trees.” could be presented by Susan Much, Penn State University, who wrote “Ferns, Mosses, Liverworts and Lichens.”

Future Meeting Topics:

- Tim Pierson suggested the topics of “Cap and Trade Legislation and “Estate Planning and Your Forest Land.”
- Walt Petrick suggested “Ways to Make Money from your Forest Landowners Plot.”
- Gerry Howard Sawmill Tour—Walt Petrick would contact him
- Mickey Greeley—presentation on his specialized sawmill work
- Log grading—Paul Buchen's son is a grader who could explain what is grading and what various grades can be used for

Donations to High School Ag Programs with Forestry Components:

Stan Hess had raised the issue about the NCFLA making a donation to go through the FFA fund to those high school agriculture programs with a forestry component. There are four schools with these programs: Kane; Bradford; Johnsonburg and Coudersport. A suggestion was made to sponsor two NCFLA student memberships in each district with the requirement that they would have to attend at least one activity a year. After some discussion, motion wade by Dave Lombardo, seconded my Marie Petrick to provide \$50.00 to each of the four FFA programs and ask if we could have an opportunity to have a board member speak to the class about private forest landowners. Motion carried. We need to develop a letter to be sent to the Ag teacher and the FFA Advisor. Larry Schultz will contact Stan Hess for the contact information and we will add them to our Newsletter mailing list. Dave Lombardo will assist with this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election Procedures:

1. Current Officers must also fill out a nomination form to indicate that they are willing to run.
2. Nomination Petition—could be sent out with the Picnic Notice and will include Sept. 1 return deadline. Nomination Petitions will be available at the Annual Picnic.
3. Nomination Petitions Deadline—September 1—all nominating forms must be returned
4. Election Ballots Mailed with a postage paid return envelope—September 10-14 and could go out with Ken Comstock's Woodswalk flyer. Ballot will include October 24 return date.
5. Ballots Received After October 24—will be retained unopened and will only be opened in the event of a tie vote and will be used to break the tie.

The Secretary will type up the Election Procedures and attach a copy of both the nominating petition and the election ballot forms. (copy attached)

Nominating Committee:

Larry said that Al McCullough is resigning from the Nominating Committee, which leaves Jane Cogan and Walt Petrick but since he is not running for office again, he could serve on this committee. Motion made by Dave Lombardo, seconded by Marie Petrick, that Larry Schultz will be added to the Nominating Committee. Motion carried. Jean Culver's name was also mentioned for the committee and Walt Petrick will contact her to see if she is willing to serve.

Clean & Green Issues:

Jim Herzog distributed a handout on Clean and Green issues (copy attached). Some counties are assessing full roll-back taxes when oil and gas drilling begins; others are trying to roll back when the land is leased. Our four counties have not assessed roll-back on drilling but have indicated they would prefer that legislation was passed addressing this issue and are also hoping that oil and gas production will be taxed. Since roll-back taxes would go back 7 years and include interest, anyone considering leasing should have an addendum which states that any roll-back of clean and green taxes would be paid by the lessor. There are still about 22 people in the McKean Co. Records Office doing deed research for the gas companies.

There has been some legislation introduced but nothing has been passed. Forest property taxes under Clean and Green vary from \$1.50 to \$8.00 per acre and are based upon timber values and species which results in low value in the southern part of the state and higher values in the north. He and Dave Lombardo will be meeting with representative Matt Gobbler on Friday to educate him on the issues. Dave Lombardo suggested that there should be language concerning catastrophic events that would lower the assessment.

Tim Pierson said that counties are administering Clean and Green differently when it comes to oil and gas leasing and drilling. He distributed a handout from the Pa. Association of Realtors website which shows the county assessment office contact telephone numbers and its position on this subject, if any. (copy attached). Tim mentioned that HB #667 is pending and provides compromise positions between the county and the landowner—rollback taxes on the footprint of the gas well or gives the landowner the opportunity to back out of Clean and Green. Even with deep wells, the footprint for the well will be less than an acre. He suggested that we should make a recommendation in our newsletter that landowners include in their lease addendum that if there is any change in the tax rate because of exploration and production, that they will be reimbursed for the costs. Larry Schultz suggested that Jim Herzog should write something for the next newsletter and get it to Stan Hess.

Statewide Forest Landowners Association:

This will be put on the agenda for the September 8th Board Meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:**Liability Insurance:**

Larry Schultz asked for the background of having the Liability Insurance policy. Tim Pierson said it was related to changes made by Penn State—when Tim attends an event, he comes with a certain amount of insurance but it does not cover individual NCFLA members. Therefore, the million dollar liability policy from Nationwide was purchased by Jean Culver when she was Treasurer to provide coverage for individual landowners and board members hosting an event on their property.

It was decided that we would get prices for liability insurance from other companies—Verda will contact Karshner's Insurance for a price from Erie Insurance. We also need to ascertain whether incorporation has any effect on the cost of insurance.

Website:

Walt Petrick said that on our website there is a mailbox where someone can send the NCFLA an e-mail but it no longer works. He could set up a free hotmail mailbox for us. In addition to being able to click on the calendar to check on an event, Walt has made a separate page for showing the entire 2009 calendar of events. Since we had been getting some suggestions, he also made a separate page for suggestions from members and he will forward them to the appropriate board members. The list of where to purchase trees is on the website.

Parameters of Educational Causes NCFLA Will Support:

Larry Schultz reported that Stan Hess spoke to McKean Co. first grade students about forests and gave them a potted hemlock seedling to plant with their names on them, which cost about \$100.00. There was some discussion about the NCFLA reimbursing Stan for the cost of the hemlock seedlings.

Dave Lombardo suggested that at the next board meeting, we need to outline the parameters and set guidelines for the educational causes that the NCFLA will support.

Motion made by Marie Petrick to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dave Lombardo. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on September 8, 2009 at the DCNR Office in Emporium.

Submitted by:

Verda Weder Knowlton
Secretary

Attachments (4)