

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

The Board of Directors Meeting was held at the McKean Co. Cooperative Extension Office, Smethport, PA. In attendance were:

Officers:

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

Directors:

Rick Smith, McKean Co.
Ken Comstock, Potter Co.

Advisor:

Tim Pierson, McKean Co. Ext. Office

The meeting was called to order by the President, Tim Pierson at 9:12 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Walt Petrick, seconded by Marie Petrick to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2010 meeting which were sent to Board members prior to the meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Marie Petrick reported that total revenue as of December 9, 2010 was \$5,092.41; total expenses were \$6,401.60 leaving a balance of \$2,604.99 (copy attached). She also reported that the check issued to the Headwaters FFA Chapter, Northern Potter School District on February 2, 2010 in the amount of \$50.00 has not been cashed. It was agreed that Marie will contact Wayne Irish who is in charge of the FFA program at that school to find out why the check has not been cashed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Program Committee:

Educational Program Survey:

Tim passed out a summary of the results of the Program Questionnaire completed by members at the Annual Meeting (copy attached). The response shows that 93.5% of members have shared with others the information they learned at NCFLA, Inc., DCNR and Penn State Cooperative Extension educational programs. In 2002, the percentage was 92.8%. The survey also shows that 50% have a management plan and while half are familiar with the Tree Farm Program, only 8 are Tree Farm properties.

With respect to Marcellus Shale, over one-half actually own their oil, gas and mineral rights on their property; 70% have been approached to lease their rights; more than half have signed a lease but 90% would like to have an educational program on Marcellus Shale topics. Write-in suggestions included Survey and Deed Reading; GPS use; and spring and well testing.

Taxation Issues received the highest score at 159, even though we had a program on taxes this year. Tim suggested including the Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2010 Tax Year, prepared by the UDA, in the next Newsletter (copy attached).

Tim said we could develop our own Clean & Green Tax Tips for Landowners; we could have a handout summarizing the issues and then schedule a meeting. Natural Forest Regeneration could be covered on our Woodswalks.

We will continue to have the Educational Program Survey at the Annual Banquet & Membership Meeting and also send it to those members not attending the Annual Meeting. Motion was made by Walt Petrick to send the current Educational Program Survey to those members who did not attend the November 7th Annual Meeting; seconded by Marie Petrick; motion carried. Tim Pierson will prepare a covering paragraph for the survey asking for their input on the issues important to them. Walt Petrick will write an article for the Newsletter regarding the survey.

Marcellus Shale & the Private Landowner:

Tim said there are recent changes to the Clean & Green law relating to oil and gas in which compressor stations, pads and roads are going to be considered violations of Clean and Green and the landowner will be assessed rollback taxes for 7 years. The law does not go into effect until January 1, 2011 and is not retroactive. The County getting a reclamation permit will trigger the rollback taxes on the un-reclaimed acres only. Well pads, compressor stations and roads will be assessed at fair market value; however, pipelines are excluded because they are still green. Tim suggested having a meeting on this topic which should be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Newsletter Committee:

Walt said that the Newsletter will include an article from Stan Hess, and Tim will have an article on what they found out in Michigan and Ohio on the Emerald Ash Borer.

Tax Committee:

This item will be tabled until the next Board meeting as Dave Lombardo was unable to be present today.

OLD BUSINESS:**Annual Membership Meeting & Banquet:**

Marie reported that income from Door Prizes was \$675.00, door prize expenses were \$532.42 resulting in a door prize profit of \$142.58. Income from 57 dinners @\$15 each was \$855.00; cost of 60 dinners @ \$13.00 each resulted in a dinner profit of \$75.00. After the hall rental and postage, the Association netted \$45.42 from the banquet.

2011 Calendar of Events:

“Understanding the Deed to Your Forest Land Property”—March 10:

Ken Comstock asked for input for his presentation and received the following ideas: how to locate survey pins; survey language; how to research deed reservations and exceptions; timber trespass; witness and line trees and who owns the line trees. Tim will assist with handouts and preparation of a powerpoint presentation. This seminar is to be held in the Coudersport Elementary School LGI Room and Tim

reported that we need to be aware that schools are now requiring proof of liability insurance in order to use their facilities.

“Carbon Markets & Sequestration”:

Walt Petrick made a motion to remove this program from the schedule as the carbon market in Chicago closed last week; seconded by Ken Comstock; motion carried.

The Program Committee will finalize the dates on the 2011 Calendar of Events by January 15, 2011.

Report on Woodland Owners’s Conference, November 20:

Marie Petrick reported that the conference addressed the lack of communication between and within the WOA’s. She distributed copies of Allyson Muth’s notes and list of Needs/Wants to Support WOAs and Stewardship Talking Points to support forest stewardship outreach (copy attached). Walt will incorporate this information on our website. Marie reviewed some of the ideas for successful outreach and said that Allyson has established and will manage a Woodland Owners Associations list that will enable the sharing of resources between groups. It was suggested that the Association staff a booth at the county fairs, preferably in the evening when more adults would be attending, as a way to recruit more members. Tim Pierson suggested contacting parallel organizations such as the Wild Turkey Federation, Ruffed Grouse Society and the Pa. Game Commission, etc. to share displays at their events and vice versa.

NEW BUSINESS:

Liability Policy Review:

Verda Knowlton contacted the Insurance Agent regarding the coverage provided to the Association by the Erie Insurance liability policy and learned the following:

1. If the Association would be negligent, the policy covers property damage and bodily injury for members of the public.
2. Protects Association members from lawsuit by the public.
3. Does NOT cover a member who is injured as “you cannot insure against yourself” (the same as a homeowner’s policy).
4. Regarding members using privately-owned utility or ATV vehicles to transport persons attending NCFLA Woodswalks and someone was injured:
 - If vehicle is a utility vehicle not subject to registration—there probably would be coverage, even though this would be a business use of the vehicle.
 - If the vehicle is subject to the financial law—needs to be registered/licensed—such as an ATV—No Coverage by this policy.
5. Owner must have liability insurance on the vehicle, even if the vehicle is used on own property or homeowner’s policy won’t provide coverage.

Election Procedures for 2011:

A copy of the Association Election Procedures was distributed. Tim will be contacting Larry Schultz, Roy Knowlton, and Jane Cogan to see if they would be willing to again serve on the Nominating Committee. He said the Board could provide the committee with names of members who have expressed an interest in serving and Tim’s goal would be to have at least two candidates for each office.

Change Annual Membership Meeting Date to Saturdays:

Walt Petrick asked why meetings are held on Sundays as changing them to Saturdays would alleviate the conflict with church services as expressed by some members. This would require a change to the Bylaws; however, it was agreed that our proposed change to start the Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. with the banquet held first, followed by the business meeting, should alleviate this problem.

Officers Who Can Make Monetary Commitments Without Board Approval:

Walt Petrick raised this question; however, according to the Association Bylaws, all expenses need to be approved by the Board. It was agreed that between meetings, these could be handled by telephone with a "Consent In Lieu of a Board Meeting" form completed for the record.

Streamline Annual Membership Business Meetings:

Marie Petrick suggested including the President's Report, Treasurer's Report and the Minutes of the Previous Membership Meeting as handouts or included in a Program Brochure, rather than giving them orally. Marie agreed to prepare next year's Program Brochure.

Consistent Document Management:

Walt Petrick suggested that a template be developed to insure consistent spreadsheet formatting; if there is too much formatting, they have to remove it before they can use it. Word documents would be saved as 2003 text files so that all board members can open them. Walt will research setting up a template.

Duties of Treasurer:

Marie Petrick said that she feels the Treasurer should keep the Original Membership List, rather than the Secretary. Tim Pierson agreed; however, this will require a change to the Bylaws. Motion made by Tim Pierson, Seconded by Rick Smith to put the Treasurer in charge of the Membership List and the changes will be sent to the Secretary to be put in the files. Motion carried. The Bylaws change will be put before the members at the next membership meeting.

NCFLA Financial Trend:

Walt Petrick passed out a bar graph depicting the Year-End Balance 2006-2010. Printing the Newsletter is a newly acquired expense; postage, the new trend of paying travel expenses for speakers. Marie pointed out that the Bradford-Sullivan WOA has a balance of \$18,500 in their treasury and they have a much smaller membership; however, they do sell pecans as a fund raiser.

Tim Pierson suggested that in the future, we could charge a registration fee above the meeting costs for programs that are likely to attract 150-200 participants. While a registration fee may decrease attendance, he would rather do that than to do fund raising activities. Walt suggested having a lower registration fee for Association members so that members feel they are getting a benefit for their membership. Tim said that having a registration fee for members and another one for the public was difficult to manage. Marie felt that charging a \$5.00-\$10.00 fee should not be a problem. Tim said we could charge differently at the Annual Banquet. He also suggested finding out what it costs to do the Newsletter per member since that is a benefit to the member.

After further analysis, it was decided that without some large one-time costs to purchase hats and the tax exemption status, our income would be at the 2008-09 level. Motion made by Rick Smith, seconded by Walt Petrick to re-visit this issue at the December, 2011 Board meeting. Motion carried.

Verda Knowlton distributed a list of the 34 unpaid members. Tim volunteered to call Jocelyn Brindo; Al McCullough; Jim McGarvey; Paul Noll; and Frank Straub. Ken Comstock will call John Stapleton.

Motion made by Walt Petrick, seconded by Ken Comstock to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m. Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Verda Weder Knowlton
Secretary

Attachments: (5)