

Minutes - WI Walnut Council - 1/31/2017

@ Dick Powell Farm

Call to order @ 10 AM

Attendees - Manfred Mielke, Bill Carlson, John Ouellette, Rudy Nigl, Dan Bohlin, Dick Powell, Russ Moody, Tom Donahue, John Nielsen, Steve Stevenson, Allen King

The budget was reviewed. Some questions came up.

- Was their annual income (dues returned from National) in 2016 - Manfred will follow up
- John O. pointed out that the balance includes \$500 from Stan Peskar for TCD
- Two attendees commented that the on line sign up did not work well. I did not note if the troubles occurred on state or national site, or both.
- Members almost always attend meetings on their own. Budget will decrease if this practice changes
- Consider a charge or donation for the field day and/or have people bring brown bag lunches to reduce costs. Discuss further when planning at Tom Donahue site.
- Check with Liz to make sure we get annual payment for lifetime members.

There should be sign in by attendees at all events and donation boxes including the upcoming meeting.

Bill will check on web site visits with Donna for the next meeting.

The board membership list was updated and will be checked against the web site list. Board members ok'd adding phone contact information.

TSI jobs were discussed relative to insured contractors and land owners. There are risks hiring crews or individuals. Insurance companies for property owners often do not cover accidents. John O. mentioned insurance available through the National Woodland Owners Association at reasonable rates for landowners. (Note: information can be found on their web site.)

Membership committee has arranged for display at 3 meetings: SE WI Landowner Conference on 2/4/17; Dane County Landowner Conference on 2/25/17; Tri-State Field Day @ Sinsinawa Mound on 3/11/17. Payment and staffing is arranged.

The Spring Field Day will be at the Donahue Farm in Town of Willow, Richland County, WI. The date is May 20, 2017. The Membership Committee led a discussion regarding publicity. A standard approach should be developed to promote all field days. Some groups that can be contacted: local NRCS and UWEX offices, local newspaper and radio, SW Badger RC&D, and local FFA Chapters. Rudy will make some local contacts for the Donahue Field Day. A checklist could be developed to encourage uniform publicity for periodic events.

The planning meeting for the Donahue Field Day is 3/22/2017 at 930 AM. Meet (Bill, John N, Rudy, Tom) at Tom's land @ 18214 Pregal Road, Hillpoint, WI. Ideas for the field day:

- Rudy and Tom - history of property - Section 14 Town of Willow, Richland County
- John - Verso forester
- NRCS speaker
- Richland County forester
- WI WC Business meeting

Manfred and John N. will discuss the fall field day and consider the Karpinski property in Columbia County. The date would be 9/16/2017. Manfred will do some follow up.

Another option for fall 2017 is a joint meeting with Black Hawk WWOA on October 7, 2017 in Dane County at the Dave Hall property.

UPDATE: John N. indicated WWOA would like a joint fall field day.

WI and IA will be jointly hosting the 2018 National meeting. WI will be planning a 1 day field trip. Planning will start with a meeting at the Dan Bohlin property on July 29, 2017 with a start time of 900 AM. The farm is located at 10854 Robin Lane, Stitzer WI 53826 (south of Fennimore, WI in Grant County).

John N. will forward EQIP sign up information to Manfred to forward to the membership.

The 2017 National Walnut Council and TCD Research meeting is June 11-15, 2017 in Indiana. Visit

the website for details.