

MI Tree Farm Committee Lansing, MI

Meeting Notes

12-4-2014

Members present: Keith Boots Martell, Keith Martell Jr., Karen Serfass, Dean Reid, Mike Smalligan, Dirk Shorter, Stephen Shine Brandon Bal, Tom Stone, Amanda Summerix and Scott Robbins.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:00 PM by Chairman Keith Martell III. Introductions were made and the anti-trust reminder was read by Scott.

- The minutes of the September 12, 2014 meeting were reviewed by everyone. List of attendees was corrected. Motion to accept by Brandon and seconded by Karen, unanimous vote to accept as written.
- Treasurer's report was reviewed by Karen; income and expenses since last meeting were discussed. \$5837.16 in the checking account, \$10,701.25 in savings and \$10601.16 in certificates. The total in savings is \$21,302.41. There was a motion and second, with a unanimous vote to accept the treasurer's report.
- We need to order 20 Tree Farm signs for CD districts to display at booths etc. and another 10 to go to Jerry Grossman.
- Grants available from national approximately 4.38 per tree farm or \$1,000.00 minimum.
- Discussed fund raising, charging landowners a fee for tree farms, and Gogebic County, industry etc. Will be part of strategic plan. Will have 501c3 soon and donations are apparent.
- Field days for Gogebic, Baraga, Marquette, Emmett, Mecosta, counties and the thumb area will be scheduled in 2015.
- Scott reviewed the 2014 required inspections progress. We have a dozen or so to go yet. Many optional inspections are still out as well.
- MFA events were discussed and an awards committee will be formed.
- District reports – Dean Reid said that he has one optional still out and one decertification. Gary Bucklin has 2 due in. Lee Mueller and Jeff Tuller will be dividing the south east west as opposed to north south.
- Steve Shine discussed the Conservation District forester's role in Tree Farm. Where they are on QF and MAEAP programs. MAEAP workshops are being held with Warren Suchovsky leading the initial effort. Program is ready to be kicked off and the program forest management plans meet the Tree Farm standard
- Group Tree Farms are continuing to grow. There were 640 new applications for Qualified Forest in 2014 and the total in the program is 77,000 acres and 220 landowners.
- Keith Martell Jr. Mike Smalligan, Boots and Scott may all go to the Leadership Conference in St Louis Feb 3, 4, and 5, 2015. Inspector train the trainer will be available before and after.
- Mike Smalligan discussed the Stewardship Program. There were 57,000 acres enrolled from 265 plans created. That's a slight increase in plans and a big increase in acres. The USFS has cut the funding so he has reevaluated the program. There is a lot of flexibility on how the program is run. He is striving for more coordination with Tree Farm, Qualified Forests, and NRCS programs.
- 2015 meetings schedule
 - Budget meeting Jan 16, 2015 at Driftwood in St Ignace
 - Regular meeting March 20, 2015 in Lansing at the NRCS office
 - Regular meeting June 12, 2015 USFS St. Ignace
 - Regular meeting Sept. 18, 2015 USFS St. Ignace
 - Regular meeting Dec. 4, 2015 USFA St. Ignace
- Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 PM.