

MINUTES – February 21, 2009
Cliff Shipley's House

List of attendees:

Dan Chisholm
Dan Harden
Phil Johnson
Doug Marsh
Greg Mills
Candy Parrish
Cliff Shipley
Jeremy Walters

Board Meeting Agenda

1. Secretary's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Old Business
4. New By Laws (Dan Hardin)
5. Department of Ag
6. Finances
7. Fund Raiser & Annual Meeting
8. Schedule Next Meeting
9. Open Discussion
10. Adjournment

Secretary's Report / Treasurer's Report

The minutes from the 12/23/08 meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's Report was read and approved.

Old Business

As stated in the minutes from the 12/23/08 conference call, contact was made with Shane Horrrock regarding advertising on the ILDFA website. Shane is a deer feed dealer and is now advertising with us through the website and newsletter.

Phil gave Doug the financial paperwork that he received from Dave for his files/review.

New By-Laws (Dan Hardin)

Dan brought copies of his suggestions for revising the by-laws. The overall changes were mainly grammar, taking out the verbiage of “board of directors” and replacing it with “board members”. The changes were made and accepted by the board members. The final amended version will be voted on at the Illinois Deer Farmers Annual Meeting.

In the by-laws under Article 8 (Membership), it was approved of making the recommendation for raising the annual membership fee from \$25 to \$50. Greg will revise the dues proposal regarding out of state supporters, non-voting members and associates. The lifetime membership will increase from \$250 to \$500. The new rate recommendations will be announced and voted on at the annual meeting in September and become effective January 1, 2010.

Department of Ag

Dan had a meeting with ILDFA lobbyist Jim Reimer, House Representatives Brandon Phelps and Rich Brauer, Senator Gary Frobes, Springfield mayor, Tim Davlin, Department of Agriculture Director Tom Jennings, Former DNR Director, Granburg and DNR Deputy Director, Tom Flattery. The meeting took place to consider necessary options to have the farmed deer industry solely regulated by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Representative Phelps stated he would file a Shell Bill in our behalf to start the process. Senator Forbes stated he would do the same in the Senate. The major concerns were if there would actually have to be legislation to complete the move to Agriculture. There are many animal rights activists who could ultimately cause irreversible damage to the deer farming industry should legislation be published. Most of the lobbyist average clients pay \$5000 a month for their services. We have given enough so far to be left alone for the most part. Once the bill is published the Humane Society will most likely be challenging the Bill. The Illinois Deer Farmers Association does not have the financial means to go up against some of the animal rights activist groups. The current requirements for the deer farming industry being regulated by DNR requirement is the permit process and fee. If the Department of Agriculture would accept the same type of process we would benefit from the move. All we want is the permit language to be moved from DNR to Agriculture, if possible, without the need to amend current laws.

Representative Brandon Phelps has the Legislative Research Bureau checking into whether or not legislation is required for the deer farming industry to be solely governed by the Department of Agriculture.

_We need to have Agriculture amend current CWD regulations; otherwise there is the potential all Illinois Deer Farms would be placed under quarantine an unable to move deer to or from their farms.

Department of Ag (continued)

In the past, the Department of Agriculture Livestock Commission was responsible for voting on Administrative Rule amendments. Once the Commission made suggested changes to the rules they are sent over to the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules, which is made up of legislators, for a final vote and publication. Dr. Shipley stated he would check into the Livestock Commission situation.

Dan is to have a follow-up meeting with our lobbyist, DNR and Agriculture Directors regarding the industry move to Agriculture and will report back to the Board his findings.

Greg is to talk with Dr. Barber and Dr Ernst as to what deer farmers need to look for, what they need to do as far as TB testing and any paperwork that needs to be done in this process. The results will be posted in the April newsletter and on the website.

Finances

Greg put together a projection for the rest of 2009. It was noted that we are in need of new fundraising ideas to keep us afloat. Greg went over the cost of anyone wanting to advertise on the website and in the newsletters. All advertising is for one year.

\$50 – Business Card

\$150 – ½ page ad

\$300 for a full page ad

Fund Raiser & Annual Meeting

All members need to get more involved in the fundraiser/auction/annual meeting. We have to get the attendance and participation up from the previous years. No doubt that the economy will play a role in this activity, which makes us have to push forward even harder to make the event worthwhile to our membership. We need to downscale the number of items that will be listed on the raffle tickets to increase the revenue.

Dan Chisholm suggested donating a replica of a Maxbo rack and mount to have raffled off. Everyone thought this would be a great raffle item.

Dan Harden will ask Reimer to donate a pheasant hunt. Jeremy will contact a guide in Nevada regarding some sort of donation towards a lion hunt.

There was talk of meeting with local shooting clubs to organize special shoots for members to help with raising funds for the association.

Fund Raiser & Annual Meeting (continued)

Phil is to discuss with Shawn or Shelly (NaDefa) for ideas and assistance, asking for help from other members such as Laverne and the different areas such as Arthur. Regarding auction items, a possibility of not having so many straws of semen to auction, but rather have fewer straws but better quality straws.

We need to broaden the scope of the items that are donated to the auction as well. Pick a variety of items such as artwork and items that would appeal to everyone, so it isn't focused only on those who purchase the straws of semen. Greg brought up the idea of holding the auction online as well. The cost of someone setting this up for the ILDFA is \$500. It is a simple system for people to use and may prove to be very beneficial to the outcome of our numbers at the end of the auction.

Before a date is scheduled for the annual fundraiser/auction/meeting, Phil will ask Lois to check dates of other events to avoid any schedule conflicts.

Open Discussion

It was brought up that it needs to be known that all members are welcome to participate in meetings that the board members hold, as it is an open meeting.

It was agreed that the ILDFA would sponsor the IL Ag Legislative Day by paying \$150. Greg will give the information to Doug for payment.

Dan Chisholm may attend the IA Deer Farmers Auction/Fundraiser on February 27-28, 2009. If he is able to attend he will provide us with his insight on the event.

Bob Ruff was not reappointed to the Sportsman's Caucus.

Dan will meet with Reimer next week regarding the administrative ruling.

Candy brought several of the newer ILDFA items to the meeting for the board members to see. She also emailed Greg pictures of each item to be put on the website to help advertise the items. Anyone who wishes to purchase these items can contact Candy.

The next meeting/conference call will be set after Dan's meeting with Reimer.