

Illinois Forestry Development Council Meeting – March 21, 2001

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Rolfe. Nine Council members, 10 task group members and four guests were present.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2001 meeting after two minor corrections were made (drop the word “state” from the website address; program listed in second to last sentence should be FIP – not PFIT; and amount received is \$28,000).

Financial Report – Dick Little

A copy of the financial report was distributed. An increase was approved at the January meeting in the Illinois Tree Farm Committee’s contract and has been adjusted in the budget. All projects will be completed at the end of the fiscal year.

Old Business

Forestry Legacy Update – Mike Mason

Two forest legacy tracts were approved at the last meeting. Names of the properties are Chautauqua Woods and Coons Creek. There is an additional tract called Rattlesnake Ridge Tract; 79 acres located in the Great Rivers Bluff just north of Grafton in Jersey County.

Motion was made and seconded to reaffirm the previous recommendation on the previous two properties and add a third property for the Forestry Legacy Program consideration. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson for Stewardship/Education Task Group

The Council is looking for a productive volunteer to serve as Chair of the Stewardship/Education Task Group. Tom Ward was asked at an earlier meeting if he would be interested. Tom has agreed, along with Jean Mangun from SIU, to serve as Co-Chair of the Stewardship/Education Task Group. They will be working on an update of the publication “Forest Resources of Illinois” which is underway and coordinating other educational activities around the state, looking at initiatives for the Council for the longer term.

2001 Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference Update – Mike Bolin

The conference was held Saturday, March 10, 2001 at Sinsinawa, WI with an attendance of 538 people. A copy of the conference program and agenda was distributed. Thirty-five different program opportunities were scheduled for the forest landowners. Aldo Leopold’s daughter (Nina Leopold Bradley) was the keynote speaker. Next year’s conference will be March 16, 2002.

Mike also gave an update on the IL, IA & MO Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference to be held at the Quincy Holiday Inn on March 24, 2001 with 186 people registered.

The 4-H Project has been completed. Funding support was used to help both the 4-H forestry

team and the FFA forestry team to travel to their national competitions. The 4-H forestry competition was held in West Virginia and FFA is held in different locations each year.

The Landowner Chain Saw Safety project will be held the first week of May on four tree farm properties in Carroll County, Grundy County, Macon County and Hamilton County. Tim Ard will do a one-day demonstration at each of the sites.

The Internet Website Project – \$3,000 awarded will be returned. Mike was unable to find students interested in working on the project - maintenance and updates will be done by Mike.

Presentation – Connie Carpenter, NE/USDA Forest Service, Durham, NH
Connie made a presentation on the Sustainable Forest Management Criteria and Indicators Initiative. Connie is the Sustainability Coordinator for the Northeastern Area. John Edgington, Lyle Guyon currently have a sustainable forest criteria project underway funded by the Division and will be funded next year by the Council.

The USDA Forest Service Website for the sustainability project is: www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability

Presentation - Illinois Green Industry – Gary Rolfe
Gary presented the Green Industry study, which was a statewide survey of Illinois, businesses, agencies and groups that grow and maintain plant materials essentially in an ornamental way. The reason for the study was to determine the importance of the green industry to the state. There are several organizations that represented the Green Industry, i.e., turfgrass, nursery people, and urban forestry. These groups have suffered from not having a significant position in the state, in terms of getting legislation passed to influence their own industries.

Discussion followed.

Council Liaison Report - Dick Little

- Talked to both Senators who are members of the Council. Both are aware they are members of the Council, but didn't have time to come to the meetings. They members willing to help.
- Dick met with his own Senator and Representative to let them know what Council was doing.
- Met with Assistant Minority Leader of the House, Representative Art Tenhouse.
- Mailed Council Plan out to SWCD Offices, IWPA members, and consulting foresters. Will also mail to all the tree farmers in the state. Received comments from all three groups the Plan was mailed out too. He felt this was very encouraging.
- The Council joined Rural Partners who work very close to the Rural Affairs Council. Also joined C-FAR (Illinois Council on Food and Agriculture Research).

- Located the old Council Display that was used several years ago at the State Fair. The display will be updated and use at the State Fair this summer and available for other events.
- Met with the Governor's office regarding the Governor's two appointments (Urban and Governor's Rep position).
- Proposed Bills – distributed a list of Bills that may be of some interest to the Council.

Newsletter Update – Jim Appleby

Presently working on the Spring issue of the Newsletter. Articles should be submitted to Jim by April 15 or earlier. Have received six so far. Jim will be glad to take photos of articles you submit. The last issue of the Newsletter will be the Annual Report.

New Business

Video conferencing – Karel Jacobs

Karel had an intern put together a list of easily accessible video sites. Discussion followed.

Proposals discussed for consideration –

SWCD proposal – Two Tree Identification workshops are scheduled for this FY (total is \$600). Funds will be used for conducting two workshops aimed at Soil & Water Conservation District employees and NSRC employees, and also district directors. The workshops will be attended by 15-30 people. Funds will be used for travel for the SWCD Directors, lunch and refreshments and for mailing out publicity. Motion was made to authorize spending of Council funds to complete the two workshops. (There still may be some funds remaining of the existing budget for the earlier Tree ID Workshops.) Motion seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

IDNR State Fair Proposal

IDNR is requesting \$500 to sponsor an activity (purchase film to take photos of children with Smoky Bear) at the Illinois 2001 State Fair. Motion was made and seconded to fund the activity. Motion carried unanimously.

Agency Reports

NRSC – Tom Ward

Website addresses:

www.il.nrcs.usda.gov (for agency)

www.directseeding.org (for individuals that collect & need tree seed)

Completion of the final version of an Illinois Direct Seeding Handbook which includes tree seed collection and information on direct seeding with full color and some illustrations will be out soon. This will be continuously updated and on the NRSC website.

Agency is under a budget freeze for travel, training, filling new positions and purchase equipment; therefore under some limitations now.

Forest Service – Nick Giannettino

- Follow-up on topic of fire hiring. The National fire plan is up and rolling and is moving right along.
- Have hired two people for program positions on the forest and two temporary positions. In the process of trying to fill a fire management officer at the forest level with responsibility as well.
- The Shawnee National Forest has become the Illinois dispatch-coordinating center for all federal agency personnel.
- Forest Service is in their fire season and about ready to begin Tri-Burning Program.
- Budget is in the final stages; there have been some increases in trail funding.
- Working on finalizing the natural areas trails, reforestation work is finishing up this week.
- Actively involved in trying to get the GIS on the forest up and running.
- Forest Plan revision is still ongoing.

IWPA – Lee Rife

- The State Convention will be held April 6 at the Northfield Inn, Springfield; featured speaker will be Bob Bauer, Kentucky Forest Industries Assoc.
- Wood Grading School (for hardwood) on April 28 in Smithsfield.
- Reviewing Legislation to see what the status is.

Illinois Department of Agriculture – Rich Nicholas

Department has been approached by a legislator who wants to amend the Property Assessment Act, i.e., tree buffer strips, pasture lands.

IDNR – Stu Pequignot

- A major concern is what is going to happen to the budget for next year. The Governor's budget that is being moved through shows no increase in any of the line items, no maintenance, heating costs, increase in gas prices.
- Vacant forestry positions are still on the table.
- The impact of reorganization on ORC – will meet to talk about the interaction of the Springfield office in regards to its role and structure.
- A FDA shell Bill is on the House floor. This provides an opportunity to change the minimum acreage that qualifies for participation in the Forestry Development Act. Stu sees this as an opportunity to get this accomplished without any major negative impacts

occurring to the Bill; take the opportunity now that it is open rather than try to open it at some other point in time.

Motion was made to direct Dick Little to pursue a change in the acreage from 5 to 20 acres. Motion seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 10:00 a.m. @ at Robert Allerton Park in Monticello, Illinois.

Meeting adjourned.