

ILLINOIS FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING – September 26, 2001

Chairman Gary Rolfe called the meeting to order. Ten members and 11 task group members were present.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 9, 2001 meeting minutes. Minutes approved.

Financial Report – Dick Little

Copies of the IFDC FY01 final report, the IFDC FY02 financial report, the Cost Share Expenditures report and the Timber Grower Account report were distributed.

Project Report Updates

Illinois Sustainable Forest Criteria and Indicators Project – Lyle Guyon

There are seven criteria and 67 indicators. The first five criteria are comprised of ecological components of the project in terms of forest and timber inventories and wildlife species. Reviewed the data that is available and identified shortfalls in the data on the first five criteria and are focusing on criterias 6 and 7. Criteria 6 is related to the socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of societies; Criteria 7 is dealing with the legal, institutional and economic framework for forest conservation and sustainable management.

Forest Resources of Illinois Atlas and Analysis Project – Scott Bretthauer

There is one more section to write on the “benefits of Illinois forests” and then will be ready to be edited and then published. Figures, tables and maps have been completed. The next phase of the project will be an executive summary that will serve as a promotional piece.

Presentation

Rick Mollahan gave a presentation on the Illinois CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program in Illinois) projects on the Illinois River Basin and Kaskaskia River Basin.

For further information on the CREP program you can visit the website at www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crep/crephome.htm or stop by your local USDA Service Center.

Council Liaison Report – Dick Little

- Repaired and updated the Council Display and set up at the State Fair and DuQuoin State Fair; also set up at the Illinois Association of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
- Put out sign-up sheet for a copy of the Long-Range Plan. Approximately 260 people from the State Fairs signed up for a copy of the Long-Range Plan.
- The Forestry Development Act Fact Sheet was distributed at the Fair and also sent to those requesting a copy of the Plan. The Fact Sheet will be put on the Council website.
- Printed pads of paper with Council logo.

- 10,000 pencils ordered and distributed at the State Fairs and SWCD's.
- Representative John Jones from Mt. Vernon has been appointed as a member of the Council. Al Mickelson was appointed to represent the Governor's office.
- The Governor's Office has the Council's vacant positions (urban and majority rep) on their agenda for their next meeting.
- Working with IDNR and IWPA on House Bill 1006 on changes in the Timber Buyers Licensing Act. Copies distributed.
- IDNR was funded \$500 from the Council to take photos of children with Smokey the Bear at the State Fair.
- Updates of the Bills that have been passed and are public law were distributed.
- It was decided to reorder the natural color pencils to promote the Council.
- Distributed copies of the reservation form and draft agenda for the Southern Illinois Tour planned for October 29 and 30.

Newsletter Report – Jim Appleby

A list of the articles to appear in the October issue of the Council Newsletter was distributed. The newsletter will be mailed out in late October. The next newsletter will be published in February, 2002.

Committee Reports

Rural/Economic Development Task Group – John Phelps

A copy of the minutes from the August 1 committee meeting was distributed. The committee met to develop new issues for the coming year. Discussion followed.

Tom Ward asked if the committee was thinking about the assessment (the situation in rural and economic development in Illinois) and issue papers (on how that can be addressed) that were a charge of the Stewardship/Education Task Group.

Chairman Rolfe said the assessment documents would be a one to two-page analysis of the situation – somewhat a starting point and then create something from that that could be used in the newsletter and as separate marketing materials to raise awareness of the issues and then move from that to where we can make the most progress in the short period of time. Stu suggested looking at Lt. Governor's Council on Rural Plan to see if there was some way to structure these issues on the way the Plan was laid out.

Stewardship/Education Task Group – Tom Ward

The Task Group met at Allerton Park on May 9 with six members present. The group discussed what might go into the assessment of the forest stewardship and information/education situation for forestry in Illinois. Diane Murphy prepared a handout of the Stewardship Outdoor Education Programs in Illinois for distribution. Dan Schmoker and Tom plan to put together a forest stewardship assessment for the state. Jean Mangun suggested developing a publication like the Evergreen Foundation put out for Indiana – “Forests and Forestry in Indiana; Questions and Answers of Public Concern”. Stu suggested looking at “Northern Forests” put out by New York, Maine, and New Hampshire as a model. The group would like to ask Mike Bolin to work on the Task Group.

Direct Seeding Update – Tom Ward

Approximately 1000 acres were direct seeded last year; averaging about 1,000 seedlings per acre. A tour was held in June to visit the direct seeding sites in Champaign County. The direct seeding website is: www.directseeding.org. Tom reported it looked like there was a light tree seed crop this year; southern Illinois has a much better crop. The seed collection/direct seeding workshops are being planned for JoDaviess County (October 18) and McLean County (October 30). Hard copies of the direct seeding handbook will be sent to the 25 SWCD's that are part of the network that we are using to promote the project. Hard copies of the handbook will also be distributed to the District Foresters. The handbook can also be found on the NRCS website <http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov>) or Mike Bolin's Virtual Forest website <http://ilvirtualforest.nres.uiuc.edu>.

Tree Trimming Act (HB1776) Update – Mike Brunk

Mike distributed a memorandum on the new HB1776 (Public Act 92-0214). This new law provides specific tree trimming performance standards to follow, notification requirements, and procedures for working in communities with or without utility tree trimming ordinances. HB 1996 can be viewed on the Internet at Illinois Legislation website: <http://www.legis.state.il.us/index.html> under legislation - status and text.

Old Business

Forestry Development Act Amendment (BH 1604) – Dick Little

Amendment to House 1604 was distributed. Copies have been sent to the District Foresters for their comments. Further comments should be sent to Dick – will vote at the October meeting and then forwarded to the House by January.

Agency Reports

IWPA – Lee Rife

Lee reported on the Energy for Biomass Conference he recently attended at the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the topic of wood waste that was discussed. Plan to work with EPA to get wood waste out of the solid waste issue.

Department of Ag – Rich Nichols

The Department of Ag received a 319 grant about two years ago for the development of a water-

shed park, which is located in Happy Hollow just below the Department of Ag Building. Approximately 24,000 people visited this park during the State Fair. One of the stations deals with Forestry and is not well developed; the Department of Ag is looking for some ideas – suggested the Forestry Development Council may have ideas in terms of inactive activities that could be put in the station. Looking for something geared toward fifth grade level, but would also be of interest to adults and also looking for things related to water quality.

Forest Service – Skip Starkey

Forest Service funding – according to the Washington office there seems to be no immediate move to drastically slash appropriations as it relates to the interior (a process which the Forest Service is under). Making plans to host the SAF meeting in October and will spend some time on the forest looking at some of the natural area issues and open land management. Hope to issue a notice of intent for the revision of the land management plan by the end of the year or soon thereafter. As an agency and as a region within the agency doing quite a bit of work with Fish and Wildlife Service on the consultation processes, both for planning efforts and for project work as it relates to impacts to T & E species. Monitoring and interacting with the folks on the Mark Twain in Missouri and with the folks on the Ozark St. Frances in Arkansas trying to monitor what is going on with the oak decline situation there. Skip reported he had been contacted recently by three different power companies who are exploring opportunities to earn carbon sequestration credits; primarily looking at areas within the floodplains in the Mississippi and the Ohio River. New Chief of Forest Service appointed. Hosting the annual rainbow gathering for the next two to three weeks on the forest; expecting 500 –700 people this year.

NRCS – Tom Ward

State Office has moved to 2118 W. Park Court, Champaign, IL 61821 (west part of town). The 21st Central States Forest Soils Workshop will be held October 9-11. NRCS will co-sponsor the Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference at Sinsinawa, WI - event will be a forest products marketing conference on March 15-16,2002. The Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference (IL-IA-MO) will be at Keokuk, IA on January 12, 2002.

Forest Resource Center – Diane Murphy

The Forest Resource Center will help with hosting the Fall Illinois SAF meeting. They hosted 12 Midwestern states and Canada with their turkey and deer biologists for three days. Event was very successful.

IDNR – Stu Pequignot

Regarding the seedling issue, IDNR just completed a survey of all the districts asking them for their backlog on their CRP up thru signup of 20. This totaled about 9.5 million seedlings; about 24,000 acres, about two years worth of production at the nursery. Reorganization issues are moving along; there has been some discussion about possible changes to the Springfield organization. These have not been shared with anyone outside the Springfield office. The Governor proposed a hiring freeze; none of the vacant district positions have not been filled. There is a freeze on GRF money for equipment, out-of- state travel, and no transfer of money between lines. Several forestry positions are also vacant.

DCCA – Terry Weldin-Frisch

Working on the five-year state regional development strategy primarily focused on the state development plan. Since May they have been going back out and meeting with the stakeholders to review the outcomes that was held last year and getting final input relative to programmatic administrative and legislative recommendations that the regions have for the various kinds of economic development projects that may be of interest to them to try to get carried out. Also working on a target industry analysis with UIC and NIU. Eventually this will be a product that could be placed in the hands of an economic developer and they would be able to use that product in a database format to do some analysis and some decision-making relative to the kinds of work they wanted to do from an economic development standpoint within their communities.

SIU – John Phelps

John reported that the enrollment at SIU is down this Fall. Students are preparing for Conclave that will be held in Minnesota in October.

Al reported that Don VanOrmer had a serious stroke, but is getting along very well. Tom Ward reported that Bob Sloan was in the hospital in Peoria. He is in real good spirits.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 29 and 30 (meeting and tour in Southern Illinois).

Meeting adjourned.