

## **Illinois Forestry Development Council Meeting – October 29, 2001**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Rolfe. Nine Council members and 15 task group members and guests were present. Approval of the September 26, 2001 meeting minutes was tabled until the January meeting.

### **FDA Financial Update – Dick Little**

Dick distributed copies of the historical summary of the Illinois Forestry Development Act four percent funds that was prepared from the beginning (1983). For FY 2002 there will be \$575,000 available for cost sharing to the District Foresters.

### **Council Liaison Report – Dick Little**

- Dick distributed copies of the FDA Plan Statistics report prepared by Dan Schmoker (currently there are 7,000 total FDA plans in the system with 343,500 acres enrolled in the FDA).
- Stu Pequignot received the AI Mickelson Current Achievement Award for Urban Forestry at the National Association of State Foresters Annual Meeting.
- Copies of the Fall issue of the Council Newsletter were distributed. Copies will be mailed out later in the week to the current mailing list.
- The Council Display was set up at the Illinois Science Teachers Association meeting in Peoria. Fifty-five Plans were distributed and another 30 teachers requested a copy be mailed to them.
- Coordinated the Southern Illinois tour and scheduled the speakers.
- At the last meeting the new amended changes to the Timber Buyers Licensing Act were distributed for review. After the meeting, Law Enforcement called with two minor changes. IWPA will meet Friday to approve/not approve and forward to IDNR will review and forward to the Senator.
- Orders are being taken for shirts – see Dick if interested in placing an order.

Dick outlined the plan for the tour on Tuesday –

- Leave Giant City Lodge at 8:00 am in vehicles provided for the tour
- Cottonwood/hardwood plantation near Cairo
- Cypress Creek NWR Seed Orchard near Sandusky
- Lunch at Cypress Creek Refuge
- Nature Conservancy Wetland Restoration Areas in Belknap & Karnak
- Nature Conservancy Tree Nursery
- Tour of New Visitor Information Center near Whitehill
- Return to Giant City Lodge

## Old Business

**Forestry Development Act (HB 1604)** – At the last meeting revisions of the Forestry Development Act were discussed. One minor change was made since the last meeting – Section 5 – date was changed from December 2001 to June 2002. No comments have been received from IDNR or the field staff regarding the change from five acres to 10 acres. Discussion followed. No motion was made.

## Agency Reports

### **Forest Service** – Skip Starkey

- Officially started in the Fall fire season (three small incidences so far). Will be sending information out to the public soon.
- Still operating under continuing resolution; no word that the President has signed the Interior Appropriations Bill, therefore no budget for this year; anticipate having some figures in about a month and then begin to firm up plans for this year in terms of funding and a program.
- Administration had an energy initiative that was underway prior to September 11 that was getting a lot of momentum. There has been quite a bit of discussion now and anxious to see what that means for the Forest Service and all the national forests. It will focus on transmission and movement of energy resources around the country and facilitating that process. This will have a great impact on the national forests and also Shawnee.

### **NRCS** – Bill Gradle

- Sixty-eight participants attended the 21<sup>st</sup> Central States Forest Soils Workshop, October 9-11 in Matteson, Illinois. Field trip sites included a half-day at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Next year's workshop will be in northwest Ohio, October 15-17.
- Thirty-three participants attended the AISWCD Tree Seed Collection and Direct Seeding Workshop, October 18 at Apple River Canyon State Park, JoDaviess County. This was a cooperative effort between NRCS, IDNR, SWCD and State Park staff.
- Thirty people have registered for a similar workshop scheduled for Funk's Grove, October 30.
- Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference (IL-IA-MO) in Keokuk, IA, January 12, 2002 is still on schedule.
- The Special Forest Products Marketing Conference, scheduled for March 15-16, 2002 at Sinsinawa, WI has been re-scheduled for August 23-24, 2002.
- Although the tree seed crop was average-to-poor, the acreage expected to be direct seeded statewide is expected to be up considerably.

- There has been considerable discussion about a Forestry Title in the next Farm Bill, including a new cost-share incentives program that will resemble a hybrid of the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) and the Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP).

**IWPA – John Phelps**

Meeting scheduled for Friday to discuss HB1006. Some important decisions will be made about the future of IWPA – looking at a level of activity that has been increased the last two years.

**SIU – John Phelps**

- Noted two articles that appeared in the Council Newsletter from faculty at SIU and the research that is being done.
- Have recently been talking with Southeastern Illinois College on some articulation steps with them.
- SIU forestry students won first place at the Conclave (10<sup>th</sup> year in a row).

**Illinois Forest Resource Center – Diane Murphy**

Getting ready to start the forestry demonstration area; will have compartments with timber stand improvement examples on it – use burning, cutting, will break up in different areas so they can see the different types of timber stands.

**University of Illinois – Gary Rolfe**

Have completed the hire for the northern Illinois urban forestry coordinator to complement the southern part of the state coordinator based out of SIU. The person hired was Scott Bretthauer.

**Presentations**

Trail of Trees State Forest Study – Dr. Charles Ruffner, SIU Forestry Department

Shawnee National Forest Management Plan Update and major issues (Equestrian use, trail and resource, ATV and others) facing the planning process – Steve Hupe, Shawnee National Forest

The effects of timber mill locations and procurement influence on saw logs exportation from Southern Illinois – Dr. Andrew Carver, SIU Forestry Department

Meeting adjourned.

Guest Speaker after dinner – History of the Cache River Basin – Max Hutchison