

Illinois Forestry Development Council Meeting – March 20, 2002 (Springfield, IL)

John Phelps called the meeting to order in the absence of Chairman Gary Rolfe. Eleven Council members and nine Task Group members were present.

Stu Pequignot made a motion to approve the January 16, 2002 meeting minutes. Al Mickelson seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Financial Report – Dick Little

Dick distributed copies of the financial report. The balance remaining in the budget is \$12,157.

Project Report Updates

Forest Resources of Illinois Atlas and Analysis Project – Scott Bretthauer

- The second edit of the manuscript is nearly complete. All tables and figures have been completed. (The most recent information has been located and the table on forestry related cost-sharing programs (FIP) is corrected to accurately reflect enrolled acreages). Within the next week, the manuscript will go to a graphics editor. It is anticipated we will have bids on printing the manuscript by mid-April.

Illinois Report on Sustainable Forest Management: Criteria and Indicators – Lyle Guyon

The research group has most recently been focusing on the last two criteria:

- Criterion 6: Maintenance and enhancement of long-term multiple socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of the societies
- Criterion 7: Legal, institutional and economic framework for forest conservation and sustainable management

These two criteria together contain a total of 39 specific indicators (as opposed to 28 total indicators for Criteria 1-5). It should also be noted that the indicators associated with Criterion 7 and many of those with Criterion 6 are qualitative rather than quantitative in nature. To date significant progress has been made in acquiring data and information relevant to the indicators in Criterion 6, as well as in identifying limitations in the availability of data related to some of these indicators (e.g., non-wood forest products, rates of return on investment in the forest sector). Some initial progress has been made in regard to the suite of indicators in Criterion 7. At this point the research group anticipates completion of the initial data and information gathering phase of the project by mid-summer.

Newsletter – Jim Appleby

Jim reported that progress was being made on the Spring issue of the Newsletter. He reminded those that send in articles to send as an email attachment. The deadline is April 15.

Council Liaison Report – Dick Little

Summary of Activities:

- Attended a meeting with IDNR/IWPA – discussed the Timber Buyers Licensing Act and the Timber Transportation Act.
- Met with the IWPA Board.
- Met with the Regional Foresters, Stu Pequignot and Mike Mason to discuss Council activities and reviewed the Timber Sales Draft Agreement.
- Attended the C-FAR Retreat. The Council is a member of Rural Partners and is a voting member in C-FAR on the Natural Resources Committee.
- Reviewed the draft copy of the Iverson Report.
- Attended the State Technical Committee meeting.

- Completed the NASF/Forest Service Criteria Indicators report for Illinois.
- The display was used in two locations the past month (RC&D North Central Regional meeting in Springfield and the Clean Water Celebrations in Peoria).

Urban Forestry Tree City USA – Reinee Hildebrandt

Reinee gave a brief update on Urban Forestry Tree City USA which is the major foundation for urban community forestry in Illinois. One hundred seventy-one communities are participating this year; two turned away because of timeline. Illinois is number two in the nation – have been number two for several years. Received thirty-eight growth awards which is a companion award to the Tree City. Creating an urban community tree website.

Pat Curry from the Cooperative Extension Service, Springfield gave a presentation on the Census Changes in Illinois.

Stan Smith, Illinois Department of Agriculture gave a presentation on Illinois Update on Forest Pests.

Committee Reports – John Phelps

John distributed copies of a preliminary draft of the Hardwood Cooperative Interest Assessment Survey.

Old Business

- Timber Buyer Licensing Act Amendment (HB1006) update
Bill is still in the Senate – no action has been taken.
- Draft Timber Sale Contract/Agreement (March 2002)
Comments received have been incorporated into the draft. Contract has been mailed out to all the districts.
- Illinois Agriculture Assemble Meetings
Seven Council members attended the meetings – discussion followed

New Business

- Teachers for the Forest – Stan Curtis
Stan distributed copies of Teachers for the Forests which is a program educating teachers about the benefits of managing our nation’s forests wisely. A subcommittee in the southern area of the Illinois Wood Products Association has talked with this organization and has also made a contribution to them. Stan will contact the organization to see if they would be available to attend a Council meeting at a later date.
- FY2003 Council Budget
\$125,000 remains the same as in previous years. There are two proposals on the table to discuss. There will be approximately \$12,000 to \$20,000 to spend for next year; Dick suggested sending out a request for small proposals in the amount of \$1500 - \$3000 for next year. Stu thought the plan was to move back to what the Council had done earlier, i.e., putting together literature to send out to the public. He suggested looking at other pamphlets that focus on policy issues that are of concern to the forestry community rather than request small proposals. A recommendation was made to develop a proposal for an entity to draft policy issues to bring to the Council to look at. Suggested sending this out to the Universities to come back with a couple of proposals on how to address the development of a policy document. Dick, Stu and John volunteered to prepare a proposal to be mailed out.

- AISWCD Educational Funding Proposal (\$1500)
The Illinois Envirothon Association of Illinois SWCD requested funding in the amount of \$1500 for the 2002 Illinois Envirothon Competition. This year's event will be held at the Allerton 4-H Memorial Camp, Monticello, Illinois on May 7 and 8. Stu made a motion to approve and Al seconded the \$1500 request. Motion carried unanimously.
- Division of Forest Resources (\$500)
The Division of Forest Resources is requesting funding in the amount of \$500 to purchase film to take Polaroid pictures of children with Smokey Bear at two designated times each day at the 2002 Illinois State Fair. A motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.

AGENCY REPORTS

Department of Natural Resources – Stu Pequinot

- DNR plans to move into their new building the middle of May.
- They continue to struggle with budget issues; there are layoff threats coming; several forestry vacancies at the district level. It has been impossible to get anything through the Governor's office for approval on filling vacancies that have any general revenue funds attached to them.

Forest Service – Skip Starkey

- There has been no announcement for a new Regional Forester for Region 9 of the Forest Service. Don Meyer continues as the Acting Regional Forester.
- The Notice of Intent for revision of the Shawnee National Forest Land Management Plan was signed by the Regional Forester on March 12, 2001. The NOI should appear in the Federal Register sometime the week of March 18, 2002. They will be hosting several open house meetings over the next several weeks to explain the revision proposals and to take comments. The comment period will last 60 days from the date of publication in the Federal Register.

IWPA – Lee Rife

- IWPA is scheduled to meet on April 19 at the Northland Center, Springfield and the Board meeting on April 18.
- Working on signing contract with RC&D regarding private sanitary treatment with pallets.
- Will be attending a two-day seminar on pallet manufacturing in Columbus, Ohio on April 2 and 3.

NRCS – Bill Gradle

- Tom Ward is attending a prescribed burning session this week in Jacksonville and next week in Effingham.
- The 2002 Farm Bill will likely include a Forestry Title.
- Three-day Prescribed Burn Training sessions are scheduled for March 2003 in Morgan and Effingham Counties.
- NRCS foresters from eight Midwest States will be meeting in Champaign in conjunction with the 13th Central Hardwoods Forest Conference April 1-3, 2002 at the U of I, Urbana.
- The Illinois Field Office Technical Guide is scheduled to be updated and posted on the NRCS-IL website (www.il.nres.usda.gov) by early July 2002.

- State Technical Committee met on February 26, 2002. It was decided to remove the WRP cap for appraisals (was \$1200/acre).

DCCA – Terry Weldin-Frisch

- ✓ Update on the five-year State and Regional Development Strategy
 - Distributed a copy of the projects that will be funded with Northern Illinois University related to some of the economic development issues in the community.
 - Other universities in various stages of final approval process.
- ✓ Balanced Growth Capacity Building Program RFP is out on the DCCA website –
 - <http://www.commerce.state.il.us/rfp/BalGrwth-'02-Application.doc>

AISWCD – Bob Sloan

- Tree I.D. Workshops – Funks Grove has agreed to have them there. Dates not yet set. Still seeking funding sources.
- Direct Seeding Manual – final version in proof reading; seeking funding to print 500 copies, may have agreement with EPA for some of the printing.
- Looking for summer conference speaker, considering a speaker on estate planning.
- T.S.I. Crop Tree Release Workshops – State Association of RC&D's agreed to cooperate with agencies in sponsoring these events. Inquiries are being sent to all RC&D's for participation as well as a list of required duties, equipment, facilities, etc.
- New committee member Ray Herman to work with participating districts on pulling together a seed collection network.
- Direct seeding network is in its second year but still needs some funding.
- Committee is working on a report of its accomplishments over the last five years.

Illinois Department of Agriculture – Rich Nichols

- Watershed Park will open April 1 – Forestry Development Council invited to provide suggestions and assistance for forestry stations. Invitation to visit site after meeting was issued.

The meeting scheduled for May 15 will be changed to May 8 and will be held at the NRCS office, 2118 Park Court, Champaign.

Dick asked if anyone would be interested in another field trip. The group was in favor of having another tour – in early Fall that is Urban related.

Meeting adjourned.