

## **Illinois Forestry Development Council Meeting – September 18, 2002**

Chairman Gary Rolfe called the meeting to order. Eleven Council members and 22 Task Group members and guests were present.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 8, 2002 meeting minutes.

### **Financial Report – *Dick Little***

Dick distributed copies of the FY02 and FY03 budgets. A balance of \$24,298.88 remains in the FY02 budget that will go back to the Forestry Development Fund. A report of the FDA 4% funds was also distributed. There is more than \$597,000 available for cost-share this year.

### **Newsletter Report – *Jim Appleby***

Jim distributed a copy of the articles that are being written for the Fall issue of the Council News. There are currently 660 on the mailing list for the Council News. If anyone needs photos taken for the News, please contact Jim.

### **Presentation – 2002 Farm Bill – *Bill Gradle***

Bill reported on Title II of the Conservation revisions in the 2002 Farm Bill.

### **DNR/ORC Reorganization – *Tim Hickman***

Tim announced that Stu Pequignot would be retiring the end of September. Tim distributed an ORC overview chart of the reorganization plan.

### **Presentation – 2002 Farm Bill – FLEP – *Dan Schmoker***

Dan reported on the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) – Title VIII of the 2002 Farm Bill. There will be between \$300,000 to \$750,000 available to landowners for cost sharing. This program is for non-industrial private forestland. This type of cost sharing will require a Forest Management Plan. A state priority plan will be prepared and be ready by October 29. Chairman Rolfe asked Tom Ward and the Stewardship/Education Committee to review the draft Plan that was being prepared. The Council for approval will then review the Plan.

### **Illinois Forestry Cost-Share Program – *Dan Schmoker***

Dan reported there are 7,700 landowners (355,000 acres) in the Forest Management Plan. Last Spring 65,000 acres were planted in seedlings; 162,000 acres brought under the Management Plan; and 3,200 acres in direct seeding.

### **Illinois Forest Resources 2002 – *Scott Bretthauer***

Scott distributed copies of the Illinois Forest Resources 2002 publication that he and John Edgington prepared. He presented an overview of the key points in the publication.

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

- Represented the Council and Department at the Roundtable Workshop for the National Sustainability report.
- Met with the Wildlife Habitat Program.
- Attended the Ag Assembly Meeting (also K. Koenigstein, J. Phelps, L. Rife, B. Sloan, C. Willenborg).
- Met with IWPA and DNR regarding the changes made on the Timber Buyers Licensing Act. Also met with Law Enforcement and IWPA to work on the two administrative orders to get everyone in agreement.

- The Council display was put up at the SWCD Annual Convention in Springfield.
- Two Council displays were put up at the Illinois State Fair – one at Conservation World and one at Department of Agriculture’s Watershed Park.
- Council display was put up at the DuQuoin State Fair.
- Attended the RC&D annual conference.
- Appointed alternate to Conservation Congress; John Phelps is the delegate. John and Dick will attend training sessions.

**Forest Legacy Program – *Dave Gillespie***

Dave received an application for the forest legacy tract in the Rock River Forest Legacy area. The Rock River Valley Girl Scout Council submitted an application for 300 acres of forestland. Stu Pequignot made a motion to approve the evaluation process to proceed in getting the work done on the application. Bob Sloan seconded the motion. Motion was approved. After the final evaluation process, the application will be brought to the Council for final approval.

For 2004 funding, two projects have been approved and have been sent to the Forest Service for consideration. These two projects need to be prioritized – a) Kite River Forest Area in the Rock River Forest Legacy Area right across the road from the Daysville Forest Legacy area that we will close on the end of this month; b) Coon Creek Woods that is in the Great Rivers Bluff area between Alton and Marquette State Park. Dave’s recommendation to the Council is to put the Kite River project as No. 1 and Coon Creek Woods as No. 2. A motion was made and seconded to accept Dave’s recommendation. Motion was approved.

**Committee Report – *Stewardship/Education Task Group – Tom Ward***

Six members attended. Randy Wiseman will be assuming Kathy Andrews duties for IDNR Information and Education (I&E). Randy will be contacted to see if she can assist in developing the Council’s I&E assessment. Statewide high school and adult I&E opportunities were discussed. Forest landowner education on how to conduct a timber sale was suggested. The annual IDNR Forest Stewardship report to the USFS will be used to develop the Council’s Forest stewardship assessment. Deferred to the Council were agenda items regarding the Task Group’s role in implementing the new Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) and responding to forester vacancies with Extension Service and IDNR.

**Old Business**

Stu reported they have had some internal discussions regarding the Forestry Development Act and the specifications. He recommended the Council, through Dick’s efforts, to proceed with the changes to the FDA law in terms of increasing the minimum acreage from 5 to 10 acres and the timeframe in which landowners report from one year to two years. There are some technical changes that need to be done. Chairman Rolfe asked Dick to pull together the previous discussion and considerations and changes in the FDA and update it with these considerations and bring back to the Council.

Debbie Jones asked for volunteers to help the Open Lands Committee. They are especially seeking someone to operate the chain saw.

Dick distributed information on the Council meeting and Northern Illinois Forestry Tour to be held October 29 and 30 in the Rock River area. Copies of the announcement will be mailed out next week to all Council and Task Group members.

Chairman Rolfe said the Council was very appreciative of the work Skip Starkey has done on behalf of the Forest Service with the Council over the last couple of years. Skip will be greatly missed.

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

### Forest Service – Skip Starkey

Skip will be moving to the Regional Office in Milwaukee as the Director of the Vegetation Management and Planning. Skip reported he has enjoyed his association with the IFDC and in his new position perhaps will have additional opportunities to interact with the Council.

Allen Nicholas will be the Acting Forest Supervisor for the next 120 days. Skip thanked the Council for welcoming Allen. Advertisement for the next Forest Supervisor for the Shawnee National Forest closes in two weeks.

Operations have been somewhat restricted on the Shawnee National Forest the last three months as funding and people were provided to support the fire efforts in the West. Over two million dollars and many forest employees were contributed.

The draft EIS for the eradication of kudzu on the Shawnee National Forest is at the printers and should be distributed for public comment with a couple of weeks.

Fire danger monitoring has been above average at this time; are above the highest values for most indices. Have already had some fires on the Shawnee National Forest the past couple of weeks. Could be looking at a significant fire season this Fall and Winter if we do not receive significant moisture over a long time period.

### IWPA – Lee Rife

The USDA canceled the pallet schools that were scheduled for the latter part of July due to some rules and regulations. Looking at early next year to reschedule if everything is resolved.

### NRCS Report – Bill Gradle

Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) is available on the Internet at [www.il.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov). Click on Technical Resources, Illinois Field Office Technical Guide and then the state of Illinois on the US map. Nine new forestry technical standards are available for Illinois including Tree/Shrub Establishment, Forest Stand Improvement and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment.

## **Upcoming Events**

Society of American Foresters National Convention, October 5-9 at Winston-Salem, NC. For more information: <http://www.safnet.org/calendar/natcon.htm>.

Central State Forest Soils Workshop, Oct. 15-17 at Toledo, OH. More information at: <http://www.ohiosaf.org/>.

Illinois Society of American Foresters annual fall meeting, Oct. 17-18 at Funks Grove. For more information contact Joe Newcomb at 618-265-3286

Special Forest Products Production & Marketing Conference, October 25-26 at Cape Girardeau, MO. Contact Julie Rhoads at 573-882-3234.

Direct Seeding Workshop, Oct. 30 at Dixon, IA (near Quad Cities) sponsored by Interstate RC&D. Contact the RC&D at: 309/764-1486 x 109

SWCD – Bob Sloan

A tree I.D. Workshop was held at Funk's Grove on June 14 and attended by 30 people.

A marketing your timber educational session was held at the AISWCD annual meeting in June.

The Direct Seeding Website has received more funding and is now up and running again.

A grant proposal was submitted for the printing of Section 3 (Species List) of the Direct Seeding Handbook and to purchase the necessary quantity of 3-ring binders.

The proposed T.S.I. workshops for northern, central and southern acres have now all been sponsored. Lower Sangamon RC&D – October 3; Lincoln Heritage RC&D and Black Hawk RC&D – November 13.

Future training plans are for CREP compliance for SWCD employees and winter tree I.D. workshop.

Illinois Forest Resource Center – Diane Murphy

Diane reported they had a fantastic Stewardship Week again this year with 3,400 students and 165 teachers attending. There are 2,100 students are on the waiting list. The demand for Stewardship Week continues to be very high. Donations from various organizations and groups support this event. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation reported that this was the largest education program east of the Mississippi River.

Forestry Demonstration Area – Staff will be working with SIU in timber stand improvement and burning methods. There will be four control sites – 1) do nothing; 2) timber stand improvement; 3) timber stand improvement and burning; and 4) burning only.

Southern Illinois University – John Phelps

Dr. Paul Roth retired, but will not be filling position soon. Enrollments are up, research productivity is up. The Chancellor has asked all departments to come up with a scenario for a 5% and 10% reduction beginning next fiscal year.

Illinois Farm Development Authority – Kevin Koenigstein

A drought in Southern Illinois – expect a lot of debt restructuring loans for the guaranteed program and also the opportunity for Illinois landowners to plant more trees in southeast and southern Illinois.

Illinois Department of Ag – Jane Wendte

Another good year at Watershed Park. 50,000 people have gone through Watershed Park at the State Fairgrounds. Two or three more school groups are scheduled to go thru this Fall. Soil & Water Conservation District people will be very busy this year – helping with the EQUIP program and the cost-share program.

Chairman Rolfe introduced Mike Baltz, new member to the Council, representing the Nature Conservancy. Mike reported the TNC tree nursery in Southern Illinois has risen about half million hardwood seedlings, but will be going out of the nursery business. Dave Maginel, who was the land steward left, and has started his own nursery – Conservation Technologies.

Illinois Department of Conservation – *Stu Pequignot*

Reorganization is going to be an on-going process. There are several vacancies and early retirements occurring. Possibly 18 Forestry field staff vacancies this Fall – continue to struggle as to how to get these filled. Stu reported this would be his last meeting as State Forester as he is retiring.

Chairman Rolfe thanked Stu for his efforts, on behalf of the Council, over the last several years for his substantial and creative input and for all he has done for Forestry in the State.

Illinois Arborists Association – *Mike Brunk*

The IAA annual conference will be held on October 8 & 9 at the Holiday Inn in Tinley Park, Illinois. Contact Mike for further information.

Meeting adjourned.