

Illinois Forestry Development Council – October 29, 2002

Dick Little, Council Liaison, acting on behalf of Chairman Gary Rolfe, called the meeting to order. Six Council members and seven Task Group members and guests were present.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 18, 2002 meeting minutes.

Financial Report – Dick Little

There was no change to the last financial report. A total of \$604.79 of the Council travel funds was used for the September meeting. This leaves a balance of \$4399.21.

Council Liaison Report – Dick Little

- ✓ Met with John Phelps and Jean Mangun on the Development of the Forestry Policy Paper project. The Critical Issues Forum information that we have combined with any of the sub-committee information will be used as a part of the report.
- ✓ Met with the IDNR Regional Foresters on the State Priority Plan and Cost-Share Program for the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP).
- ✓ Attended a meeting with NRCS and others to review and provide input into the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP).
- ✓ Attended the FSA, CRP meeting to determine the priority areas for wildlife enhancement and water quality areas for the next sign-up.
- ✓ Council Appointments –
 - Jeff Dawson, University of Illinois, has been appointed by the Governor to the Council Urban position.
 - Mike Baltz, TNC, has been appointed by the Governor to the Council Environmental position.

With these two appointments, all Council positions are filled at this time.

- ✓ Attended the Region III Conservation Congress meeting. One issue of concern that was brought up was to stop “extraction” including logging on state lands. This was changed some that IDNR should review the State Laws on the extraction issue on State lands. John Phelps attended the Region IV Conservation Congress meeting.
- ✓ Plans are to have the Council Display at the IL Association of Science Teachers Conference. A limited number of “Forest Resources of Illinois” 2002 report will be distributed.

Committee Reports

Stewardship/Education Task Group – Tom Ward

Randy Wiseman, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, has been invited to assist the Task Group in developing the Information and Education assessment and issue paper. Dan Schmoker and a small subcommittee are working on a Priority Plan for implementing the Forestland Enhancement Program (FLEP) in Illinois.

Urban Task Group – Mike Brunk

Mike passed around two publications from Lisa Burban, U.S. Forest Service –

- ✓ Video entitled “Preventing Stem Girdling Roots”
- ✓ Booklet entitled “Planting Trees and Shrubs for Long-Term Health”. We can get small quantities from Lisa. Larger volumes need to be ordered from Minnesota Coop Extension.

Old Business

FLEP – Kurt Bobsin

For Illinois to participate, a FLEP plan must be submitted. The Council, as the State Stewardship Committee, needs to provide input on the needs and issues of the state and approve the Plan that will be submitted by DNR.

Dan Smoker and Kurt have pulled bits and pieces from other publications as a starting point to create draft 1 (Attached). The Plan must have –

- ✓ background on Illinois Forestry
- ✓ benefits of the forest resource
- ✓ issues
- ✓ what kind of potential

Benefits can be expected from the improvements made with the implemented components/practices of this program.

There are four components to the draft program –

- ✓ administrative
- ✓ educational
- ✓ technical assistance and
- ✓ cost-share assistance for non-industrial private landowners.

Please review and provide your comments on the attached draft to Kurt Bobsin at IDNR Regional Office, (email – kbobsin@dnrmail.state.il.us) or 2005 Round Barn Road, Champaign, Illinois 61821.

New Business

As a result of the FLEP discussion and draft plan, a discussion followed on the continued need for landowner education. Therefore, a motion was made and seconded that the

Council pursue with a recommendation to the University of Illinois to fill the Coop Extension Forestry position(s). It was passed with no opposition.

FDA Changes – Dick Little

As discussed at an earlier meeting, a copy of the changes to 525 ILCS 15/5 was distributed to those present. Dick still needs to write the issue paper on the proposed changes. ***If you have any comments, please contact Dick Little as soon as possible.*** During the January meeting the Council will need to act on the proposal.

Shawnee National Forest has scheduled four meetings in November and one in January to develop alternates on the Forest Plan. A handout was distributed with the information.

The Council received recognition from the AISWCD for sponsorship of the 2002 Illinois Envirothon.

Agency Reports

IWPA – Lee Rife

Lee has been informed that companies like CAT/CASE/Johnson & Johnson will not use sterilized pallets. They will use pallets that are made of processed wood products that are exempt.

NRCS – Tom Ward

The Illinois State Technical Committee is working on recommendations regarding implementation of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Forestry practices, such as timber stand improvement, will be eligible for cost-share but ranking criteria has not yet been completed, awaiting publication of the Final Rule for EQIP. Its still unclear how competitive forestry practices will be compared to other conservation practices.

Funding for forestry practices will likely be available also through the Conservation Security Program (CSP). Program rules and ranking criteria have not yet been developed and Congress has not yet appropriated funds for CSP.

The 2002 Farm Bill increased the emphasis on the use of Technical Service Providers (TechPros) in implementing the Conservation Programs created or funded by the Farm Bill. Rules and procedures haven't been published yet but the potential exists for using private sector contractors to provide technical assistance in planning and completing forestry practices.

The NRCS Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) is available on the internet at 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.

With no other reports or comments the meeting was adjourned. **The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2003 in the NRCS office at Champaign.**

George Poe, District Forester, conducted a field tour at the White Pine Forest State Park on the forest improvement practices to sustain the white pine population in the Park.

Meeting adjourned.