

## **Illinois Forestry Development Council Meeting – September 22, 2004**

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

The May 12, 2004 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

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

Dick distributed copies of the FY2004 financial report with a balance of \$268.06 remaining. Copies of the FY2005 financial report were also distributed. The FY2005 proposed appropriation is \$118,500. A balance of \$5,769 has not been committed to date.

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

- ✓ Distributed copies of the Critical Issues Report and CD
- ✓ Took Council displays to the Illinois State Fair and DuQuoin Fair
- ✓ Involved in the Middle Mississippi River Partnership with the Forest Service
- ✓ Paul Diezman, district forester in the Chicago area is leaving to take the position of Forest Management Administrator for the state of Tennessee
- ✓ FIA Forest Inventory is out – this is the third year of the five-year survey. Will look at the results of survey and report back at next meeting
- ✓ Tom Ward took the position of State Forester in Michigan – plan to fill his position
- ✓ The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency announced green schools grant program – will give \$500 - \$2500 to schools for projects for improving environmental conditions, reduce waste and enhance energy efficiency.
- ✓ Interstate Forestry Conference Expo, Rock Island Area – September 8-10, 2005
- ✓ Attended the Ag Roundtable meeting with the Farm Bureau
- ✓ Made a presentation at the Natural Resource Advisory Board meeting in June
- ✓ Attended the C-FAR annual meeting
- ✓ Council had a booth at the SWCD annual meeting

Chairman Rolfe asked Dick to write an article for the Newsletter regarding the budget.

Dick reported that Jim Appleby requests articles for the Fall issue of the Newsletter. Send Jim the articles via email.

### Critical Issues Paper **Jean Mangun**

Jean distributed a copy of the survey responses (50) she received back on the Critical Issues project she is working on. Discussion followed. Some of these responses will be incorporated in the Critical Issues publication.

### Statewide Forestry Conference – **Gary Rolfe**

Two meetings have been held to discuss plans for the conference. The principle topics for the conference will be leadership, capacity (university and state government), industry and urban. One major meeting will be held to bring in some outside knowledgeable folks in other states who have had similar experiences and worked towards a solution. Following the conference the results will be summarized and create a position paper which can then be used in a series of meetings with elected public officials and the state government.

## Old Business

### Sawmill Survey – *Dick Little*

Southern Illinois University, Illinois Department of Natural Resource, Forest Service and the Council have been working on updating the Sawmill Directory. There were originally 190 members in the directory. Eleven mills have closed since the last directory. The directory will be out this Fall.

## New Business

### Sudden Death Oak Disease – *Dick Little*

The Council has been asked to be involved in a Task Force to look at the issue in Illinois regarding the Sudden Death Oak Disease that came from California. Tom Wilson, Karel Jacobs, Dick Little and several members from extension (U of I) are on the Task Force. There is a national task force that is working on a plan as to how to address the Sudden Death Oak Disease issue. Illinois has also agreed to have a plan. Sessions are being arranged with Extension, Department of Agriculture nursery, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources nursery to train personnel on how to detect the disease.

### Forest Keeling Nursery

Dick reported there will be a Field Day and Open House of the Forest Keeling Nursery in Elsberry, Missouri on September 23. There will also be a tour of the Nursery.

### Partners Planning Conference

The Second Annual Partners Planning Conference will be held on October 27 and 28 at the Holiday Inn in Peoria, Illinois.

### Managerial Ethics Training for Council Members

A notice was sent to Council members stating they must take Managerial Ethics Training course. This is a mandatory requirement. Dates are November 23 thru December 2; training and tests can be taken on-line.

### Forest Legacy - *Dave Gillespie*

Dave distributed a copy of the status of the current projects in the Legacy Area. The closing on the Rattlesnake Ridge Woods forest legacy property was completed September 15. Dave thanked the Council for responding to his request for approving the application for the forest legacy area in the Kaskaskia River area. There are four new projects (Ruth Smith and Great River Land Trust in the Great Rivers Bluffs Forest Legacy Area, Glen Schultz and Valmeyer Woods in the proposed Southwestern Illinois-Lower Kaskaskia Forest Legacy Area) that Dave is asking the Council for authority to proceed with these projects that will lead in their submission to the Forest Service for funding consideration in FY06. A motion was made to accept these applications for consideration. Motion carried

## Agency Reports

### Lt. Governor's Office – *Bridget McCarte*

Bridget reported the Lt. Governor is Chairman of the Illinois River Coordinating Council. Bridget invited those interested to the upcoming meeting in Peoria.

### Forest Service – *Nick Giannettino*

#### Planning

- ✓ Draft Forest Plan due out in December
- ✓ Trails designation project due out in January – this is four main watersheds on the forests around the Eddyville area

- ✓ Kudzu Environmental Impact Statement is in the Regional Office for review
- ✓ Pine timber sale decision due out in December

#### Implementation

- ✓ Treatment of over 850 acres fuels, double FY03 acres
- ✓ Planning for over 30,000 acres of burning
- ✓ Open lands decision notice signed the week of September 20, 2004 which will cover 2600 acres
- ✓ Cooperative fire agreement with IDNR and Shawnee National Forest

#### Farm Service Agency – **Jim Ross**

Jim reported they are finishing up their general sign-up for CRP on September 24, 2004. One practice being offered this year is the CP32. Sign-up has been light.

#### AISWCD – **Bob Sloan**

- ✓ Two winter tree workshops were held in February at Funks Grove and Dixon Springs.
- ✓ Two workshops were scheduled in June – one at Funks Grove and one in Carroll County. The one in Carroll County was cancelled for lack of participation.
- ✓ Sugar Grove Nature Center donated funds to help defray expenses for these workshops.
- ✓ The committee's 2004 Outstanding Forestry Contribution Award recipients were Anthony and Mary Rudis from Will-South Cook County. This year's award was sponsored by Williams Forestry & Associates.
- ✓ Two training sessions were held at the annual Summer Conference "Quality Deer Management Through Forest Stand Improvement" by Dan Lokena and "Sustainable Forest" presented by William Burnidge.
- ✓ The direct seeding website is making progress on becoming self-supporting.
- ✓ The two State Forestry Expo for 2005 planning progressing with the various committees working on their goals.
- ✓ A forestry workshop sponsored by Marshall-Putnam and Bureau County SWCS's is to be held at Warnecke Woods near Princeton on Friday, October 1.
- ✓ A forestry herbicide workshop will possibly be held in LaSalle County in February. This is in the early planning stage.
- ✓ A suggestion to the Upper Mississippi Forestry Alliance to fund forestry workshops in the six state area has been favorably received and is to be one of the final recommendations from the steering committee.

#### Illinois Department of Natural Resources – **Tom Wilson**

Tom reported they are presently working with the University of Illinois Fire Institute and State Fire Marshall's office, along with FSA and their mid-management practices. They are trying to get local volunteer fire protection districts up and running as potential prescribed burning vendors for CRP and CREP. They are trying to set up regional training workshops to fit into national wildfire coordinating group standards.

#### AISWCD – **Terry Donohue**

The SWCD operating budget took a four percent reduction which resulted in about a \$231 thousand cut on top of about nine percent cut over the last three years. There was also one million dollar cut to Conservation 2000. They are not sure whether there will be any reserve.

Department of Agriculture – Rich Nichols

Rich reported 9600 people visited Watershed Park during the State Fair. The Department of Ag Summer Conference was held in conjunction with the Association's annual meeting on July 30 thru August 2 with 900 people attending.

IWPA – Lee Rife

- ✓ IWPA sponsored the Game of Logging. Five people received certificates at Herrin and 11 received certificates at Effingham. There are still openings at the Fulton County Workshop in November (northern Illinois).
- ✓ There will be a one- to two-day chain saw safety course for woodlot owners and others who are interested.
- ✓ Members of IWPA have been helping with the Sawmill survey.
- ✓ A meeting is planned for October 21 with the Shawnee RC&D to talk about a continuing education program for loggers. Westvaco Corp. will also be working with IWPA.

Southern Illinois University – John Phelps

Dr. Gary Minish began August 1 as the new Dean of the College of Ag Sciences. He came from Virginia Tech as Animal Sciences Department Chair. Dr. John Russin was hired as the Associate Dean for Research and Budget.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Kirk Bobsin

- ✓ Tom Wilson has been temporarily assigned to the Forest Protection Program which deals primarily with the fire and forest health programs.
- ✓ There are 23 district forester positions; seven of them vacant with the possibility of another one being vacant.
- ✓ The Forest Legacy program, which Dave Gillespie is working on a contractual arrangement, has been moved over to the Real Estate Planning office.
- ✓ There are two grant opportunities for the urban program available through the Intercity Grant Program and the Urban and Forestry Community Grant Program. There is a pre-application process with applications due October 15.
- ✓ Annual poster contest available for 5<sup>th</sup> graders from the National Arbor Day Foundation.
- ✓ IDNR will host the National Walnut Council meeting in July 2005 in the Quad City area.

NRCS – Bill Gradle

**USDA Programs** (for more details go to [www.il.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov))

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

General Signup 29 was announced on August 8. The signup period is from August 30 to September 24, 2004 to enroll acreage for new 10 and 15-year contracts for program year 2006. This means that contracts will not actually begin until October 1, 2005. A signup 29 fact sheet is available on the FSA website:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crp29sign04.htm>. An updated

Environmental Benefits Index fact sheet is available at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crp29ebi04.htm>. There is a new forestry practice, "Expired CRP Hardwood Tree Planting", CP 32, which is available for CRP hardwood tree plantations that expired on September 30, 2001 or earlier. Continuous signup provisions will continue to be offered but the signup number will change from 28 to 30.

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

The interim Final Rule was released on June 9. On May 20 the Kishwaukee Watershed in northern IL and a small part of southern WI was selected as one of 18 CSP Priority Watersheds

nationwide for 2004. In Illinois the Kishwaukee River Watershed includes Kane, McHenry, Boone, DeKalb, Lee, Winnebago, Rockford and Ogle Counties, more than 780,000 acres in total. CSP is a voluntary program that supports ongoing conservation stewardship of agricultural working lands and enhances the condition of America's natural resources. Forestry and tree planting practices are not included in CSP. For more information go to:  
<http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/index.html>.

#### Training/Meetings since last IFDC meeting

Tree ID training, June 17, Funks Grove, McLean Co. 18 NRCS and SWCD employees attended.

AISWCD Summer Conference, July 30, Springfield. There were two Forestry presentations this year. Dan Loken, MW rep. for the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) spoke on "Quality Deer Management through Forest Stand Improvement". William Burnidge and Pat Weber, with the US Business Council for Sustainable Development, spoke about the Lower Mississippi River Sustainable Forestry Project and Establishment Practices for Mixed Cottonwood-Hardwood Forests in the Lower Mississippi River Bottomlands. Approximately 50 attended each session.

#### **Upcoming Events**

Illinois Plant Materials Advisory Group meeting, September 15-16, Salem, IL. Contact Richard Hungerford at 217-353-6640.

Central State Forest Soils Workshop, October 12-14. Kentucky is the host state this year. Contact Bob McLeese, NRCS State Soil Scientist, 219/353-6643.

#### **Job Opportunity**

Tom Ward was selected to fill the State Staff Forester vacancy at the NRCS State Office in East Lansing, Michigan. Tom reported to East Lansing August 22, 2004. Applications are being received for Forester, GS-460-12, at the Illinois NRCS State Office in Champaign. The application period is from August 20 to September 20, 2004. The full vacancy announcement may be viewed at: <http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov/>, click on "Employment" and at: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>, click on "Search for Jobs" and enter vacancy announcement no. NRCS-IL-04-25B.

Meeting adjourned.