

## **Illinois Forestry Development Council – May 10, 2005**

The Council meeting was held at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Illinois. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Rolfe. Seven members and 10 task group members were present. Chairman Rolfe gave a brief report on the history of Lewis and Clark College.

The January 19, 2005 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

### Financial Update – *Dick Little*

Dick distributed copies of the FY2005 budget and the proposed FY2006 budget. The remaining funds that were not used at the end of the fiscal year will be returned. The proposed appropriation for FY2006 is \$118,500.

### Liaison Report – *Dick Little*

- ✓ Continue to be involved with the Interstate RC&D Council Forestry Expo, which will be held in the Moline/Rock Island/Davenport area on September 9, & 10, 2005.
- ✓ A draft of the Middle Mississippi Partnership Plan has been completed. Public meetings are scheduled for May 23, 24 and 26. The Plan addresses the area within the flood plan from St. Louis to the Ohio River.
- ✓ IDNR hosted the RC&D Association meeting in February.
- ✓ Participated in the grant proposal review on the Natural Resources subcommittee for C-FAR. The Governor increased the proposed budget for FY06.
- ✓ Participated in two IWPA meetings.
- ✓ The Council display was put up at two Science Teacher Association Conferences (SIU & WIU). The DNR Forestry Section provided some Smokey Bear materials for teachers and their students.
- ✓ Helped plan and participated in the Illinois Forestry Summit on March 23 & 24, 2005.
- ✓ Attended the Legislative Sportsman Conference Caucus at the Fairgrounds.
- ✓ Bill Gradle and Dick attended the luncheon with the SAF representatives on the accreditation team.
- ✓ Attended the SIU Leadership Board meeting and set up the Council display at the first annual SIU Agriculture Day.
- ✓ Participated in Stewardship Days with the fourth graders from Chicago.

- ✓ Met with Steve Bylina, Director of the Cook County Forest Preserve. Steve stated that he would be interested in hosting a follow-up meeting for the Council in regard to the Summit.
- ✓ There have been 2118 Senate Bills and 4072 House Bills introduced. IFDA is included in two bills, SB1076 and 1083. They are still shell bills.
- ✓ Three appropriation Bills that may be important – HB2629 DNR, HB2688 Capital funds (\$625,000 for Cost Share, reappropriated \$605,235 and \$300,000 for Stewardship also includes Rural Fire, SB1380 DNR).
- ✓ The two appropriated Bills include the FDF funds which includes the 4 percent harvest fee and Federal reimbursement funds and a small amount of other dollars which include \$121,800 for equipment, \$1,012,500 for advising forestry, \$118,500 for the Council, \$301,500 urban and \$240,9000 for Inter-City Urban Revitalization.
- ✓ Three other Appropriated Bills provide \$1 or \$2 for DNR, HB3921 and SB2019 and SB1577.
- ✓ HB3876 Wetland Protection Act.
- ✓ SB0761, Isolated Wetland Protection passed into the House and assigned to Environmental and Energy Committee. This Bill has the environmental community upset. One point is it preempts the home rule in certain circumstances. Of course, the homebuilders are the ones that are pushing the Bill. Basically it is a good Bill if you take out the exceptions.
- ✓ Reviewing the Draft Land and Resource Management Plan for the Shawnee National Forest. Comments are due June 20, 2005. The bad news is that we all know that it will go to court.
- ✓ The Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Conservation Expo will be held on August 9-11 at the farm of Jerry and Leslie Lewis of Good Hope, Illinois.

Leaf Tatter – *Jim Appleby*

Jim gave a presentation on the condition of leaf tatters on white oaks. He passed around a sample of “leaf tatters” for everyone to see. In trees that have leaf tatters, they have a very lacy-like appearance eventually leaving only the main leaf veins with little interveinal tissues present. An experiment was conducted in 2004 at Champaign, IL with white oak seedlings treated with six herbicide treatments at three concentrations. The study indicates that drift of chloroacetamide herbicides is a possible cause of the leaf tatters syndrome. The experiment will be repeated next year to evaluate alternative ways of treating the seedlings to confirm growth-specific susceptibility of white oak to chloroacetamides.

### Great Rivers Project – Gary Rolfe

Chairman Rolfe met with Dale Chapman, President of Lewis and Clark Community College and discussed the idea of formalizing the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center as a partnership between the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, the Illinois Natural History Survey and Lewis and Clark Community College. Chairman Rolfe and Dale Chapman contacted political leaders to get political support. On April 7, 2003 Congressman Costello attended the groundbreaking ceremony and committed securing funding for a NGRREC that would be located at the Mel Price Lock and Dam near Alton, IL. This would be a Field Biological Station focusing on floodplains and rivers. They wanted to have both a research and educational facility. Also wanted an outreach program to bring local people in to learn more about the rivers, floodplains and watershed environments. On the research front they have conducted a small grant research program the past three years with grants in the amount of \$25,000. A research information database is in the works to catalog everything that is known research-wise about the rivers and watersheds. An educational effort is underway where an open competition for development of courses, fieldwork related to rivers and watersheds. To date, two different courses have been developed – water chemistry and aquatic insects. A field course has also been developed. An internship program has been created to get students involved in the program. Each year faculty members and students are recruited for the program. Two national symposiums have been held at the Great River Research and Education Center.

### Old Business

#### Critical Issue Briefs – Jean Mangun

Jean is working on the layout for the Critical Issues Report. The project will be completed by June 30, 2005.

#### Statewide Forestry Conference – Gary Rolfe

More than 60 people participated in the Forestry Summit held March 23 & 24 in Springfield. There were four topic groups that discussed critical issues in forestry and then developed a list of the top issues in each group. The Planning Committee will meet following the Council meeting to develop a more specific action plan.

Chairman Rolfe will ask the Chair of the Task Groups for the Forestry Summit to generate a budget plan along with their strategic plan.

### New Business

#### FY06 Budget

Copies of the proposed FY06 budget were distributed earlier. A motion was made and seconded to fund two internships (summer '06) for the Great Rivers Program for \$12,000 for FY06-07 (half from '06 and half from '07). Discussion followed. Motion carried. A motion was made and seconded to approve the FY06 proposed Council budget as submitted. Motion carried.

IDNR – *Kurt Bobsin*

Kurt asked if now was the time and how the Council would go about making changes in the FDA. Dick said it was too late for the Governor's office to make an amendment. Dick suggested that we could give the changes to one of the Legislative Council reps to take to the House or Senate.

Kurt made a motion for Dick to put together a draft of proposed changes to the FDA. Motion was seconded. Motion carried. Chairman Rolfe said there should be two categories – wording changes and substance changes.

No word on budget cuts, but doubtful that vacant positions will be filled.

FLEP program – have expended the first round of funds. The educational project has been completed. Another round of FLEP money will be coming.

The U of I extension position should be filled soon.

The next meeting will be September 14 at the Ballard Nature Center, Altamont, Illinois.

Meeting adjourned.