

## **Illinois Forestry Development Council – September 14, 2005**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Rolfe. Ten Council members and 15 task group members were present. The meeting was held at the Ballard Nature Center near Altamont, IL.

The May 20, 2005 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

### Financial Update – Dick Little

Dick distributed the financial report for FY06. There is a balance of \$32,758 remaining to date that has not been allocated. A report of the four percent funds that have been collected was also distributed. The balance in this account is zero due to the Governor's sweep. Discussion followed.

Chairman Rolfe suggested that District Foresters identify landowners who might be appropriate for a contact on the Council to discuss the four percent funds and the Governor's sweep. It was also suggested that information on the four percent harvest fee be sent to landowners. Rep. Winters suggested contacting Phil Miller from Sinnissippi Forest. Chairman Rolfe said he would call Warren Miller and discuss this with him.

The idea of revising the Forestry Development Act was discussed, i.e., wording issues, structure of the Council.

### Council Liaison Report – Dick Little

- ✓ Attended the Forestry Expo in Davenport, IA; Council display was put up
- ✓ Put Council display up at the Farm Progress Show; Dave and Dick spoke briefly on behalf of the IFDC in support of the Stewardship program and the environmental programs
- ✓ Two Council displays were up at the Illinois State Fair
- ✓ Attended the C-FAR meeting, the NRCS meeting, and the SWCD annual meeting – Council display was put up
- ✓ Represented the Council at the National Forest Partnership meeting in Chicago hosted by Region 9
- ✓ Provided comments back on the Shawnee National Forest Plan
- ✓ Copies of the Critical Issues pamphlet prepared by Jean Mangun were distributed
- ✓ Received in the mail the Forest Service '04 statewide inventory

### Ethics Training – Dick Little

Dick distributed copies of the Ethics Training to Council Members. The signature page should be signed and returned to Dick.

### Forest Legacy Update – Dave Gillespie

Dave submitted a list of projects for the Council's approval for funding projects in 2007 in the Forest Legacy Program. These are the same projects that funding was asked for in FY06 in the same priority order –

1. Daggett Ridge – 420 acres located in the Great Rivers Bluffs FLA - \$2,700,000
2. River Forest – 44 acres located in the Great Rivers Bluffs FLA - \$914,700
3. Otter Creek (Pere Marquette 5) – 316 acres located in the Great Rivers Bluffs FLA - \$950,000
4. McCormack – 300 acres located in the Rock River FLA - \$600,000

5. N. Calhoun Project – three tracts consisting of a total of 480 acres in the great Rivers Bluff FLA - \$1,056,000
6. Venedy 1 – 54 acres located in the proposed Southwestern Illinois/Lower Kaskaskia FLA - \$72,900
7. Valmeyer – 750 acres located in the proposed Southwestern Illinois/Lower Kaskaskia FLA \$1,300,000

For the past two years, Illinois projects have been zeroed out when it comes to the final budget. Dave heard from the Forest Service and this is supposedly just political reasons. Kurt suggested that the Council put together a letter explaining the Forest Legacy Program, why it is important, what the status is of the Illinois projects, and urge the legislators that the letter is sent to reprioritize the projects. Kurt also suggested sending a list of the Council members. Chairman Rolfe asked Dave and Kurt to draft a letter to send to legislatures regarding the Forest Legacy Program.

Kurt made a motion to adopt the prioritized Forest Legacy Tract list and to move forward to the Forest Service for consideration in the next budget cycle. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Kurt reported there was a program review of the Forest Legacy Program by the Forest Service. Dave reported that the review went very well. The findings they had were very easy to comply with – monitoring reports were not found in the file (since been found), the Forest Service would like there to be a Forest Legacy Subcommittee, they asked that we look at the assessment of need and see if things need to be updated and a few other minor issues.

#### Old Business

##### **Extension – Bill Gradle**

Bill reported the subcommittee met in June and had a very productive meeting discussing the need for a statewide organization, what it would do, a mission statement, and vision statements. A questionnaire was developed “*What Do You Think About Forestry in Illinois?*” A tele-conference meeting was held in July to refine the questionnaire. The questionnaire is on the Council website. Bill is thinking about holding a larger conference, getting the organization organized with officers. Chairman Rolfe suggested four to six regional meetings with smaller groups before having a statewide meeting. The subcommittee will meet again and move forward with scheduling regional meetings. Jean Mangun suggested making a charter membership for those that are already a member of an existing forestry-related organization. If you are an active member of one of the organizations and if the organization agrees to send a liaison or rep to the regional or state meetings then your membership will automatically become a charter membership of this organization

##### **Industry – Lee Rife**

The subcommittee met July 19. The group discussed one issue that had been identified - “*lack of public awareness of the forestry impact on the Illinois economy*”. Other issues were discussed and prioritized. The second issue discussed was “*strengthen forestry industry coalition to influence policy, management and economic development of forest resources in Illinois*”. The third issue is “*lack of comprehensive strategy, including globalization for marketing Illinois wood products (look at farm co-op model)*”. Jobs were assigned to various people on these top issues. The committee will meet again the end of September.

##### **Urban – Mike Brunk**

The subcommittee plans to hold their second meeting in two weeks at the Morton Arboretum. The top priority that came out of the Conference for the urban group was “*public education.*”

The Urban Task Group originally had started on a project to promote lesser-known trees to communities. The subcommittee will continue on with this project and prepare a publication with a color photo of these trees, and other information of how to prune a tree, how to plant a tree, how to set your trees in a landscape, things to avoid in planting trees, etc.

#### **Teaching/Research – John Phelps**

John and Wes Jarrell met in southern Illinois the end of August. The top issues the committee will be working on are: (1) support and encourage our respective faculties to work together on collaborative projects. (Our faculties are very talented, but small in total number and spread very thin); (2) need an advocacy group(s), outside the Council, to raise the aware of the people of Illinois as to the importance of forestry/natural resources. This includes state, university and private interests; (3) an area of research that could be important is on bio-based materials and opportunities for forest/fiber crops in the future as petroleum replacements, both for energy and materials.

#### New Business

None

#### Agency Reports

##### **IDNR – Todd Strole**

Todd reported he will be leaving IDNR and starting a new position outside of state government on October 3. He will be with the Nature Conservancy in St. Louis.

##### **IDNR – Kurt Bobsin**

Kurt reported that Todd has recommended to the Office Director that he felt the sections that were formerly Natural Heritage and Forestry should be separated out in separate divisions as they once were. Kurt feels the Office Director is very favorable with this idea and is moving in that direction.

Kurt has been told there is head count and money for filling vacancies in the 2006 budget. Each office was required to identify critical needs positions. Forestry has identified four positions as critical needs.

#### Program Overview

**Rural Fire Program** – recently went through a grant cycle for rural fire protection districts. Federal funds are given to rural fire protection districts to enhance their fire fighting capabilities. Also using funds to initiate a program for rural fire fighting training; working with the Fire Institute in Champaign.

**Forest Health Program** – funds are available to do some monitoring on sudden oak death.

**Forest Stewardship Program** – continue to have the internship program. There is also a vacancy to fill.

**Spatial Analysis Program** – did the statewide assessment (this is a process that identifies resources, risks and issues). One of the outcomes of the statewide assessment will be to identify important forest areas that will be related to the 12 data layers that were identified.

**Urban Program** – two urban grant programs going on that provide funding to communities – 1) traditional urban and community forestry and 2) intercity. Both programs are in the middle of the

grant cycle. Recipients are ready to be notified, but are currently on hold until the federal funding issue is resolved.

IWPA – **Lee Rife**

- ✓ IWPA is still working on putting together some educational opportunities in 2006. They are trying to find a source of grants.
- ✓ The IWPA Board Meeting will be held September 30, 4 to 6:00 pm at the IDNR Building in Springfield.
- ✓ The Midwest Industry Show will be held at St. Charles, MO on September 23 and 24. Educational seminars will be held along with logging equipment, pallet machines, and sawmills. The Game of Logging Competition will be held September 24.

Illinois Consulting Foresters – **Mike Karcher**

The Illinois Consulting Foresters will meet September 23 at IDNR, Springfield.

NRCS – **Bill Gradle**

Bill thanked Dick and Dave on their testimony they gave at the Farm Progress Show. Bill attended the three-day White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation in St. Louis the latter part of August. There were 1200 people in attendance. Illinois has two programs in the Conservation Security Program they will be working on for 2006. The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop will be held October 11-13, 2005 in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

AISWCD – **Bob Sloan**

Larry Straight from the University of Nebraska gave a very interesting and informative talk and power point presentation on using trees to help reduce urban storm water run-off.

A forestry workshop was held September 7 at the Marty Travis farm in Livingston County and was attended by about 40 people. Marty is an internationally recognized maker of Shaker furniture as well as a dedicated tree farmer. He and his wife not only have this 175-year historical farm, but are also harvesting paw paws and leeks out of their timber. In 2004 the cash return from these was far more than all the corn and soybeans raised on the cropland.

The Two-State Forestry Conference and Expo, was held September 8-10 at the River Center in Davenport, IA was mildly successful, but did not attract the attendance that was hoped for - about 500.

The seed supply in Bob's area this year is somewhat spotty, but with very little seeding taking place this fall it is more than adequate

Newsletter – **Dick Little**

Dick reminded those in attendance that articles and photos are needed for the Council Newsletter. Articles should be emailed to Jim Appleby.

The Council thanked Todd Strole for his support of the Council.

Meeting adjourned.