

## **Illinois Forestry Development Council Meeting – January 18, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by Dick Little, in the absence of Chair, Gary Rolfe. Six Council members and 19 Task Group members were present.

The September 14, 2005 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

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

Copies of the financial report were distributed. The remaining balance is \$32,758. Dick has received the proposal for the Big Rivers Intern and will submit to DNR. Dick also reported that as of December 31, 2005, \$488,700 four percent dollars has come in. The highest sale of the year was \$223,000.

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

- Distributed copies of the calendar for the General Assembly
- DNR Director Brunsvold retired December 31, 2005
- Council received letter and plaque from the Forest Service at Shawnee for the Council's work on the Mid-Mississippi Partnership
- Several bills have been introduced on farmland assessment:
  - HB4175 introduced by Rep. Kurt Granberg and HB4289 introduced by Rep. Ron Stephens
  - SB2166 introduced by Sen. John Jones and HB4416 introduced by Rep. Dan Reitz
  - HB4701 introduced on January 12 by Reps. Roger Eddy and David Reis
- Attended the Chicago Farmers Organization meeting in Chicago
- Dick, Lee Rife and Wes Jarrell attended the Ag Roundtable meeting at the Illinois Farm Bureau Building – discussed the 2007 Farm Bill
- Attended the Sustainable Roundtable meeting in Washington, DC
  - Discussed where we are going next
  - What some of the problems with the current CNI report that the Feds did were –
    - identify what was missing
    - should prepare a second report
    - who is going to do it
- Copies (on CD) of the National Report on Sustainable Forestry
- Attended the Forest Inventory Analysis meeting in Springfield, MO
- Northeast and North Central Experiment Station have merged under one director (Mike Rains will be the Director)
- Involved in the Illinois Conservation Climate Initiative (handout distributed)
  - Invited to participate on the Advisory Committee (Dick accepted)
- Continue to host the quarterly meetings of the RC&D
- NRCS technical committee met twice and the equip rules are out
- Attended a panel meeting of the Interstate RC&D to discuss the Forestry Expo (pros and cons)
- Served on the SIU College of Ag Science Advisory Board
- Ag Day will be held March 23, 2006 at the Capitol
- Invited to Trees Forever meetings to plan their future (January 23 in Peoria and January 24 in Lisle)
- Mike Mason and Dick will make a presentation on forestry issues and IFA at the Trees Forever meeting on March 10, 2006
- IFA annual meeting will be held July 22, 2006 in Springfield
- The Council has been invited to the Farmland Investment Fair. Dick will have the Council display and also one for the IFA there.

### **Newsletter – Jim Appleby**

Jim reported the Fall issue of the Council Newsletter is at the printers and should be out soon. This issue was late due to some problems in formatting. He also asked for information and dates of meetings for the Winter issue. He asked that information be sent as an attachment.

Reinee announced the dates for Tree City USA – March 28 at the Morton Arboretum and March 30 at the Northfield Center in Springfield. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year celebration of the Tree City USA Program. She also announced that Mike Brunk has the 30-year designation with the City of Urbana.

#### CREP Sign-Up – **Jim Ross**

Jim updated the Council on the CREP sign-up (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program). This is a joint undertaking between the State of Illinois and the Federal government to put conservation practices within the Illinois watershed. This was the first sign-up since 2002 due to the budget. During the month of November there were 1122 offers which was around 35,000 acres. They took the 1122 offers and had a drawing lottery style. The lottery was held on December 27. There is money available for 826 producers to submit a contract which is approximately 22,500 acres.

#### Presentation – **Jeff Davidson - USDA, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service Program & Plant Protection and Quarantine**

PPQ (Plant Protection Program) is an integral part of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). PPQ safeguards agricultural and natural resources from the risks associated with the entry, establishment, or spread of animal and plant pests, diseases, pathogens, and noxious weeds. PPQ's team of scientists, program specialists and support personnel execute this complex mission through various means.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### **Committee Reports**

**Extension** – Kathy McTighe for Bill Gradle

Kathy distributed copies of:

- A letter prepared by Bill to inform people where the Illinois Forestry Association is to date,
- By-laws that have been approved,
- Membership registration form.

The Interim officers are: Stephanie Brown, President; Ray Herman, Vice-President; Dave Gillespie; Secretary and Bob Sloan, Treasurer.

The first annual meeting will be held July 22, 2006 in Springfield. This will be an inaugural meeting where charter members will be installed and recognized.

**Industry** – Lee Rife

The committee has met twice. Dick and John Phelps are preparing two draft papers.

**Urban** – Mike Brunk

The committee is working on a publication "Select Trees of Illinois". This will be a full color publication with several pictures. On one side is a poster of trees. These are trees that the Urban committee is trying to promote more of in the urban area. This publication will be a first edition with another edition coming out later promoting different trees. Commonly asked questions will be answered in this publication; how to plant a tree, how to trim a tree, etc. A draft copy of the tree chart was passed around. Mike asked the group to contact him if there are changes or additions to be made.

**Teaching/Research** – No report.

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

Dave and Kurt have prepared a letter, from the Council, to send to the legislatures regarding the issue of getting projects in Illinois funded by Congress. The committee that scores the Forest Legacy applications for fiscal year 2007 met last week. Nine tracts were submitted for consideration.

## NEW BUSINESS

Kurt Bobsin – Several meetings ago the Council discussed several projects to fund with funds that are left in this budget cycle and next year. Kurt distributed copies of “Indiana Forests” and thought it would be something good for Illinois to do. Kurt discussed this with State and Private Forestry for a direction on where to go with this – he is waiting to hear from them. Will discuss further at the March meeting.

FDA Legislative Changes – in 2001 the Council talked about making some current revisions and amendments to the FDA law. There are currently twenty-four official positions on the Council. Other ideas to consider – other groups that need to be considered to be on the Council, other changes that need to be considered in the FDA law. Kurt volunteered to head-up a group to look at the FDA law and to look at the amendments and changes suggested earlier, look at what positions we currently have and who might be invited into the Council and also the leadership of the Council. A motion was made and seconded for Kurt to proceed. Motion carried. Dick announced there are currently five vacant positions on the Council. The Tree Farm group and the Walnut Council have requested a position on the Council. Jay Hayek, Mike Mason, Dick Little and Jeff Dawson volunteered to help Kurt.

## AGENCY REPORTS

### IWPA – Lee Rife

- IWPA meeting scheduled for Friday, January 20, 4-6 pm at IDNR.
- Lee is visiting with the sawmills.
- Working with the Illinois Lumber & Material Dealers Association for more benefits on Drug and Alcohol Testing. The Illinois Lumber & Dealers Association will represent IWPA on the General Assembly.

### Forest Service – Mike Majeski

Mike distributed copies of a booklet “Backyard Woods” which represents a new and innovative project being launched to encourage more landowners to make their property as productive and enjoyable as possible. This is a full-color guide, black and white tip sheets, website, and outreach to teach and inspire owners of small acreage to regard their land as the family haven, habitat for wildlife and even extra income. Topics covered in the guide include how to make a master plan, protect your property from wildfire, protect clean water, and plant properly.

The booklet costs \$4.95 plus \$4.95 shipping and handling. This publication can also be ordered in bulk – 100 copies for \$1.00 each.

### DNR – Mike Mason

- Mike reported that the Governor’s office signed off on the “unorganization” where they are splitting out Natural Heritage and Forestry. It will now be Division of Natural Heritage and Division of Forest Resources.
- The Stewardship position is still available.
- Process has been started to post the District Forester position (vice-Jay Hayek).

### DNR – Kurt Bobsin

- Personnel – Mike Mason has assumed (from Kurt Bobsin) the leadership of the Section (soon to be Division). Kurt will return to the Regional office and their operations.
- With Jay’s departure DNR is down nine positions out of 23 (District Foresters). There are approximately 41 counties that do not have coverage.
- Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) – most of the money has been spent. Kurt will bring to the March meeting products that have been produced from the educational projects that were funded by FLEP.
- Fire Program – getting ready to enter into contract with the University of Illinois Fire Institute to have them deliver training for rural fire fighters.

### IAA – Mike Brunk

Mike asked if anyone knew of log buyers that he could contact that would be interested in the trees the City of Urbana removes.

### Consulting Foresters – Joe Newcomb

Consulting foresters are busy trying to “catch-up” in writing plans. The increase in land taxes has increased an interest in forest plans. Timber sales are still steady.

### AISWD – Bob Sloan

- In December the A.I.S.W.C.D. executive committee met and restructured its standing committees except the Forestry Committee. It was felt that the Forestry Committee was more closely responding to the needs of the individual districts and should continue to pursue its goals and plans to reach under-served areas in the state.
- The committee is currently and actively promoting the formation of the Illinois Forestry Association.
- The committee is seeking and encouraging those districts in the northeastern part of the state to hold workshops with the promise of support from the committee.
- Another Summer Tree I.D. workshop is being planned at Funks Grove.
- A Forestry & Herbicide Workshop co-sponsored by the Walnut Council, Illinois Forestry Association, A.I.S.W.C.D. and the Illinois Association of RC&Ds. will be held at Rend Lake Market Place on February 22. Registration will be at 9:00, program at 9:30, lunch at 12 00. To register phone Trudy at 618/993-5396 ext.6 no later than February 17.
- The Forestry Committee is assisting Will & South Cook S.W.C.D. in planning a Tree I.D. workshop this summer.

### U of I/SIU – Jeff Dawson

- The U of I received word last week from the Society of American Foresters that the forest science program has been recredited for 10 years. This was a two-year process. Some interesting facts that came up when the report was being prepared:
- The first forestry course taught in North America was at the U of I in 1869 by Professor Burrill. He also established a forestry plantation in 1871 and the only surviving remnant is the Illini Grove on the corner of Lincoln and Pennsylvania. Campus Recreation manages the remnant. This pre-dates the Morrow Plots on campus. The program in Forestry has the distinction of being mandated by a Bill passed by the State Legislature in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- SIU is in the process of getting two of their new options (urban forestry and forest hydrology) accredited.
- Jay Hayek is the new extension forester, replacing Mike Bolin.
- The Department is talking about setting up a Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences advisory committee for Dixon Springs Ag Center to look at the facilities, what to do with it and where to go.
- The ice storm damage publication is being updated. The original publication came out after the 1990 ice storm in C-U. The publication is being done jointly by the University of Illinois and Stevens Point, WI.
- Poo Chow is considering retirement in the summer of 2006.
- The U of I and SIU are involved in forestry programs and activities in Afghanistan.

### Champaign County Forest Preserve District – Jeremy Shafer

Jeremy reported they are in the process of hiring a new Executive Director.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2006 at the NRCS Building, Champaign.