

Illinois Forestry Development Council Meeting – September 20, 2006

Dick Little called the meeting to order to report on the election results for the Council Chair and Vice-Chair. John Phelps was nominated for Chair and Jeff Dawson for Vice-Chair. Ballots were sent out to Council members. John was elected Chair and Jeff Vice-Chair.

Dick turned the meeting over to John. John welcomed everyone as the new Council Chair and said he would like to hear from Council members on issues they feel is important to the Council. Six Council members and 11 task group members were present.

A questionnaire was sent out to Council members in early summer asking for their view on how the Council should be configured, what is the long-term future of the Council, long-term goals the Council should strive to achieve, and other issues the Council should address.

Kurt Bobsin suggested the Long-Range Plan be looked at again and pick out some action issues and organize some subgroups to accomplish some of the long-term goals.

The May 17, 2006 Council meeting minutes were approved with one change under the DNR Report.

Financial Report – *Dick Little*

Dick distributed copies of the FY2006 final budget and the FY2007 current budget. The balance returned from the FY06 budget was \$27,239.94. There is \$33,000 remaining that has not been committed in the FY07 budget. Copies of the FDA four percent funds report were distributed. The report shows the first appropriations from 1983 to date. Discussion followed.

Liaison Report – *Dick Little*

- John, Jeff, Mike and Dick met with Susan Crocker from the USFS.
- Attended several meetings on the ICCI (Illinois Conservation & Climate Initiative).
- Attended the Northeast Forest Planners Committee meeting in Hannibal, Missouri.
- Represented the Council at the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests in Washington, D.C.
- Council exhibit was put up at the Illinois SWCD fairs. There were a lot of good questions; tax issue was big.
- Hosted the Annual RC&D meeting in Springfield.
- Attended the EAB conference in Chicago that Senator Durbin had.
- Invited by the CORE to take a barge ride up the Mississippi River to look at some of the improvements they have been doing in regards to the Council's participation in the mid-Mississippi River Partnership.

- Attended the Annual Conference of the Partnership in July.
- Attended several other meetings that the Council help sponsor.
- Participated in a field day in Detroit with 120 people participating.
- Sent a letter to the Governor encouraging him to make his appointments so the Council can proceed with the Woodland Tax Task Force. Currently the members are: Kurt Grantburg, Jim Watson, John Sullivan and John O. Jones, Brian Hammer, Sam Flood, three from the Governor's Office have not been appointed, John Phelps, U of I has not appointed anyone to date.
- The Council has been invited to participate on the Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team.
- The Council funded two internships at the National Great River Research & Education Center in Alton. A report was distributed.
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- Dick reminded everyone that Jim Appleby needs news articles for the Council Newsletter.

Old Business

FDA Changes – ***Kurt Bobsin***

A draft copy of the FDA Law and the proposed changes were distributed. Changes to be addressed:

- ✓ Nomenclature (agency names, Council name)
- ✓ FDA acreage minimum
- ✓ Certified plan renewal
- ✓ Penalties for withdrawal or decertification from FDA program
- ✓ Council size (additions/deletions or seats)
- ✓ Position terms; extension of Council authorization

Discussion followed. Kurt will make the changes from the comments discussed and bring back a final draft to the November Council meeting for approval.

Conference Committee Reports

Urban – Mike Brunk

Mike presented a draft version of “Under the Canopy A Guide to Selecting, Planting and Caring for Trees in Illinois”. Mike explained that the Illinois Forestry Development Council's logo would be added to the back of the publication. Mike created a limited number of draft prints for the editing team to review. Once the text has been checked over it will be ready for print. Mike stated that the Urban Task Group would like to request the Council to purchase \$4,500 worth of publications to hand out to the state, i.e. library, school. Mike has received positive feedback on the publication and thinks it could become a very popular educational piece across the state.

Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Forest Industry – Dick Little

The committee met in July and discussed the Forest Economic report; also talked about future publications.

Jeff reported the Winter Issue for Illinois Steward would be out December/January. Jay Hayek is writing an article on the forest taxation issue which will be in the Winter Issue. The Council discontinued sending copies of Illinois Steward to the legislatures. Jeff reported that 150 copies would be provided to key legislative committees and the Governor's Office through internal sources. Jeff suggested the Council might consider purchasing some copies of Illinois Steward with the forest taxation issue article in it.

New Business

Council members questionnaire response – tabled to the November meeting.

HJR 0095 – Woodland Tax Issue.

John Phelps was appointed the Woodland Tax Issue committee. Kurt stated that you have to demonstrate that you are managing your woods for the production of a crop.

Agency Reports

USDA – APHIS – Jeff Davidson

Jeff gave a brief summary on a few activities they worked on this past summer – Emerald Ash Borer was confirmed 40 miles west of Chicago on June 9, 2006. On July 19, 2006, the IDA quarantined a 51 square mile area of Kane County to prevent the spread. A second infestation was detected on July 12, 2006 in Wilmette. EAB was also detected on August 14, 2006 in the northwest portion of Evanston. It was also detected in Winnetka on August 30, 2006. IDA is the lead agency in survey activity. The USDA has earmarked \$7.6 million in emergency aid to Illinois and Wisconsin to fight EAB. Other areas PPQ are working in: Japanese Beetle at the Peoria Airport, Exotic Bark Beetle Trapping, Gypsy Moth Detection Trapping, Gypsy Moth Compliance Agreements, Pine Shoot Beetle Survey, and the Karnal Bunt Survey.

Extension Forestry – Jay Hayek

Jay reported the U of I Extension website was up and running – <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/forestry/home.html>. The Illinois Big Tree Register is also part of the website – http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/forestry/il_big_tree.html. The Illinois Big Tree Register will do a Pilot Citizen Big Tree Inspector Workshop on November 11, 2006 at Sangamon-Mendard Extension Office from 10 am to 1 pm. There will be an Agroforestry Workshop for Resource Professionals on February 6, 2007 at Starved Rock and February 8 at the U of I Extension Office in Mt. Vernon.

NRCS – Bill Gradle

Plans are to have everything ready by October 1 for the Incentive Forest Management Plans for EQIP. There will be a flat rate of \$400 for one tier with a minimum of 10 acres.

Forest Legacy Program – Dave Gillespie

Applications are ready to mailed in for the Forest Legacy Program. No projects were funded last year. Last year's applications will be amended.

Illinois Forestry Association – Dave Gillespie

The Executive Committee met two weeks ago. The main points the Committee will on are the three position papers on the four percent harvest fee sweep, timber tax issue and more foresters. These will be finalized at the next committee meeting in September.

IDNR – Dick Little

DNR filled two forestry positions – one in Region 5 in Murphysboro and one in Region 2 (District 7).

IWPA – Lee Rife

A Forestry Field Day will be held on October 13, 2006 at Cantonville. Lee elected to retire from the IWPA effective January 1, 2007.

AISWCD – Bob Sloan

Two Forestry workshops have been scheduled for 1) Bureau County, September 29 and 2) Woodford County, September 30. They are also looking into having a tree ID workshop in southern Illinois sometime. A resolution was passed for the IFA to share an office and clerical help with the AISWCD in Springfield on a part-time basis for \$5.00 per week for the clerical. Membership is currently at 235.

IDNR – Kurt Bobsin

Someone from the Forest Service will give an update on the Spatial Analysis Program at the November meeting. Kurt asked the members to think about what would be important to them in assessing the value of woods or what kind of resource values are important that relate to the woods that should be a part of this process.

Meeting adjourned.