

Illinois Forestry Development Council Meeting – November 15, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Chair John Phelps at the Nature Ballard Center. Ten Council members and 11 Task Group members were present.

The September 20, 2006 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Financial Report – *Dick Little*

Dick distributed a copy of the financial report. There is a balance of \$28,591 that has not been allocated.

Liaison Report – *Dick Little*

- The following handouts were distributed:
 - ✓ Copy of the Woodland Assessment Task Force Members
 - ✓ Recommendations for improving the marketing of woodland products (1951 report)
 - ✓ News release on the Illinois Conservation & Climate Initiative
 - ✓ Forest carbon trading and marketing in the United States
 - ✓ Illinois Wood-Using Industry (Sawmills from 1909 to 2005)
 - ✓ Illinois Department of Agriculture expands Emerald Ash Borer quarantine

- Attended several meetings on behalf of the Council
- ICCI Conference Call on Tuesday, November 14
- Dick and Lee Rife attended a Committee meeting on Wood Utilization in Chicago regarding wood coming in with Emerald Ash Borer. Discussion followed. Mike Brunk said he would contact his own organization to start discussion on coming up with some ordinance language on bringing firewood in Illinois. *Action items from discussion:* Dick suggested the Council work with IAA and Morton Arboretum to write up a news release to send out. It was also suggested to get a letter out to all legislative contacts.

Dick reported that no action had been taken on the new appointees from the Governor's office for the Council.

Chairman Phelps brought the Council up-to-date on the Woodland Assessment Task Force. Dick distributed a copy of those appointed to the Committee. John talked to a person in the Department of Revenue to see when a meeting might be scheduled. He was told that a brief meeting would be held November 22, 2006 in the Department of Revenue Office.

Old Business

Spatial Analysis Program – Kurt Bobsin

Information was sent to Council members prior to the meeting on the Spatial Analysis Program. With the Forest Stewardship program under IDNR Division of Forestry, the Council serves as the Advisory body (required to have a state forest coordinating council) and the Council serves in that capacity. The SAP

needs that input to provide guidance. Council members were asked to look at the list and literature to refresh their memory about the SAP. The project is attempting to look at some minimum data layers as far as resource values, potential threats, putting them together and manipulating and create a map. The Forest Service will make a presentation at the January meeting on the program.

FDA Changes – Kurt Bobsin

Dick distributed a copy of the changes made to FDA. The changes made were discussed. Kurt will send a corrected copy with all changes made to Dick by Friday. A motion was made to accept the changes as proposed to go forth as the proposed changes to the revised version of the FDA. Motion carried. Dick will submit the FDA with the proposed changes to the Department of Natural Resources who will then submit to the Governor's Office. It will then go through the House and Senate.

New Business

Council Members Questionnaire Response

A questionnaire was sent to Council members in the summer asking for their input on how the Council should be configured, long-term of the Council and long-term goals, role to play in the state in Forestry and other issues the Council should address. The responses were compiled. One issue that came up for discussion was to prepare a one to two-page bullet-type presentation to give to legislatures. Another issue discussed was to prepare a plan of work document for internal use by the Council. Kurt suggested taking the Strategic Plan or the Critical Issues papers and create some type of action work plan to hand to people. Mike Brunk stated it might be useful to have a Marketing Committee for the Council. Mike suggested preparing a media release on the carbon release issue. Mike Brunk will ask the Marketing person he works with to see about doing a press release for the Council. John Phelps and Jeff Dawson will each check with their University for someone who might help in preparing press releases for the Council.

Winter issue of Illinois Steward with Woodland Tax Issue – Jeff Dawson

The Forest Land Taxation issue has been discussed by the Council at previous meetings. The Council wanted to be involved and get some public exposure on the issue. Jeff asked Jay Hayek and Kurt Bobsin to prepare an article on the Forest Land Taxation issue in Illinois. One proposal was to have the article published in "*Illinois Steward*" which has a circulation of 3,000. The winter issue of the magazine will be devoted to Illinois forests. Jeff asked the Council for approval to spend \$2,000 to sponsor the winter issue of Illinois Steward. The money will be used to pay the marginal cost of printing a 32-page magazine. The Council will receive 500 copies of the magazine and will also be recognized with a logo as a sponsor of this edition. A motion was made to support the \$2,000 request to sponsor the winter issue of Illinois Steward. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Radio Spots – Rich Nichols

A list of radio spots was distributed. SWCD discussed the idea of doing some radio spots to make them more visible. A total of 2400 messages can be put on

the 40 stations listed on the sheet distributed for a total cost of \$17,160. Bill Gradle agreed to provide one-third and EPA agreed to pay one-third. Rich asked the Council if they would be interested in paying for some radio spots. A motion was made to pay \$5,720 for the radio spots. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Agency Reports

NRCS – Bill Gradle & Kathy McTighe

Bill reported a total of 35 people have signed up for EQIP. Kathy reported the prescribed forestry conservation practice was reviewed and it will be finalized at the end of the month. Kathy had posters available from the National Ash Tree seed collection. The website is – www.ashseed.org

IAA – Mike Brunk

Mike has received 75-80 percent feedback on the draft version of “*Under the Canopy A Guide to Selecting, Planting and Caring for Trees in Illinois*”. The goal is to print the publication by the first of the year.

AISWCD – Rich Nichols

Rich reported they are in the process of negotiating the purchase of office space about one-half mile north of the airport. The office will move in about two months.

AISWCD – Bob Sloan

Elliott Legacy – IDOA – reported that a Forestry Field Day would be held in Calhoun County sponsored by Two Rivers RC&D plus other partners. Bob also mentioned that the Department of Ag has a couple of farms in Effingham and Vandalia with timber and would be available for a field day. Dave Bishop reported that there are new Tree ID Books available and will use them as soon as present supply is exhausted. Jefferson County SWCD and Shawnee RC&D will participate in the Fed IDOT workshops. A motion was approved to have a participant charge from \$10 to \$15. The committee approved a request to co-sponsor training sessions on Agroforestry. The committee approved an agreement with the AISWCD to share office space and equipment.

Forest Legacy – Dave Gillespie

The Committee is working on the top three projects listed for Illinois and getting the proposals ready to submit to Washington by the end of November. For some reason or other, Illinois has not received funding for a Forest Legacy project the last two or three years.

IFA - Dave Gillespie

To date, there are 313 members in IFA. The next board meeting will be November 29 at the Ballard Nature Center. The IFA Newsletter will be sent out in November. There will be an IFA workshop on Thursday, November 16 in Siegel from 9:30 am to 3 pm. The IFA website should be up in three weeks.

Lee Rife reported this would be the last time he would be meeting with the Council. He reported he enjoyed working with the group and wished the Council the best.

Forest Service – John DePuy

The new Forest Plan revision is out. There have been about five appeals – two from environmental groups. They are working on the responses to the appeals and then will submit to the Washington office. The Shawnee National Forest is continuing with the prescribed fire program. They are hoping to have, by the end of 2007, about 4,000 acres of prescribed fire finished, about twice that amount by 2008. This is contingent on getting the budget that allows them to do it. Shawnee National Forest hasn't had a timber sale since 1997. They are currently working on a 200-acre timber sale. They are trying to bring back the oak-hickory component in the forest and edge out the short leaf pine which is not needed. Illinois will host the Central States Soils Workshop in October. There will be an orientation session one evening with a day and a half of tours afterwards.

U of I Extension – Jay Hayek

The U of I hosted a Citizen Big Tree Workshop with 47 people registered. Jay has had five more requests to hold workshops throughout the state. Jay plans to submit a proposal at the January Council meeting to purchase some clinometers for use at the workshops. Dick said this equipment, if purchased, would be DNR equipment. Jay will possibly request funds for another item instead of equipment. Jay is working with Wade Lewis, Associate Wildlife Biologist at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, on a forestry and wildlife brochure. He will possibly ask the Council for help with the printing costs.

FDA Forest Stewardship Program – Wade Conn

Wade has been working with Kurt on the Forest Stewardship Program revisions on 1536 and 1537. Mike Mason went to DNR and requested that funds be utilized out of FDA again for cost-share. He was able to use \$100,000 to cover the four percent allocations and any old on-the-books cost-share to clean up. There is another allocation of \$250,000 which will be allocated to the regions. Other issues to work on will be plan recertification and implementation of plans.

U of I – Jeff Dawson

Jeff reported that Poo Chow, John Edgington, Gary Rolfe and Jeremy Shafer were honored on October 8 at Allerton Park. The Department of NRES is advertising for a new position in spatial analysis. A second edition of “*Trees and Ice Storms*”, The Development of Ice Storm-Resistant Urban Tree Populations, is being published in collaboration with the U of I Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service at Stevens Point. This publication is available from the U.S. Forest Service in St. Paul.

Consulting Foresters – Joe Newcomb

Regarding the timber tax issue, Joe reported that a client of his neighbor's sold 50 acres of timber for \$3100/acre in northwestern Washington County (south of Centralia).

Meeting Adjourned.