

## **Illinois Forestry Development Council Meeting – January 17, 2007**

Chair John Phelps called the meeting to order. Nine Council members and 15 Task Group members were present.

The November 15, 2006 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

### Financial Report- Dick Little

A copy of the 2007 Financial Report was distributed. There is a balance of \$21,671 remaining.

### Liaison Report – Dick Little

- Mike Mason, Wade Conn, Dave Gillespie and Dick represented IFA at the Delta Institute in Chicago to discuss getting existing forestland into the ICCI program.
- Senator Sullivan was asked to be a Council member, but declined due to a heavy schedule. He is still very much interested.
- The Council still needs to fill one Senator representative position from the Democratic side.
- Dave Gillespie and Dick met with Jerry Dawson from ISAF to participate in the planning for the Natural Resource Conference in 2008 along with the Illinois Wildlife Society, SWCD, the American Fisheries Society, IFA and the Council.
- The Chicago Farmers asked Dick to be the voting member for the Council for the Natural Resource Committee of C-FAR.
- Dave Gillespie, Dan Schmoker, Bob Sloan, and Dick attended the Illinois Agricultural Legislative Roundtable meeting in Bloomington to talk about some of the legislative issues at the Capitol and the state side regarding the Ag programs.
- The Department of Natural Resources had one District Forester retire this year (Ralph Eads in District 1).
- The Chicago Farmers Investment Fair is February 3, 2007.
- Southern Illinois Science Teachers Conference will be held in March.
- Dick distributed the following handouts:
  - ✓ Website for 2005 Annual Survey – <http://www.ncrs2.fs.fed.us/4801/FIADB/index.htm>
  - ✓ FLEP Forest Management Plan – the initiative that NRCS has come out with.
  - ✓ Middle Mississippi River Partnership Newsletter. The Council is a member of this group.
  - ✓ Illinois Agricultural Legislative Roundtable listing the federal and state issues.
  - ✓ Announcement for a public meeting addressing the use of fire in the central hardwoods ecosystem.
  - ✓ A page from the *"FarmWeek"* put out by the Farm Bureau dated December 11, 2006. One issue listed – *"legislation to eliminate a 4 percent tax on timber sales. The money no longer is spent on forestry cost-share programs and the Forest Development Council, but has been put into the state's general revenue fund for other government expenses."*
  - ✓ Announcement from the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center announcing their Environmental Summer Internship program.

Representative Winters reviewed the proposed changes to the FDA Law. Two errors were noted and corrected. The FDA Law has been submitted to the Department of Natural Resources.

Spatial Analysis Program – Tom Luther, GIS Specialist, Northeast Area, State & Private Forestry, Durham, NH & Barb Tormoehlen, FSP Coordinator, USDA Forest Service, Bedford, IN

Tom gave a presentation on the Forest Stewardship Program's Spatial Analysis Program (SAP). This is a GIS-based management tool designed to promote strategic Program delivery over traditional first-come, first-served basis in identifying important forest lands, map exiting

Stewardship Plans, identify areas of opportunity to focus future Forest Stewardship Program efforts. Tom asked the Council for their input after his presentation on what areas in the state have potential to be in the Forest Stewardship program or the FDA.

Update on New Federal Emerald Ash Borer Regulation for Illinois – Jeff Davidson, USDA, Plant Protection & Quarantine, Eastern Region

A copy of the slide presentation was distributed. By the end of summer 2006 there were four initial findings of EAB – St. Charles, Kane County, the northern half of Cook County and Winnetka/Wilmette. Kane County and a northern section of Cook County have been quarantined by the Illinois Department of Ag and the USDA has quarantined the entire state. Host material moving from state to state is now regulated (all hardwood firewood included). The purpose of this is to aid in tracking interstate movement of regulated commodities.

Old Business

**Information to legislatures – Dick Little**

Dick asked the Council their thoughts on sending a cover letter with the Critical Issue papers to the legislatures next month to keep the legislatures informed of what is going on. There are a few minor corrections to be made before sending out. Discussion followed. Dick will proceed with the mailing to the legislatures.

**Woodland Assessment Tax Force – John Phelps**

The committee met in the Department of Revenue office on December 17 and those unable to attend participated in a conference call. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 19. Ray Herman asked if the Council has developed a recommendation to the Governor. Jeff Dawson suggested having an informational meeting to discuss this issue and then draft a position statement. A meeting has been arranged for January 31, 2007 at 1 pm in the NRCS Area Office (Kurt Bobsin, Mike Brunk, Jeff Dawson, Jay Hayek, Dick Little, Mike Mason, Joe Newcomb, John Phelps, and Terry Weldin-Frisch).

**Marketing Contacts – Mike Brunk**

A discussion was held at the November meeting on marketing issues for the Council. Mike contacted a marketing company he works with who does marketing for the Illinois Crop Improvement Association. Mike distributed a short proposal of what they could do for the Council. Dick and Mike will talk with Dennis Thompson of ICIA regarding the marketing company. Discussion followed.

John talked with the media faculty at SIU and they were willing to help with press releases the Council would want to send out.

New Business

Kurt distributed a copy of “Wooded Acreage Assessments” from the Illinois Department of Revenue. This is a fact sheet that explains how wooded acreage is assessed.

**Partnership Tree – Ray Herman, IFA**

Ray distributed a drawing of a tree by a District Forester for the IFA (a tree has roots, a trunk and branches). The current concept shows the trunk members being the IFA, the AISWCD, and the Council. The Illinois Farm Bureau is a branch member with 417,000 members. The root members are made up of institutions, organizations, and agencies. Ray asked the Council, on behalf of IFA, for the Council to consider joining as a trunk member. The trunk members would be the facilitating core of gathering the various groups, agencies and institutions around the table to talk out issues.

Agency Reports

IAA – Mike Brunk

Mike has received the editing comments back on “*Under the Canopy, A Guide to Selecting, Planting and Caring for Trees in Illinois*”. The publication will be out in the Spring. Mike will check into making this publication available on-line.

Forest Service – John DePuy

John distributed a copy of *“Shawnee – the Year in Review 2006”*. The Forest Service is trying to learn how the Forest Plan revision that was signed will affect how business will be done. The Forest Service is having their one-year anniversary of getting the trails designation EIS out and they have 2,000 acres in the prescribed burn program this year. There is public meeting on January 24 at Hidden Springs on the use of fire in central hardwood forests. There will be a Central States Soils Workshop in Carbondale, IL on October 9-10, 2007.

FDA – Wade Conn

Wade reported there are 10,174 cooperators in FDA with a total acreage of 512,148 acres (50 acre average). One-third of the 10,000 have been enrolled for the last five years. The next step will be to send out progress letters. FDA allocations - \$250 thousand was allowed to go to the district to start funding some of the implementation practices.

Consulting Foresters – Joe Newcomb

Joe reported they have a lot of requests for forest plans; timber sales are going along as usual. The wet fall and wet winter has slowed the logs from coming off the sides. That will have an impact later on. There has been an increase in pin oak stumpage.

NRCS – Kathy McTighe

Kathy gave an update on EQIP – 171 applicants for the prescribed forestry conservation practice. Seventy-one have been awarded. The next cut-off date is February 2. There are 52 more applicants in the database.

Kathy distributed information on the Ash Seed Collection.

U of I Extension – Jay Hayek

Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference will be held March 10, 2007 at Sinsinawa, WI. Twenty-five hundred brochures were mailed out. There is a new second edition of *“Trees and Ice Storms”*. Jeff Dawson is the second author on this publication.

Forest Legacy – Dave Gillespie

Dave reported that last week the scoring committee graded all the forest legacy tracts in the nation for consideration.

IFA – Dave Gillespie

IFA has a membership of about 400 members. IFA has had some very successful workshops the last couple of months in Region 3 and 4. The second edition of the Newsletter was just sent out a week ago. The three position papers were also included. A new brochure has also been completed and ready to go to the printers. IFA will have a booth at the Chicago Farmers meeting.

Illinois Department of Ag – Elliot Lagacy

The Department expanded the quarantine last Friday on EAB.

AISWCD – Bob Sloan

Forestry Herbicide Workshop – Morrison, IL on February 16 at the World Car Wash Training Center. Contact Dave Harrison at 815/772-4426.

Tree I.D. Workshop on March 15 at Dixon Springs Ag Center. Contact Dave Bishop at 309/452-0830, Ext. 3.

A forestry field day is being planned to be held at a yet to be determined location in the north central portion of the state. The Forestry Committee, NIFA, IFA, Black Hills RC&D Walnut Council, Tree Farm, is involved in planning a staging this event.

Carbon sequestering is also being encouraged to forestland owners.

IWPA – Dan Schmoker

IWPA sponsored two logger safety courses for chain saw work. Each course will be five days in length taught by a professional logger from Missouri. One will be near Mt. Vernon on March 5 and 6. The northern session will be near Peoria on March 7 & 8. The cost will be \$200.

The March 21, 2007 meeting has been rescheduled to March 28, 2007 at the Extension Building in Springfield, IL.

AISWCD – Rich Nichols

**Office Move**

The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts moved to our new office location December 29, 2006. We purchased an office building at 4285 North Walnut Street Road, about a mile north of the airport on Rt. 29. A sign identifies the building as the Woodland Therapy Center. We are currently working on a new sign and will include the Illinois Forestry Association on that sign.

Sarah Dillman, our part-time Administrative Assistant who is also working for the Illinois Forestry Association, began full time duties January 15<sup>th</sup>. Her new hours will make her more readily available to the IFA as well as allow the AISWCD to expand some of its programs and services.

**ICCI**

A total of 127 contracts containing 44,703 acres of no-till and 4,304 acres of grass were submitted for the first pool. Verification has been completed on 15 contracts containing 5,104 acres of no-till and 147 acres of grass. During this first round, we discovered several ways that we can improve the process and have begun implementing those ideas. It is anticipated that the second verification round will occur in mid March and April.

Delta Institute, the contract aggregator, has informed us that a large forestry contract has been submitted and will be verified in the next pool. We will be working with Dick Little and Delta to develop verification forms for forestry offsets.

Verification is also being conducted on two of six soil offset contracts in Kentucky and will be done on at half of 30 contracts that have been submitted in Indiana.

Illinois' verification efforts have generated interest in other states. The North Dakota Association of Conservation Districts has also become a verifier for that state and the Michigan Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is currently working with Delta Institute and CCX to become a verifier for their state.

**Summer Conference**

The 2007 Summer Conference will be back in Springfield at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and the Convention Center July 29 – 31. The planning committee is currently working on the agenda. Monday evening will include a reception at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

Meeting adjourned.