

## **Illinois Forestry Development Council Meeting – May 16, 2007**

Dick Little and later Vice-Chair Jeff Dawson called the meeting to order. Six Council members and 16 Task group members and guests were present.

The March 28, 2007 meeting minutes were approved with one correction.

### Financial Report – *Dick Little*

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

### Liaison Report – *Dick Little*

The following handouts were distributed:

- ✓ Two handouts from a news reporter from Capitol Fax
- ✓ Press release from Governor's office
- ✓ ICCI applicant enrollment information by county & table showing how much forestland is covered on it
- ✓ Announcement of a Forestry Field Day on October 12, 2007 near Kampsville, IL
- ✓ Announcement of a special educational session on "Preparing for the Emerald Ash Borer" at the Renaissance Hotel on May 23 & 24, 2007
- ✓ Letter from Robert Simpson, Forestry Programs, American Tree Farm System
- ✓ HB 1638 – Illinois Prescribed Burning Act
- ✓ Final version of the Draft Proposal for the radio spot on carbon credits

Dick attended the program "A Budget on the Brink" held on April 16, 2007 at the Springfield Hilton Hotel.

Dick and Dave Gillespie attended the Ag Industrial Day at Southern Illinois University.

The Fish & Wildlife Action Plan Team (which the Council is a member) met. A new website has been developed and will be put in the next issue of the Newsletter.

### Presentation by MarketShare – *Bonnie Woolard & Cyndi Pacey*

MarketShare helps organizations, like the Council; to more effectively communicate with the media and other interested constituents.

Bonnie and Cyndi started with a brainstorming discussion using a SWOT analysis -

S – strengths

W - weaknesses

O – opportunities

T - threats

As a follow-up to the discussion, Bonnie and Cyndi will send a web-survey out to the Council and Task Group members. After the survey is completed a summary report will be put together based on the discussion and the survey results.

### Old Business

#### **Update on Woodland Assessment Tax Force – Mike Mason**

The Woodland Assessment Tax Force will be listed as Senate Bill 17 and will be put on the General Assembly web page. The Task Force has not met for a while, however, meetings have been held with Senator Sullivan and others to modify some draft legislation that was put together by the Illinois Department of Revenue. The draft legislation will provide some preferential tax assessment to two different categories – active management of properties and passive stewardship of properties. The active management would require a management plan (non-production forest, wetlands and prairie properties). Those would get a preferential assessment. The passive management does not require a management plan. Details are to be worked out on the passive management of properties.

#### **Update on Radio Spots – Rich Nichols**

AISWCD met and talked of how they could become more visible. An idea came up to do radio spots. There are three different radio spots –EPA, Illinois Forestry Development and NRCS. The radio spots air 60 times over a two-week period on 40 radio stations between the hours of 6 am and 6 pm. A motion was made for the Council to air immediately and again in the Fall. Motion carried.

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

The evaluation process for projects in Forest Legacy for fiscal year 2008 was held. Illinois submitted three projects. Fourteen projects were funded, but not the one for Illinois. Illinois is on the second list at number 27 to be considered.

### Agency Reports

#### **IDNR – Mike Mason**

Ralph Eads retired the end of December. The paperwork has been processed to fill the position. Don Hausman is retiring from the Union State Tree Nursery the end of May. The paperwork has been processed to fill the position.

#### **Illinois Forestry Association- Dave Gillespie**

The IFA recently hired a lobbyist to direct the efforts of IFA in contacting Illinois Legislators regarding our position on such issues as the need to fill additional forestry positions at IDNR and the use of the four percent harvest fee funds.

IFA Regional Directors are working and planning on regional forestry workshops and informational meetings. One such workshop is scheduled in Region 2 near Clayton on May 23.

The IFA was represented at the Tri-State Forest Stewardship conference in Wisconsin.

The IFA is working with other forestry and conservation groups on the Conservation tent for the Farm Progress Show scheduled for August 28-30, 2007 in Decatur.

Region 4 Directors are working on the IFA's annual meeting scheduled at Rend Lake on October 18 and 19.

**Illinois Tree Farm Committee – Kurt Bobsin**

The Illinois Tree Farm Committee recognizes Illinois' outstanding tree farmer each year at the Illinois State Fair. This year they will also recognize tree farmers who have been a tree farmer for 50 years. Also, this year those that have been tree farmers for twenty-five years will be recognized at special events around the state.

**NRCS – Kathy McTighe**

An update on the Forest Management Plan – to date 957 applications has been pre-approved. Ninety-two percent have been changed into contracts. There are approximately 50 plans completed, certified by an IDNR district forester and submitted for payment through NRCS.

**U of I Extension – Jay Hayek**

- Assisted with Game of Logging, Silviculture and Forestry BMP session, with Dan Schmoker.
- Wade Louis (IDNR Associate Wildlife Biologist) and I are still in the process of developing a forestry & wildlife brochure entitled, *A Landowner's Guide to Wildlife & Forest Management: An Integrated Approach*. Currently seeking project estimates for design layout and printing. Received a project estimate for \$10,500 for 5000 copies of a color, semi-gloss, 8-page document. Like to make a formal request to the Illinois Forestry Development Council for financial assistance with this publication (\$4800).
- Reminder, 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Farmer Conference in Madison, WI (Oct 11-14, 2007)
- May 21 Citizen Big Tree Inspector Workshop in Kampsville – 16 participants.
  - Illinois Big Tree Program has now graduated 63 certified Big Tree inspectors. Next Big Tree workshop is June 16, 2007 at Sugar Grove Nature Center in McLean County.
  - Like to make a formal request to the Illinois Forestry Development Council for financial assistance to help defray the purchase cost of aluminum/plastic gauge signage to identify Illinois Big Tree champions (\$2500).

**AISWCD – Bob Sloan**

- ✓ The Forestry Committee co-sponsored with NRCS to hold a workshop on managing Land with Agro-Forestry.
- ✓ A workshop on Forestry Herbicide uses was co-sponsored with Blackhawk Hills RC&D and Northwest Illinois Forestry Association.
- ✓ Attended a three-day, six state Forestry Workshop at Green Lake, Wisconsin in April. There were ideas presented by several speakers as well as sharing experiences and much networking.
- ✓ Working with the Tree Farm Committee to hold a mutual meeting where the 25-year tree farmers will be honored.
- ✓ Attended the Illinois Chapter Walnut Council in Washington, IA on April 27 & 28.
- ✓ Committee is co-sponsoring a workshop to be held at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve in Rock Island County in August.
- ✓ Committee is co-sponsoring a two-day Forestry workshop in JoDaviess County in September.
- ✓ Committee is active in promoting membership in the Illinois Forestry Association as well as keeps abreast of the Forest Land Tax Issue.

**AISWCD – Rich Nichols**

AISWCD staff continues to work with Soil and Water Conservation Districts on a variety of different projects.

C-2000 Task Force – a task force has been created to review the CPP state cost-share program. The task force will be considering such things as adding new practices, targeting problem areas, shifting emphasis from erosion control to water quality and water quantity, using state dollars to match federal as well as dollars from other sources to increase practice application in critical areas and similar measures. This effort is occurring because of new technology and a better understanding of how some practices work. Upon completing its work the task force will forward its recommendations to the Department of Agriculture for consideration.

ICCI – Pool II contracts have been submitted to CCX and a representative number have been selected for verification. Of the 33 contracts selected, 23 are for grassland acreage and nine are for no-till. One of the selected contracts had both practices. There were a number of forestry contracts submitted in Pool II but non-exceeded 500 acres, the threshold for third party verification.

One forestry contract from Pool I was verified and submitted for sale of credits.

Land and Water Resources Conference – the AISWCD annual meeting and the Bureau of Land and Water Resources Land and Water Resources Conference is scheduled for July 29-31, 2007 at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Prairie Capitol Convention Center in Springfield. Registration and a tentative agenda are available on the Association's website at <http://www.AISWCD.org>.

**Stewardship Week – Diane Murphy**

Three thousand students attended Stewardship Week at the Forest Resource Center/Dixon Springs Ag Center. There were 150 teachers and 110 resource professionals who also attended. The Central States Forest Soils workshop will be held October 9-11 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Carbondale. The group will visit the Dixon Springs Ag Center for a discussion on Best Management Practices on October 10.

**IWPA – Dan Schmoker**

Two sessions (5 days) of the Game of Logging training are scheduled in Fulton County and Southern Illinois near Mt. Vernon.

National Walnut Council meeting will be July 29 – August 1 in Dubuque, IA

**U of I – Jeff Dawson**

Gary Rolfe, Poo Chow and John Edgington were honored last Fall at a retirement party. They are still all active in various forestry activities. Wes Jarrell has resigned as department head in NRES.

*Dick Little*

The 2005 FIA (Forest Inventory Analysis) report is out. The combined five-year report is in the process of being developed.

The Council display will be at the Illinois State Fair and Farm Progress Show.

Meetings next year –

September 26, 2007 – Mason Tree Nursery, Topeka, IL

November 14, 2007 – NRCS, Champaign, IL

January 16, 2008 – NRCS, Champaign, IL

March 19, 2008 – Extension Building, Springfield, IL

May 21, 2008 – TBA

Meeting adjourned.