

## **Illinois Forestry Development Council Meeting – September 26, 2007**

Chair John Phelps called the meeting to order. Eight Council members, 14 Task Group members and guests were present.

The May 16, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

### Financial Report – Dick Little

A copy of the Financial Report for FY07 and FY08 were distributed. A balance of \$18,348.35 in the FY07 budget was returned to the FDA funds. A summary of the IFDA four percent funds was also distributed.

### Liaison Report – Dick Little

- Hosted the RC&D Association annual meeting in Springfield.
- John and Dick attended the Mississippi River Regional Planning meeting in Collinsville.
- Attended the State Technical meeting with NRCS.
- Attended the Illinois Carbon Credit Initiative (ICCI) Conference at Giant City State Park.
- Sponsoring the Two Rivers Forestry Field Day on October 12 in Calhoun County.
- Attended a meeting on Illinois government hosted by UIS in Springfield.
- Attended the Ag Roundtable meeting.
- Two Council displays were put up at the Illinois State Fair.
- Attended the Sustainable Forest Roundtable meeting in Madison, WI.
- Attended the Illinois Wildlife Action Team meeting on September 25.
- Attended the Farm Progress Show in Decatur, IL.

It was recently announced that the Year of the Forest would be in 2011. The International Year of Forests and the World Forestry Congress will be in 2009.

SB 0017 – amends the Property Tax Code. The House and Senate passed the Bill as amended – is now on the Governor's desk for signature. If the Bill is not signed it will become law

### Presentation – Eric Watson, Illinois Finance Authority

Eric gave an overview of the Illinois Finance Authority. The IFA was created by State statute in January 2004 to assist school districts and units of local government with financing for capital improvement projects, refinancing, existing debt and raising short-term working cash. IFA is the State's designated bonding authority and serves as an issuer or conduit for bond issues. IFA also provides loans, leases and other financing alternatives for agriculture, and farming industries, health care institutions, higher education, not-for-profit entities, and the business community.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Results from survey conducted by MarketShare

Dick and Mike Brunk reported that MarketShare held a brainstorming session at the May 16 Council meeting to see how the Council could better implement communication initiatives with the media and other interested constituents. Following the meeting MarketShare developed a web-survey that was sent to all Council and Task Group members. The results of the survey were mailed out to the members. Discussion followed.

Jeff Dawson stated the Council should promote itself as some sort of entity, and promote their strengths and what they do rather than put their name in front of the public for no particular reason. The Council needs to continue to promote critical documents, such as more detailed inventories and silviculture manuals and communicate their availability thru a good website. They could sponsor programs directly or indirectly like the Central Hardwoods Forest Conference that are good technical conferences. When they get into promotion they need to be very clear that they are promoting what they do and accomplishment of their mission and not themselves just to exist.

It was agreed to invite MarketShare to the November meeting and ask them to bring a short proposal stating what the next step would be in helping the Council with the communication initiative.

### Proposal for support of Landowner's Guide – Jay Hayek

Wade Louis (IDNR Associate Wildlife Biologist) and Jay are developing a forestry and wildlife brochure entitled *A Landowners Guide to Wildlife and Forest Management: An Integrated Approach*. This will be an eight-page color brochure. Jay plans to have a finished product by late December or January. He will then ask the Council for help to offset some of the printing costs.

### Suggested topics for Council Newsletter

There will be two newsletters published this year – late December 2007 and June 2008. Dick asked for volunteers to write articles for the newsletter. Jay suggested giving Council/Task Group members the date when an article is due and they are responsible for getting it turned into Jim. Dates that articles need to be turned in are November 30, 2007 and May 15, 2008.

The following agreed to write an article:

Dick Little – Senate Bill 0017

Mike Brunk – 100-year canopy

Wade Conn – BMP manual

John Groninger – A demonstration forest for southern Illinois

Nick Giannettino – Summary of Forest Service annual report

Proposal to revise ITFA publication “Recommended Silviculture and Management Practices for Illinois Hardwood Forest Types”

The following have been asked to work on the revision of the ITFA publication – Dave Allen, Wade Conn, Jeff Dawson, John Groninger, Jay Hayek, Steve Hupe, Dick Little, Kathy McTighe, Gary Stratton, and Eric Holzmueller will serve as Chair of the Committee.

The publication was last revised in 1972. It will be updated with a more friendly language for landowners to understand.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Charge of Council

Chairman Phelps distributed a copy of the charge of the Council from FDA. No further discussion.

Central States Forest Research Cooperative. This is a proposed forest research cooperative funded through the U.S. Forest Service and the model is a program in the northeastern states. The Schools of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service research groups have met and have developed a federally funded research cooperative program similar to this in which each state gets allocated about 1.25 million dollars for competitive research grants and the grants are evaluated by the Forest Service. The funding for each state would come from the state’s delegation. A motion was made and seconded to provide a letter of support for this effort.

Fire Ecosystem Workshop (*Learning from Experience*)

John Groninger reported there would be a fire ecosystem workshop at Southern Illinois University on May 22, 2008. This will be a three-day conference with a one-day field trip. John is asking the Council to help sponsor this conference for \$500.

A demonstration forest for southern Illinois

John Groninger presented a proposal to the Council “*Proposed demonstration/experimental forest for southern Illinois*” that would be conducted on the campus of Southern Illinois University farms. John is requesting \$6000 funding support for this project. Discussion followed.

Request for support for IFA Annual Meeting

Dave Gillespie presented a request for funding in the amount of \$800 to cover the cost of the meeting room at Rend Lake Conference Center for the October 19-20, 2007 IFA annual meeting.

Request for support from Jim Appleby

Jim Appleby submitted a proposal for \$5,500 support for travel to meetings related to insect and diseases of Illinois trees, computer upgrades and software related to the production of the IFDC newsletter and expenses to produce publications and posters on insects and diseases of Illinois forest trees.

The four proposals were voted on individually with motions being made and seconded. Motions carried unanimously. The four proposals totaled \$12,800.

Jay Hayek requested \$300 for co-sponsorship of a two-day workshop on November 29-30, 2007. The Emerald Ash Borer Wood Utilization Committee plans to host an *Urban Timber Harvesting and Hardwood Lumber Utilization and Recovery* – a game of logging for arborists. This will be held at the Salt Creek Nursery – a part of the Cook County Forest Preserve District. A motion was made and seconded to co-sponsor the workshop. Motion carried.

Agency Reports

Meeting was adjourned.