

## **Illinois Forestry Development Council – November 14, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by Chair John Phelps. Nine Council members and 12 task group members were present.

The September 26, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

### Financial Report – Dick Little

Dick distributed a copy of the FY2008 financial report. A balance of \$21,038 has not been allocated to date.

### Liaison Report – Dick Little

Handouts distributed –

- The Farmland Investment Fair – Saturday, February 2, 2008
- Copy of Forest Products Laboratory Newslines in Milwaukee
- Illinois Acreage Summary
- Handout on Managed Forest Carbon Project (page 21)
- Letter from James E. Hubbard, Deputy Chief, State & Private Forestry to Kirk Rowdabaugh, President of the National Association of State Foresters
- Dick reported there is now a Wabash River Coordinating Council.
- The Farm Bill is moving, but stopped currently. They are hoping to have one by Spring.
- State ran out of funds for CREP.
- Mississippi River Planning Committee has a website – [www.midmiss.org](http://www.midmiss.org)
- A draft of the five-year report from the feds will be mailed out Friday to Jeff, John and Mike who are on the committee.
- Helped sponsor the Calhoun County Forestry Field Day with 75 adults and 75 students attending.
- Attended the State Technical Committee Meeting.
- Attended the Chicago Farmers meeting in Chicago.

### EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) for 2007– Bill Gradle

Last fiscal year was the first year NRCS offered a special incentive to landowners for getting a forest management plan for their forestland. 1005 contracts for forest management were signed. To date, 425 forest management plans have been completed (about 42%).

### EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) for 2008 – Bill Gradle

Again NRCS is offering an incentive to landowners to get a forest management plan written for their forestland. The incentive is \$400 per landowner.

This year NRCS is also focusing on Forest Management Implementation. Landowners wanting to implement their forest management plans will be competing with the same in a separate set of ranking criteria.

The first batching period was October 19, 2007.

Forest Management Plan incentive: 256 applicants were per-approved for funding.

(In 2007, about 1000 contracts for forest management plan were signed).

Forest Management Implementation: So far, 25 applicants were pre-approved for funding.

The next scheduled batching period is November 30, 2007. Encourage anyone interested to contact their local NRCS office and apply.

### Council Newsletter

It was discussed at the September meeting that articles were needed for the Fall/Winter issue of the Newsletter. A few people committed to writing articles. A sign-up sheet with a list of articles committed was passed around and for anyone else that wanted to write an article. This list will be forwarded to Jim Appleby. Articles are also needed for the May 2008 Newsletter.

### New Business

- Stewardship Conservation Act – *Dick Little*

DNR, with implementation of signing the law, is supposed to write administrative rules regarding how to administer the program. It is not clear who will handle it. It is still in the discussion stage.

- Statewide Forest Resource Assessment & Plan – *Wade Conn*

The Forest Service is going to do an all-states land assessment. The Forest Service is not willing to commit any money to the states to help with the plan. There will be \$300,000 available to the northeastern area states for development of this plan. The plan is to be developed with a completion in 2010.

- Sun Foundation – *Bob Sloan*

The Sun Foundation is a non-profit organization that serves the underserved in rural areas. Bob had an idea of doing 30-second TV spots on stations throughout the state. An idea would be to have the children do this during the Art and Science in the Woods festival held in June. If the Council would be willing to do this, Bob suggested the Council write the scripts for the children. A cost hasn't been determined. Chairman Phelps asked Bob to pursue this and bring further information back to the next meeting.

### Old Business

- MarketShare Proposal – *Bonnie Woolard & Cyndi Paclely*

Bonnie and Cyndi gave a presentation on the next step of the communication plan they proposed for the Council. They came up with the following steps: 1) decide who needs to be involved in the planning process. One idea was to develop a communications task force to work with MarketShare on the communications plan. This could be accomplished through on-line collaboration

and a couple of face-to-face meetings. 2) prioritize target audiences and specific issues, what kind of information needs to be shared, how to identify topics of interest. 3) develop a working document to reach the goals, who will do it (hire a part-time person to implement the plan). Discussion followed.

The communication plan will be a joint effort between the Council and MarketShare.

MarketShare Responsibilities

Facilitate project development  
Develop electronic collaboration tools  
Determine best communication practices for each target audience  
Provide working document and budget for communication activities  
Report progress to the Council

Council Responsibilities

Help select Task Force  
Determine approval process  
Provide necessary information about critical issues in Illinois forestry  
Hire part-time employee to assist in implementation  
Provide feedback on regular basis

It was estimated that it would take 90-120 days to complete the project and the consulting and planning fees being between \$5,000-\$6,000.

Chairman Phelps asked Council members to send their feedback on the proposal presented by MarketShare to Dick Little prior to the January meeting.

Forest Legacy Program – Dave Gillespie

Since none of the projects were funded last year, Dave submitted the same projects the Council had approved this year.

Illinois Forestry Association – *Dave Gillespie*

The second annual meeting of the IFA was held at Rend Lake Resort. It was a very successful informal meeting with excellent speakers. Saturday morning was spent going through an exercise put together by Stephanie Brown on what the good points of the organization were, what points need work on, and where should we go with projects. There are currently 491 members in IFA.

Agency Reports

The next meeting will be January 16, 2008 at the NRCS Building.

Meeting adjourned.