

## **Illinois Council on Forestry Development – January 16, 2008**

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

The November 14, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

### Financial Report – Dick Little

There is a balance of \$21,038 that is uncommitted in the budget.

### Liaison Report – Dick Little

- Attended two meetings of the Mid-Mississippi River Partnership.
- Attended the EAB Utilization Committee with Jay Hayek.
- Attended the IWPA meeting.
- The Council approved changes to the FDA law two years ago and it was put on hold because of other issues in the General Assembly. Dick talked to Dan Reiss who has agreed to introduce the Bill. Rep. Winters will also work with Dan Reiss and be one of the sponsors. The Bill should be introduced February 13 or 14. If the Bill were signed it would be effective January 1, 2009.
- FIA (Forest Inventory Analysis) is in the process of reviewing their five-year report (2001-2005).
- Reviewed and commented on the Forest Service National Woodland Owner Survey which will be conducted next year.
- Distributed a packet of handouts.

### Newsletter – Jim Appleby

The current issue (Fall/Winter 2007) is at the printers. Copies should be mailed out by the end of the month. Articles for the Spring issue are due by May 15, 2008. Send articles to Jim as an attachment in a Word document.

## **Old Business**

### MarketShare Proposal

MarketShare presented their next step on the communication plan at the November 14, 2007 meeting. Dick received one favorable comment back on the proposal presented by MarketShare. Jay Hayek presented his comments - suggested hiring a part-time person (internship or assistantship) to assist in the implementation of the plan, with webpage development, etc. A motion was made to employ MarketShare to develop a communication plan for the Council as outlined in their proposal of November 14, 2007. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

### Sun Foundation/TV spots – Bob Sloan

Bob presented an idea at the November 14 meeting of having the Council write scripts for children to do 30-second TV spots. He thought this would help us have awareness on our forest resources. There will be no cost to the Council for

doing this. Bob asked that sound bites of 30 seconds or less be sent to him by June 1.

#### SB17, Illinois Conservation Stewardship Act

The website – <http://dnr.state.il.us/stewardship/index.htm> is the current update on the rules for the Illinois Conservation Stewardship Act. To date, approximately 900 applications have been enrolled in the program. Discussion followed.

#### Emerald Ash Borer Update – Elizabeth Burns, USDA APHIS PPQ

Elizabeth distributed handouts to give an update on the Federal side with EAB and gypsy moth. There was a gypsy moth outbreak this year nationwide. It is anticipated there may be a problem with gypsy moth for the next couple years.

#### **New Business**

##### Project Learning Tree in Illinois – Jeff Dawson

Sarah Livesay and Judy Miller, representing PLT, contacted Jeff to see if the Council would be interested in sponsoring them statewide. IDNR had previously sponsored them for several years and decided to drop sponsorship for various reasons. Discussion followed. It was decided that the Council did not have the administration or assistance to sponsor PLT. Jeff will contact Sarah and Judy to let them know that some funding support could possibly be available through IDNR.

##### Update of the Statewide Forest Resource Plan – Mike Mason

Information was distributed on the Forest Resource Plan. The Forest Service is requiring the state to update their statewide Forest Resource Plan. They are requiring an assessment on Illinois forests to look at high, medium and low priority areas in Illinois. The Forest Service wants this in place by the end of calendar year 2009. There are funds available to assist with the assessment. Committees have been assigned to prepare the report. Discussion followed.

##### Joint Meeting – Ray Herman

Ray presented a proposal asking the IFDC and IFA to co-sponsor a late February or early March meeting to build an Illinois coalition on forest resource issues. The main thrust of the meeting would be to identify issues that each represented group presents. The result would be a joint recognition of issues, development of coalition support and a unity among diverse groups that can grow. Discussion followed.

##### Illinois Forest Leaders Institute – Dave Gillespie

Dave presented a proposal from the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) to propose a training program for current and potential leaders to build the capacity of its membership to address the many challenges that lie ahead. The Illinois Forest Leaders Institute will be an annual training opportunity designed to attract, encourage and equip IFA members to assume more active roles in promoting the various facets of forestry in Illinois. The total requested for the training program

would be \$3840. A motion was made to approve the project as submitted.  
Motion seconded. Motion carried.

**Other**

With mixed emotions, Dick announced his retirement effective June 30, 2008.

Chair John Phelps also announced he was retiring from the Department of Forestry, Southern Illinois University effective June 1, 2008.

Forestry Legacy – *Dave Gillespie*

Illinois has received funding for a project which is about 42 acres.

Agency Reports

Meeting adjourned.