

Illinois Council on Forestry Development Meeting – March 19, 2008 (U of I Turf Farm)

The meeting was called to order to Chair John Phelps. Six Council members and 10 Task Group members were present.

The January 16, 2008 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Financial Report – *Dick Little*

A copy of the financial report was distributed. Three contracts on the report are “on hold”. The Governor sent word to the departments and asked them to freeze all special money. A balance of \$15,038 remains in the budget. The Governor did put the \$118,500 for the Council in the budget for FY09.

Liaison Report – *Dick Little*

Dick distributed several handouts –

- Capitol Fax with questions and answers
- Two Urban Wood Utilization Webcasts
- A National Policy for Sustainable Forests (Dick attended meeting in Tennessee)
- Sustainable Forests Acts of 2008
- Letter from USDA regarding environmental assessment (EA) on wildlife damage management in Illinois.
- Status of HB4549 (Forestry Development Act). The Bill was introduced by Rep. Dan Reitz, Chair of the Ag Committee. Two amendments are attached to the Bill. Rep. Reitz did not add the amendment changing the minimum acreage from 5 to 10 acres. Discussion followed. The vacancies on the Council were also discussed. It was decided the Council should bring the minimum acreage requirement back up at the September meeting. Wade Conn, Jay Hayek, Ray Herman and Kurt Bobsin will prepare a draft document for the September meeting.
- Status of HB5775 (Tree Expert Licensing Act). This Bill is dead.
- Status of HB3387 (Deer Hunting-Female Deer only). This Bill was brought back up again in the House.
- Status of SB2120 (Utilities-Power Lines-Trees). This should go out of the Senate; the Bill hasn't been voted on yet.
- State Assessment & Plan Effort—volunteers?
- Climate Change: What We Know and What We Still Need to Learn
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's Upper Mississippi Watershed Fund
Upcoming Pre-proposal Deadline: April 1, 2008
- Cooperative Emerald Ash Borer Project

Newsletter – *Dick Little*

Dick reminded those that signed up to write articles for the Spring issue of the Newsletter that the articles are due to Jim Appleby by May 15 or earlier.

Old Business

Planning Process (Council/MarketShare)

The contract was approved earlier for MarketShare, but now is on hold. It was agreed to wait until September to start the contract.

Update of the Statewide Forest Resource Plan

The Committee list has been updated to prepare the 2010 Illinois Comprehensive Forest Resources Plan. Jay Hayek was asked to Chair the Education & Research Committee. It was suggested that each committee prepare a paper with their recommendations; then the Council can come up with a plan from the recommendations and condense this down to take to the General Assembly.

Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Plan – Wade Conn

Gary Stratton is the Illinois Forest Resource Planner. Each state has been charged to develop their own assessment. A set of draft guidelines are out. There is \$300,000 available to the states to cover spatial information gaps. The following data layers will be used in developing the action items for the forest plan: development risk, forest fragmentation, wildfire risk, forest health risk, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and supply, economical potential and green infrastructure. Three national themes that the Plan needs to address are: conserve working forestlands, protect forests from harm and enhance public benefits from trees and forests. The three main items the Forest Service needs out of the Plan are: state forest resource assessment, state response plan and annual action strategy. At a minimum, state forest resource assessments will: provide an analysis of present and expected future forest conditions, trends, and threats on all ownerships in the state, identify forest related benefits and services, and delineate priority rural and urban forest landscape areas to be addressed by the state response plan and annual action strategy. The Plan is due December 2009.

TV Spots – Bob Sloan

Bob reported that he needs the 10-15 minute sound bites for the TV spots. He hasn't received any to date.

Agency Reports

Bill Gradle, Jeff Dawson and Jay Hayek were appointed to the nominating committee for the Liaison position.

A suggestion was made to schedule the meetings next year on a Monday or Friday to correspond with the schedule of the legislatures that are on the Council.

The next meeting will be held May 21, 2008 in Carbondale, IL

Meeting adjourned.