

IFDC – Minutes of May 12, 2016 Meeting

The meeting was held at the NRCS State Office Conference Room in Champaign. The meeting convened at 10:05 AM

Welcome by Chairman Jim Zaczek. The following Council Members introduced themselves, including Bill Gradle, Director for IFDC: Kurt Bobsin, Tree Farm, Stan Curtis, C'Dale Veneer/Forest Ind., Roy Bailey, Tom Wilson/DNR, Mike McMahan/IFA, Jay Hayek/U of I, Steve Ludwig/IAA, Elliot Lagacy/IDOA, Mike Brunk/City of Urbana, Paul Deizman/SAF. Guests included; Rob Sproul/Village of Oak Park, Ray Herman/landowner, Stephanie Brown/IFA, and Lydia Scott/Morton Arboretum

Minutes of the November 12, 2015 meeting were discussed. Stan Curtis moved to approve the minutes, with some minor spelling corrections, seconded by Tom Wilson. Discussion on minute's corrections. Motion carried.

Bill Gradle introduced Roy Bailey and Mike Brunk, as newly appointed Councilmembers. Another newly appointed member, Dr. Karla Gage, was unable to attend.

Tom Wilson's report including the discussion of multi year grants and a State online system for grants that will be ready to go on July 1, 2016. This system, GATA, Grant Accountability Transparency Act, will include all State grants. But there may be a threshold level that is being negotiated. Tom Mentioned that positive comments from the Director were received regarding the Mason Tree Nursery and the FDA Program was audited. The audit went well according to Mr. Wilson. Tom mentioned Dave Cooper's passing. A former District Forester.

Paul Deizman discussed with the Council the current revision/update to the Illinois Forest Action Plan. The bulk of the report is addressing the Six Threats, though there is a table missing that Paul will correct. There are multi-state/regional priorities, a punch list (triple checked) and success stories. Mike Brunk commented on the need to track changes and not getting tied into the 10-year priority. He also suggested summarizing the threats and placing them nearer to the front. It would also be recommended to rewrite the threat statements to make them more alarming to get peoples attention. All agreed.

The group discussed the uses for the IFAP for the basis of a strategic plan and annual work plan for the Council. With comments back to Paul by the 4th of July, he should have the IFAP finalized by the next meeting.

Jay Hayek led the group in discussing three bills concerning forestry; SB3289, the Wrongful Tree Cutting Act. Tom W. said this bill might be killed in the House. SB2587, where there may be a fee for DNR services, and SB 0179 ability of the Mason Nursery to sell plant material to commercial nurseries.

After lunch, Lydia Scott, discussed possible activities for Oaktober events and other activities involving the Chicago Region Tees Initiative. Bill Gradle gave a brief update of the Improving Oak/Hickory Forest Type Project the Council is leading.

Paul Deizman gave brief reports on Stewardship and Forest Legacy.

The Urban Committee Report was presented by Steve Ludwig. Many challenges are being addressed in the wake of the Emerald Ash Borer all across the state in urban settings.

Jim Zaczek requested feedback from the Council on the need to renew the agreement between SIU/DNR for the Director, as the current one expires June 30, 2016. Motion made by Jay Hayek, seconded by Elliot Lagacy. Discussion and the motion carried.

A discussion on the need for a Forestry Summit was explored by the group. The last one was held in 2005 and those in attendance thought this would be a worthwhile endeavor for the Council to undertake.

Motion requested to adjourn by Chair. Motion made by Stan Curtis, seconded by Tom Wilson. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:37PM.