

Illinois Forestry Development Council – Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2016

Location: Agronomy Center, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL

Attendees: Bill Gradle, Director (IFDC), Jim Zaczek (SIUC), Karla Gage (SIUC), Chris Whittom (IDNR), Brendan Cain (USFS - Guest), Elliot Lagacy (IDOA), Wade Conn (NRCS), Roy Bailey (Woodland), Reinee Hildebrandt (IDNR), Chris Evans (U of I). Ray Herman, Rob Sproule, IAA (teleconference), Patti Cludray, Recorder (SIUC)

CALL to ORDER: 10:15 a.m. - The November meeting of the IFDC was called to order and members were welcomed by IFDC Chair, Jim Zaczek.

- Bill Gradle distributed today's meeting agenda and the minutes of the IFDC meeting September 27, 2016. Minutes were reviewed and discussed by committee members.
- **MOTION:** Elliot Lagacy, made a motion to approve minutes as written; seconded by Chris Evan; Motion carries.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- **Introduction of Guest:** Bill introduced guest, Brendan Cain, the new Forest Supervisor – Shawnee National Forest.
 - Mr. Cain gave a brief bio (bachelor's degree in Math; master's degree in Forest Hydrology; worked for F.S. & BLM, stewardship contracting; in OR for over 9 years and glad to be back in Midwest). Discussed recent Forest Service (FS) activities.
 - There has been a nearly 3 year hiatus on management on the Shawnee. Planning and setting up timber harvest plans for 5 counties. Working on Oak-Hickory restoration – improve forest health by removal of invasive species.
 - If anyone is interested in further details please see him after the meeting.
- **Final Ranking of the FY17 Funded Proposals:** Bill distributed a list of all proposals showing ranking results and discussed how they were ranked and funded.
 - Eight council members ranked individual projects based on ranking criteria – determined at previous meeting. Council must keep in mind that they had to work only with money currently available. Thanks to Chris Whittom for his help with funding issues. Council was invited to review the ranking and discuss.
 - There were 9 funded proposals: Ranked 1 – 9, 1. Management of Invasive Species and Forest Pests of IL Publication, \$4,061.00. 2. Raising Awareness of Expanding Forest Invaders through Outreach and Edu, \$4,888.00. 3. Info/Edu Outreach to Forest Owners to Promote Pgrm. Implementation and Emphasize Management, \$ 3,200.00. 4. Woodland Resource Management, \$3,930.00. 5. Survey of Tree Plantings in southern IL and Development of Management Options Publications, \$5,000.00. 6. "I Planted Them Now What" Booklet/Video, \$2,000.00. 7. Timber & Wood Industry Analysis and Report for IL and the 20 NE states, \$3,540.00. 8. TIGER Inventory Programming Update to produce IFIDAP data output and IFDA requirements, \$1,200.00. 9. Famous and Historic Tree Arboretum Signage, \$5,000.00. There were four non-funded proposals (2 from IDNR and 2 from Illinois Arborists Association).
 - Discussion: Reinee- if slippage occurs will you go down to the next proposal on the list. Bill – we will need to see if money is still available. Jim – Our funding is guaranteed through the end of the FY. Reinee to Tom, is the funding through December or the end of the FY. Tom confirms that the funding is good through the end of FY. Bill – If there is

slippage in contract can funds shift? Chris W. -yes, funding could be reallocated.
Jim – have all been notified? Bill – DNR has gone through signature protocols. Chris W.
- purchase order request has to go through then once the funding is approved, will notify
that money is ready to distribute. Bill will get notification.

- **Discussion of the Publishing of the Revised Silvics Manual.** Bill distributed double-sided color copies of manual for review and discussion.
 - Discussion items: Ray H. - asked if the Tree Farm could assist with the cost for printing of this manual. Should look as ways to help get at least a 1000 copies of this out to Foresters. Chris W. - asks how often the document should be updated? Notes this is a useful viable document. Asks, would Groninger be willing to update should this be added into the cost. This could be printed as a resource. Bill – notes there will be access to this electronically, however many agree that they like to look a paper copy. This is a good management tool, it is not over technical and would be a valuable tool for landowners. Chris W. adds he believes that a number of agencies would/may be interested in having hard copies as well. Reinee – we are always looking at ways to get more information out there to Forestry groups; it would be a good idea to try to secure funding from other sources as well. Chris W., questions if IFA would like hard copies as well or would they just want to distribute electronically.
 - **MOTION:** Tom Wilson makes motion to table decision on printing until IFDC January meeting; when Patti will get SIU estimate on having the document printed in booklet format (compared to full-page).
 - Further discussion: Jim Z- at that time we can also have a better idea on any left-over grant funding. Other IFDC members will check with various agencies (Walnut Council, Tree Farm, IFA, IL Farm Bureau, etc.) on whether they are interested in receiving copies (how many) and if funding would be available to help with printing costs. The electronic copy will be given to anyone interested in receiving it and posting on their respective websites; it will be available as a free download.
 - Since this is a free document made with public funds any money donated by agencies would be used to cover the cost of printing only. Jim – reminds council that the more copies made the lower the copy cost will be. Making copies with the permission of the Council commission is a good idea.
 - Jim – asks for any further discussion and reminds members of the motion made by Tom W., Elliott Lagacy seconds motion; Motion carries.
- **Screening/Ranking Criteria for RCPP Project Discussion:** Wade Conn led discussion of the RCPP. Reminding members that the RCPP committee is made up of members of several groups including the IFDC.
 - Group met on October 31, 2016. There is 2 million dollars in funding through cost-share.
 - What is required from the council members, familiar with the EQIP process, is a ranking criteria. These criteria can be general or specific; come up with best needs to address work. At the top of the list are Oak-Hickory concerns. Must consider practices and objectives to achieve wanted outcomes: 1. Set site quality index – must determine what sites are more for Oak production increase. 2. How do we want to expend funds. It should be pretty easy to spend funding over the next 5 years.
 - Discussion items: Bill – asks for clarification, is this local. Wade – Yes there is National criteria but we have no control over that. The local group addresses specific geographic areas, that are determined by the council and points are distributed in the manner the group determines. Group discusses fact that the wording needs to be addressed;
 - A priority is to improve Oak-Hickory and implement Forest Action Plans which are in place already and already have equipment apps in place; and, if the individual applicants

are currently participating shouldn't those already active rank higher.

- It would be good to see that there is a uniform system across the counties.
- It is suggested that local ranking questions should be less confusing.
- Also, to be clear what it means when you say local, what exactly does mean. Wade C – our entire state is considered local, so questions will be pretty general. The state quest is to look at the big concerns.
- Should give local specific management objectives much more flexibility.
- Site index seems to be problematic, actual sites may be very different, and every plan should include details of site. Reinee asks – Will RCPP prioritize based on good hi-quality sites on soil. Chris W. notes that hi-quality sites are where Oak-Hickory is disappearing because it is also good for other species. All oaks are important so what do we want grant money to be focused on?
- Forest stewardship counts for equipment only if written for volunteer stewardship-will not be applicable.
- Wade C. - RCPP time-line is as follows. Sign-up will be for 6 weeks. They are taking names now and the cut-off will be sometime in January. At that time the council will need to decide and make selection. Ranking criteria needs to be completed by the batch cut-off date. There will not be a different ranking period. We just need to emphasize our criteria points.
- Bill G. - Thanks Wade for this briefing.

Lunch is now scheduled on agenda but membership agrees to continue with other agenda points as discussion is moving well and lunch is setup and may be served at any time after other agenda items have been concluded. This will facilitate early dismissal as many members have to travel a long distance after meeting.

- **IDNR Update:** Tom Wilson will provide this update.
 - Budget is still a big issue.
 - Grants are stalled;
 - There is no capital bill. If they can't get the capital bill we are going to lose a large amount of Fish and Wildlife funding.
 - Constitution amendment won, what that could mean.
 - For example, 2 dollar fees/boat launch fees money could get tied up with this amendment. Because that being said, many things weren't considered when the amendment was written; so they could conceivably pull all the funding for roads.
 - Lawsuit over layoffs at nurseries and the shooting complex.
 - Arbiter will make the decision on lawsuit soon; we should know outcome next week.
 - If the outcome of the lawsuit is positive then a position could be open for filling. Question raised; did unions initiate the lawsuit? Yes.
 - Additionally, the pollinator program has a lot of interest. The Director shows strong support and will make case in favor of keeping funding for nurseries.
 - If next week there is no reprieve then the nurseries could close. If there is continued financing and the nurseries stay open, planting has continued and they are still in good shape for next year. Also, if there is a reprieve there will be a definite jump in production.
 - Budget. Etc.
 - No general revenue; tapping 4% fees to pay salaries; concerns that there will be no cost-share and if money will be replaced.
 - There are still 2 open appointments for IFDC members. Bill – the names are going forward to the Governor's office.
 - Tom has a good feeling about the new Director of the Office of Resource Conservation, Chris Young.

- Trail of Tears work is going very well. Everyone is happy with the work David Allen has been doing with the burns. Much of funding is coming from 6 - 7 grants.
- No further questions or discussion, thanks to Tom for report.
- **Committee Reports**
 - **Forest Stewardship Report** Chris Whittom, IDNR gives update.
 - Work continues on the data update.
 - Cleaning up 40 years of duplicated data takes time.
 - New database creation has been going on for about a year and is looking very good.
 - Forest management program – there is worry that this is a policing program not consulting; Foresters have many questions and concerns.
 - Wade C. notes that there is a problem with landowners not responding to requests. This can result in landowners being canceled.
 - Issues; no cost-share allocation – no budget.
 - **Legacy Report:** Chris Whittom, IDNR gives update.
 - Entered Riley Lake Project for consideration in the ranking criteria again.
 - Looking at ways to get the ranking of this project higher.
 - Issue dealing with a nationwide pool with large and diverse issues.
 - Looking at other lands which may be candidates, but there has really not been any interest.
 - Discussion by IFDC members.
 - Reinee – Forest management in the state is almost null. Tax breaks are offered to landowners; is there any thought to tying management to the tax break.
 - Tom W. - not all landowners get a break; must meet criteria, 30% in production or animal/livestock. Member observation, this may be true but it seems many people are getting it without meeting requirements. Tom – purging is happening however it takes a while to make it happen. Chris W. - Once landowners have a management plan it is good until a District Forester cancels it (good for 10 years). Problem is that properties shift and District Foresters can't get to the individual landowners to get the new plans done. Enforcement of renewal of 10 year plans is needed and is being attempted.
 - Bill thanks Chris for these updates.
 - **Urban Committee Report:** Rob Sproule, IAA presents this report via: phone.
 - Committee met last week to discuss various issues.
 - Plan is coming out soon, would like to get a draft out to all next week.
 - Will distribute work plan for 12 months; at January meeting will go through the plan and discuss implementation
 - Committee action plan: Went through and looked at the Urban Forest program preparing for 2017. Formalizing position on how to get more people involved and how to work with those involved/ what their duties will be.
 - Bill asks if there are any questions for Rob. Jim – questions, should discussion be tabled until everyone has had a chance to review the plan.
 - Thanks to Rob for this update.
- **Illinois Forest Action Plan.** Paul Diezman unable to attend; IFDC members open discussion.
 - Plan's Due date is November 18th Paul needs suggestions, if any, this is a quick turn-around.
 - Reinee – lots of edits have been made, however there is still work to be done. Need to make sure there are no large conflicts.
 - Tom W., – They will accept after November 18, right now looking for wish-list.

- Bill G. – Is Paul looking to finalize and then vote at the January meeting? Tom W., Yes,
- Standards are being worked on.
 - Reinee – The Standard on Tree Protection has passed; working on final review. Go to the website - Urban Manual for comments.
 - 2 need to pass and put on manual before publishing. Working on Standard for Trees & Shrubs.
- **LUNCH** is served, 12:35. Discussion of other business will be conducted during/after meal.
- **OTHER BUSINESS:**
 - Question was asked about getting hats made for the IFDC; request made for a motion, no further discussion.
 - AIS WCD Forestry committee – If you know of anyone who needs help and representation contact District Director.
 - Farm Bureau discussion.
 - Ray Herman discussed idea that Farm Bureau needs to be pushed to be more involved and aware of forestry concerns. They call their woodland, wasteland. Invites members to see the article he wrote this summer, regarding management of farmlands. Thinks it would help if the IFDC would become more involved with Farm Bureau.
 - Tom W., - met with Farm Bureau to discuss common issues. They wanted to talk about Forest related issues. They are aware of us. Farm Bureau agrees that the IFDC should make every effort to let them know what we are working on what is being done through the IFDC.
 - IFDC could make an organized effort to prepare articles to go in the Farm Bureau publication. Jim – suggested that perhaps grant reports could be used for this purpose. This would be the best way to work with Farm Bureau. Suggestion made/question raised to Bill, could write up an article for the Farm Bureau?
 - Chris W. – Administrative Rules are back; as soon as they are verified they will go back up to legal and will go to 1st notices. This is as close as it has been.
 - Tom W. – Board should be aware beetles were found with pathogen. Still no real progress on cure for thousand cankers but this is just a matter of time.
- Jim Zaczek – if there is no other business, he asks for motion to adjourn.
- **MOTION:** Ray Herman makes motion to adjourn, Wade Conn seconds motion. Motion Carries. The November meeting of the Illinois Forestry Development Council is adjourned at 1:45. The next meeting of this council will be on January 12, 2017. Members will be informed of location at later date.