

Illinois Forestry Development Council – Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2017

Location: NRCS, State Office Conference Room, 2218 West Park Court, Champaign, IL 61821

Attendees: Council Members: Jim Zaczek, Chair, SIUC, Karan Mehta, Sen. Barickman, John Edgington, IFA, Roy Bailey, Bailey Trees, Wade Conn, NRCS, Jay Hayek, UIUC, Rob Sproule, IAA, Chris Whittom, IDNR, Ray Herman, AISWCD, Stan Curtis, Carbondale Veneer, Kim Watson, IDCEO (by Phone), Mike Brunk, City of Urbana. Guests: Chris Mulvaney, Morton Arboretum, Lydia Scott, Morton Arboretum, Reinee Hildebrandt, IDNR, Sravya Pamulapati, IDNR.

Call to Order: 9:00 a.m. – The July 13, 2017^h meeting of the IFDC was called to order. Members were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves by President, James Zaczek.

- Copies of the meeting agenda and the minutes of the IFDC meeting held on May 11, 2017. Minutes were reviewed and discussed by committee members.
- Jim offered thanks to the Morton Arboretum for hosting the May meeting.
- Reinee Hildebrandt requested that the spelling of her name be corrected and Rob Sproule pointed out a typo on page 5 of the minutes.
- **MOTION:** Ray Herman, made a motion to approve minutes with corrections; motion seconded by Rob Sproule, Motion carries.

AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion of Forest Action Plan (FAP) Final Draft: Discussion led by James Zaczek.

- Chris Whittom reported that once the IFDC approved the FAP Paul Diezman would have someone from IDNR go over the plan to correct any issues. A question was raised as to whether the plan was required to go out for public review. It was stated that the plan would go to the Forest Service for review and approval once approved by the IFDC.
- Reinee Hildebrandt recommended several changes for the plan. She recommended that page 67 acknowledge the need for actions. She recommended, under Urban and Community Forestry that threats from wildfire is not a significant concern and should be removed.
- It was suggested that Dr. Reber, past editor of Steward Magazine, be contacted to see if he would be willing to edit the FAP. Jay Hayek will contact him.
- It was recommended that an executive summary of the FAP be developed and with it a letter of support from the IFDC be provided to the Governor's office.
- **MOTION:** Rob Sproule made a motion to accept general content of the FAP as provided and that editing and development of an executive summary of the FAP be completed by a professional with a stipend of up to \$1,500 to be provided. The motion was seconded by Mike Brunk. Motion carries.

IDNR Report: Points of discussion presented by Chris Whittom.

- Chris reported that a State budget has been approved but funding has not been appropriated. Until a capital budget is approved, with funding appropriated we will not know if there will be money for the cost share or fire programs.
- There will be interviews conducted in the next week for two district forester positions.
- It was requested that Chris identify how the budget for the IFDC is determined, where the \$118,000 number came from, and what the \$4.7 million for Urban and Community Forestry is used for. Chris will report at the September meeting.
- Dave Johnson has been brought back to work on the CRP program for 75 days.
- Tom Wilson is hoping to send out a fire crew soon.

Committee Reports: Stewardship/Legacy: Discussion topics presented/led by Chris Whittom

- Chris requested direction from the IFDC as to whether he should form a Stewardship Committee and asked for direction on any potential committee members. It was recommended that members from main forestry groups be included with both rural and urban groups represented. A representative from the University of Illinois Master Naturalist program should also be included.
- Chris requested direction on what the committee should do. It was recommended that the group focus on issues identified by the IFDC.
- Chris reported that he has tried to contact property owners who may be interested in the Legacy Program but no one has inquired.

Urban Report: Discussion topics presented/led by Rob Sproule

- Urban Committee (UC) is working on a charter document.
- A sub-committee has been formed to talk about an Illinois Forestry Summit. Recommendations will be provided at the next IFDC meeting.
- Reinee reported that a Strike Team has been formed and was modeled after the federal Strike Team. Tree protection standards will be posted for public review with four new illustrations. The Strike Team was deployed to Naplate and Ottawa. Five teams of two people conducted tree risk assessments on trees damaged by a recent tornado. The Strike Team is a volunteer group.

LUNCH

Discussion on the top items the Council needs to include in its Plan of Work and budget for FY 2018:

Group discussion led by James Zaczek.

1. Illinois Forestry Summit - discussion recommended that the IFDC identify common interests to be discussed at the Summit.
2. Need for increased interaction and engagement of the Illinois Farm Bureau. Increased awareness of woodlands on farm lands and potential revenues needs to be explored. The IFB has a significant lobbying effort and more than 400,000 members statewide. There are educational opportunities during Farm Week where forest management and the IFAP could be presented. It was suggested that perhaps a review of the IFDC membership be amended to include a representative from the IFB.
3. Develop strategy to share information to legislator and to build awareness that the IFDC is a resource for legislations on all things related to Illinois forestry practices, programs and products.
4. Preserve the integrity of forestry programs. Identify and support opportunities for expanded State and federal funding and technical support.
5. Expanded forest industry in Illinois – improve forest industry through the promotion of timber products, changes in workers compensation regulations. Collect data that compares Illinois to other states. Commission a report that presents the economic impact of forestry, forest products and why forest products in Illinois are going away, and the future of the forest industry in Illinois.
6. Investigate the future financial needs of the IFDC so that appropriate requests and recommendations can be made to the legislature.
7. The IFDC will sponsor a good urban forest project.
8. Get open positions on the IFDC filled.

Recommendation for the Director to devise an Annual Plan Of Work (APO) using the items discussed and evaluated for valid work for the Council , as stipulated in the Forestry Development Act. It is also recommended that a budget be formulated to support action items in the APO.

Another order of old business, the IFAP needs an executive summary like that has been done in the past. And an economic value implan analysis proposals are needed.

With no further business needed to be conducted, Chair Zaczek called for a motion of adjournment: Motion made by Rob Sproule, seconded by Stan Curtis, the motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 2:02 PM.