

**Illinois Forestry Development Council – Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2018**

Location: NRCS Conference Room, Champaign, IL

Attendees: Bill Gradle, Director (IFDC), Reinee Hildebrandt (IDNR), Paul Diezman (IDNR), Chris Whittom (IDNR), Jay Hayek (UofI), Elliot Lagacy (IDOA), Roy Bailey (Tree Farmer/Contractor), Mike Brunk (Urban), Steve Stierwalt, Karla Gage (SIUC), Tom Wilson (IDNR), Ray Herman (AISWCD), Rob Sproule, (IAA Oakpark), Patrick Evans, Lydia Scott (Morton), Patti Cludray, Recorder (SIUC)

Pre-Meeting Note: Due to the Absence of the IFDC Chair, Jim Zaczek; Director, Bill Gradle, requested that the duties of the Chair be filled by Elliot Lagacy at this meeting of the Illinois Forestry Development Council.

Call to Order: 10:05 – The January 11, 2018 meeting of the IFDC was called to order and members were welcomed by Elliot Lagacy.

- The meeting agenda and the minutes November 8, 2017 meeting of the IFDC were made available to the committee members. Minutes were reviewed and discussed by committee members. Elliot asked if there were any additions or corrections; none noted.
- **MOTION:** Tom Wilson, made a motion to approve minutes as written; seconded by Mike Brunk; Motion carries.

Agenda Item:

IFAP Final Layout: Printed copies of the final draft of the IFAP were presented to the committee members. Initial review of document and discussion was led by Mike Brunk.

- This final version of the FAP is organized, reads well and seems to be ready to go and is being presented to the Committee for a final look to see if anything needs to be tweaked.
Discussion by IFDC membership:
 - Tom W. - After conversations with the Forest Service (F.S.) about the FAP there are concerns with some of the content as written.
 - Analysis for Legacy is old and needs updating, with upcoming renewed data and the new Farm Bill pending, not sure what impacts this will have on the FAP.
 - The F.S. is willing to look at the FAP as written, but may have reservations about certifying the document because of these concerns.
 - Tom suggests not publishing this as the official FAP as this time. It can be used as reference material only.
 - Paul D. – what are our options? Updated data is expected.
 - Tom W. – F.S. is concerned that 2005 data included in the IFAP is no longer pertinent. Address how is Legacy really going here in IL?
 - Chris W. - met with some interested in the Legacy program, but here in IL the Legacy managers have not been met with interest by landowners. There is not much interest in Legacy program overall. Find that we are pursuing the same people; there have been 2 in the last 3 years, one of which was not in a Legacy area.
 - Paul D. - The Legacy areas can be changed around, but to add an area is difficult.
 - Tom W. - Part of what has hurt us is that we are not being approved as Legacy projects.
 - Chris W. - We are currently only getting a trickle of funding through Legacy. For consideration, if an area of property was identified that would be a good stand-alone; if it could be bundled with other properties to make it more appealing as a Legacy area could it increase the likelihood of it being chosen for funding.
 - Question came up regarding the current Assessment of Need. Per AON we will stay in Legacy Forestry program. Paul D.- and, F.S. is suggesting the AON be folded into Legacy which should be folded into IFAP bringing everything up to 2015 data.
 - By far the the most benefit to going forward with the IFAP will be in Urban Forestry.
 - Mike B – is of the opinion that the IFDC should consider pushing this through if for nothing less than the benefit to Urban, needless to say about \$2500 plus funds the IFDC has already approved for editing. Admittedly, we are not all the way there yet, but we are working on it.
 - Tom W. - The issues with the document may seem like just a couple of things, but if this is presented the F.S. would find that it was deficient. Significant changes in FAP require F.S.

- approval and accreditation. Knows it seems like the updated AON should be easy to add to IFAP, but other issues will not be as easy to address quickly.
- Rienee – going back to the need of this updated FAP for Urban Forestry. For an Urban grant prospect what is in the FAP is what will be funded. If you have someone under review, the Granting graders have only the old FAP to go by which does not include any Urban reference.
 - Tom W., trying to be a pragmatist, but this is honestly, probably not going to be approved.
 - Reinee – asks, how long will it take to pull together AON for FAP. Paul D., - the AON is based on old data but it is in good shape, and the Legacy areas we do have are already approved, although to add others would require public meetings.
 - Chris W. – Right now the AON would not go under the Legacy section, it is a separate appendix. If added to the document it would be a lot of work.
- Council considers: If it is decided not to send the FAP to Washington as is perhaps we could ordain this as a council, with a memo stating that this draft of our document is to be used by graders. Weren't Urban grading concerns accepted as an addendum to current FAP. No, it is not online in the addendums.
 - Tom W., we can send this forward and in a memo state that the Council understands that updates need to be made, including a time-line for addition of the 2015 data; updated AON; Legacy.
 - Lydia, questions if this there any way we can update the FIA tables and text as changes in this FAP before it is officially submitted. Bill G. - we are talking about removing and updating tables and text referring to tables; who would be doing this? Mike asks, could we do this within the week and get it ready? Rienee - we are talking about getting the FIA data updated to 2015, and also wanting so see AON analysis of Legacy.
 - Paul D., Certain parts of the text in the FAP is littered with old data, and the data is still valid, but not current. The tables would be pretty easy to replace, however the text is also littered with references to those tables. Jay H. - Can't the new data be referenced in an appendix? Mike – this certainly may be a good solution; making an FIA summary appendix in the IFAP and referencing the appendix. Jay H. - the 2015 data/assessments are current, they were just released in 2017. Mike – but would it work including 2015 FIA data as an appendix? Tom W. - likes the idea of simplifying.
 - Rob S. - The question is are we going to go to even more trouble to update this and then have to turn around and start again in 2019/2020 as a new updated document.
 - Question: so how about the other program updates? Tom W., IFDC's big focus was to the the Urban sections, so not aware of the specifics of other programs. Paul D. - overall this doc. will impact granting and supports. Mike – It is pretty clear that this could mean that tens of thousands of grant dollars are in this new IFAP if it is out there for our granting agency to use.
 - Ray H. - Can't an addendum be put with this document as it stands? Rob S. - Can we make an addendum to the existing IFAP and not be so concerned about this updated IFAP?– Make corrections to it add new data and get it ready for 2020.
 - Elliot L. - So, when will we have a document that everyone will be happy with?
 - Paul D. - After all of this discussion, I think the main question is do we want to/can we push this document through with just some small changes.
 - Elliot L. - Ok, if we want to push this through what changes / updates, if any, do we want to make?
 - **MOTION:** Tom Wilson moves that the Council approves sending the IFAP forward with minor edits with a letter and time table of when the 2015 data will be added. The accompanying letter should make it clear that the Council will be pro-active in looking at other issues that need to be updated and it should stress that this is a supplemental plan to add Urban; we are submitting to F.S. aware of deficiencies which will be addressed. Motion is seconded by Jay Hayek.
 - Elliot L. asks for any further discussion on motion before a vote of the Council.
 - Ray H. asks about additions / edits that should be included in the IFAP. It is agreed that the executive summary should acknowledge reason for submission at this time and upcoming changes. Mike B. - The additions that Lydia was suggesting; do we want to look at adding those.
 - Karla G. - If we can push this through can we immediately put the draft of the document on our website. Tom W., the granting agencies would have a chance to see it, but without FS certification can't be used for grading.
 - Patti is asked to read-back the motion. Elliot calls for a vote on the motion as presented; motion carries.
 - Mike B. - Now that the decision is made to go forward with submitting this IFAP, who will prepare the paragraph to add to the executive summary; Tom and Paul will have the editor add information to the executive summary.

- It is agreed to plan to have the letter prepared by the next meeting and have FAP ready to submit.
- Elliot thanks Mike for leading this discussion.

Agenda Item:

IDNR Report: Presented by Tom Wilson.

- Good news, a new Forester, Tom Wickliff, was hired. He gets along with all and they are very excited to see this hire to replace Tom Gargrave, and Paul Bane was chosen to replace Jeff Harris, he is quickly getting settled in the position. Jenny Lesko is coming along very well pleased to have her at Shawnee.
- State Nursery news.
 - There is an invitation to fill Nancy's position at the State Nursery: Nancy is still on temporary assignment to train her replacement and help out this spring.
 - Finally on track to accept electronic payments at the Nursery. This will finally allow people the opportunity to order and pay right on the website.
- At Ullin working to change the position from a full-time to 2 ½ time positions; Steven A. Forbes.
- Agency is looking at special Dicamba and herbicide application / sample submission training. It talks with AG about how to handle things.
 - Issues with application of the herbicide and followup is going to be done to make sure if it is really herbicide damage or something else.
 - Karla G. - Applicators should not spray when sensitive crops are downwind. There are questions if someone with a Forest Management Plan (FMP) has protection. Right now, forests/trees are not on the list as sensitive crops. But if FMP's could incorporate this language then the applicators will need to take this group into consideration when spraying.
- Jay H. - is there a clearinghouse where people can get herbicide application / training information readily?
 - Elliot L. - there is a 90 minute Dicamba training available, pre-registration can be done online. Karla G. - there is a paper copy coming out, writing is in process. All registrants will be provided training and certification.
 - Questions raised about information on other fertilizers / herbicides. Karla G. - 240 D is not out yet, we are only checking on Dicamba/. issues. Steve S. – Training is not giving you insight on recognizing damage only on proper application.
 - Karla G. - Driftwatch, the voluntary registry is out there, but this is not official monitoring. Steve S. - Applicators have a checklist they need to complete.
 - Tom W. - Admittedly it is really hard to pinpoint and go after specific applicators because often you are not seeing damage by 30 days.
- Discussion on Capital Bill
 - Does it look like there is going to be any way to get cost share funding out of the Cap bill. Tom W., - It is generally agreed that this is a good idea, but it must go through the budget office and get approved. Tom has seen nothing so far and Cap Bill may not get ratified for some time. Question - Is there still a 2 year time limit to receive those funds. Tom is assured that those that have waited over 2 years because of the delay in passing the Bill will be included in the funding.
- Elliot thanks Tom for the report and if no further discussion council will move on to the next item on the agenda: Committee Reports with the Stewardship/Legacy report first.

Agenda Item:

Committee Reports:

- **Stewardship Report** submitted by Chris Whittom, IDNR.
 - There have not been any committees formed/ no meetings.
 - Right now trying to finish cleaning up database.
 - Working on Administrative Rule (AR) re-write on Rule 1536, 1537. AR 1536; exclusive to FMP's – Based on JCARR – Chris has been working on tweaks to wording. The Joint Committee met on December 12, 2017 and the updated language has been approved and was adopted December 18, 2017. Paul D. - 3 things were added to cost share (fire, exotic species, and BMP's), now we are just waiting for the cost share to be released.
 - Jay H. questions, how many Forest Dev Action Plans are out there now 12,000 plus? Chris W., - the new data is great, however, 80 counties have had problems transferring to the new data system so some records did not

transfer correctly. Bill G., - believes the number is about 10,000 active participants; roughly 540,000 acres with active plans.

- **Legacy Report** submitted by Chris Whittom: no updates at this time.
- **Discussion about the RCPP applications.**
 - Bill G. - the first cutoff was January 19 2017 but applications are accepted year round. In the first round over 400 applications were received and 37 were funded for \$700 + thousand dollars, covering the 4 target areas.
 - Jay H. - asks, how much money is left. Bill G. - 1.2 million is left, \$700 + thousand dollars has been awarded so far. NRCS sets the cutoff dates for submission of applications for particular round and funding; the 2nd cutoff is quickly approaching, we have applications for about 330 projects; aprox \$800 thousand may be awarded.
 - Other funding is also available last year 35 plans were funded through EQIP. Question – when grants are being reviewed is prevailing wage a consideration? Answer - this is Federal funding so this is not really an issue. Landowner will get about 75%.
 - Ray H. - comment; somewhere there is a breakdown in agency communication. None of the field agents seem to know about application dates/deadlines. Jay H. - why aren't the field staff being briefed? Information is out there, not sure why there is a problem.
 - Paul D. - to Bill, for RCPP, are we on target for spending? Bill G. - This is a 5 year program, we are going to spend all of the money. Paul – is the Farm Bill going to influence the money. Jay H. - to Bill, was the entire amount appropriated up front. Bill G., - yes, we could have spent more year, but we picked a number of projects that were really deserving of funding. Money is available for next round of projects.
 - RCPP-EQIP pooled funding: New projects will be dependent on Farm Bill. If you like this program contact legislators to be sure it is included in the Farm Bill. The EQIP program is skewed to livestock, the reason we went to RCPP was to let landowners decide where EQIP dollars would be better used and determine how much needs to go to livestock. We must communicate what we like and don't like to our legislators.
 - Ray H. - So for these RCPP funds any group could take the initiative, submit an application and possibly be funded for a project. Bill G., yes, they have to meet the application guidelines. Jay H. - Cooperative Weed Mgmt/Invasive was approved for \$436,000 for 5 years. This is EQIP money for 11 counties (Lincoln Heritage RC&D and fringe counties).
- **Urban Committee Report** submitted by Rob Sproule, IAA
 - Met last week by conference call: working through by-laws, getting MOU's ready.
 - Working through short-term work plans and then long term work plans.
 - The Urban Committee wants to approach the Council about having a meeting with the Council.
- **Planning Committee Forestry Summit Report** submitted by Rob Sproule. Summit plans are moving forward with having the Forestry Summit in June. Call for questions and discussion by Council membership.
 - Rob S. - Because of the potential problems with IFAP now, should the focus change at all, or should the FAP still be the focus of the Summit. Bill G., - yes, the needs address by the Council are in the IFAP. Our focus; how these needs are being managed.
 - Rob S., - Since the Urban Committee has been charged with chairing the Summit our question is, do we have authority to move forward and make decisions the focus of the Summit; speaker topics, etc.
 - The Summit Committee includes IFDC member and non-member representation. (Rob Sproule, Bill Gradle, Wade Conn, Ben Snyder, Elliot Lagacy, Tom Wilson, Lydia and Beth Corrigan). Ray H. - There are no tree-groups represented on the committee. Bu it seems they should be included in some planning of the Summit.
- **MOTION.** (Mike Brunk?) makes motion to fully engage the Committee to spend the dollars needed. Elliot calls for discussion.
 - Rob S. - Summit planning committee also needs to know if we have the authority to make decisions on Summit focus, speakers, etc, as needed.
- **CHANGE of MOTION;** to fully engage the Summit Planning Committee to make decisions and spend money and to move forward as needed within the terms that have been formally approved by the IFDC. Elliot calls for further discussion before vote.
 - Question, so this will include making decisions on specific agenda items right, membership is in agreement.
 - Answer to Ray H's previous comment; planning committee will be sure that no groups are going to be excluded during planning decisions.
 - Elliot L., calls for any further discussion on this Motion, none noted. Jay Hayek, seconds Motion, **Motion carries.**
- Elliot calls for any further discussion on the Forestry Summit.

- Rob S., - Invitee list will be formally submitted to the IFDC for review, may need to add additional contacts. When the list is finalized then Save The Date's will be send electronically to all.
- Bill G. - Right now we are still looking at a 1.5 day event, with a 1st day evening formal program and dinner. Summit committee needs to work on programs for the 2nd day. Rob S. - question, for the formal program and speaker, do we need to contact people; and does the Council want to have an opinion on this list. Bill G. - the Summit Planning committee has already approached Carleen Yocum, U.S.F.S Director's Field Rep and Project Leader to serve as Keynote Speaker at the formal Summit dinner on June 12th.
- Bill G., - When deciding of speakers, we are trying to take politics out of the Summit, but would like to talk with Senator Barrikman about being a speaker before breakout session on the 13th. Jay H., I owe the Senator a call, so could talk with him about this possibility,
- Bill G., Wayne Rosenthal has been suggested as a speaker at some point, perhaps could speak with group on Wednesday morning. Also Tom Wilson has been asked about his availability; Tom W., confirms he would be available both days.
- Discussion on other aspects of the Summit that the committee has addressed.
 - Rooms have been rented for 2 full days, so if we want to begin a little earlier on the first day, we could include more speakers. Some speakers who have been suggested so far are: Ivan Dozier, STC-NRCS; Senator Barrikman; Katherine Wolfe, Urban; Greg McPherson/Dave Nowark, Urban.
- Committee will be reaching out to specific speakers for the breakout sessions. These breakout speakers should lead discussion and talk about action items in the IFAP.
- Tom will contact Wayne Rosenthal.
- When the Council meets in March the Summit Committee should have the breakout speakers and speakers lined out.
- Summit discussion should include on the Implementation of the IFAP and how it will be used statewide. We want the Strategic Plan to be based on the IFAP and the summit is going to be a good forum.
- Question, will there be a formal published report. Yes, the Council will prepare that after that.

- Elliot thanks Rob for these reports.

Adjourn for Lunch: 12:05 - 1:00 Jimmy John's provided by the IFDC.

Other Business -Group

- Paul D. - Public interest item: Has a form if anyone is interested in ordering trees from the State Nursery. Bill G., asks, do they still have to authorized to sell trees? How about tree donations? Tom W., yes, we can still make formal requests for tree donations for specific projects (i.e. Arbor Day, etc.)
- Jay H. The Illinois Arborist's Association will be holding a conference on July 8, 2018.
- Other upcoming conference and activities include: the 24th Annual Tri-State Foresters Conference on March 10, 2018, and July 17th TCIA sponsored Electrical Hazards Awareness Program (EHAP) training.
- Lydia S. - Don't forget the Oak Restoration Diversity Conference in Jan at Morton Arbotrium.
- Bill for the IFDC meeting in March if the council would like to meet there he will check on charges for room/lunch. Elliot L. asks the Councils opinion on holding the next meeting at the I-Hotel; the Council recommends.
- Bill reminds the Council members that anyone who would like tour the I-Hotel should meet with him after adjournment.

MOTION: Ray Herman makes motion to adjourn; seconded by Mike Brunk. Motion carries.

- The January 11, 2018 meeting of the Illinois Forestry Development Council is adjourned at 1: 35 p.m. The next meeting of the Council will be held on March 8, 2018 at the I-Hotel, Champaign, Illinois.