

Illinois Forestry Development Council – Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2018

Location: IDNR Building - Lakeview B Conference Room, Springfield, IL

Attendees: Bill Gradle, Director (IFDC), Wade Conn (NRCS), Reinee Hildebrandt (IDNR), Terry Davis (Landowner Rep), Tom Wilson (State Forester/IDNR), Jim Zaczek, Chair (SIUC), Patti Cludray, Recorder (SIUC), and by phone: Rob Sproule, (IAA Oakpark), Kim Watson.

Call to Order: 10:05 – The July 12, 2018 meeting of the IFDC was called to order and members present at meeting and on phone were welcomed by Jim Zaczek.

- Today's meeting Agenda, Minutes of the May 10, 2018 meeting of the IFDC and other documents were made available to the committee members.
- It is decision of Council since member, Rob Sproul has called in from his vacation to discuss his Summation of the IFDC Summit there will be a change in the order of the Agenda moving Rob's summation forward, prior to all other Agenda items.

Agenda Item:

Summation of the Illinois Forestry Summit: Rob Sproul presents this summation. Spreadsheet of break-out session discussions were previously sent to all members.

- Rob S., notes that feedback from the Summit has been positive. It is the consensus that a lot of goals were accomplished. The follow-up with note takers and facilitators went well and there are many ways that the council can move forward. The spreadsheet shows points that came from the breakouts; and many thanks to Beth Corrigan for compiling the meeting notes. There were 4 major points that came out of the Summit from the 4 breakout sessions.

Ludwig – Funding/Advocacy

- The Council needs to sit as a group and talk with the note takers and facilitators about Summit findings. A first priority should be to have a strategic planning meeting. A strategic plan is needed to give partner organizations the opportunity to know what the IFDC is planning to do and how they can be involved to put Summit findings into action. There is a desire to create bigger/better annual reports. Need to work with partners at meeting to prepare a detailed document to take to the legislators. Also, consideration should be given to a Council meeting with legislators at State capital.

Gargrave – Forestry Professionals

- The Council needs to find ways to promote forestry as more than just cutting wood. Rebrand forestry, concisely promoting forestry across disciplines (hunting, fishing, wood products, recreation, etc.). No one understands what a big role forestry plays here in Illinois. Discussion of non-impervious surface tax; workmen's comp issues in Illinois.

Evans -- Changing Landscape of Forestry

- Forestry is a changing landscape; forestry is diversified, there needs to be a more cohesive message. The State in general needs a better central repository for information and documentation applicable to all. The Council needs to take a pro-active role. Jim Z., we find this is true for educators as well, parents / students don't understand the kinds of careers someone with a degree in Forestry can pursue.

Holzmueller – Forest Health

- What role can the Council play in the reestablishment of the Invasive Species Council? There are many small concerns and underlying major action items that could be considered. The big message that came out of this session and the others is that strategic planning is needed.

- All are in agreement that the speakers were great. There is a clear message that the Summit was a success and that this type of meeting is something that people would like to see repeated in the next 3 – 5 years. Bill G., adds, and to Jim's relief we came in under budget, and all I-Hotel billing has been paid. Jim Z to Rob S., getting the facilitators together is a really good idea.
- Discussion: Bill G. notes that since members in attendance are low, it would be appropriate for someone to put forth a motion that the members act as a Committee in Whole in order to make some decisions today.

MOTION: Wade C, made a Motion that the Council members present act in capacity of a Committee as a whole; seconded by Terry D; Motion carries.

MOTION: Rob S., made a Motion that the Council host a Strategic Planning meeting with facilitators and note takers to identify and discuss action items which came out of the 2018 IFDC Summit; seconded by Tom Wilson. Jim Z. calls for discussion on this motion.

- Member Discussion:
 - Question, when does the Council want to hold this meeting, consensus of Council is the sooner the better; we must confirm the availability of the Summit facilitators and note takers. It may be a good idea to have a facilitator at meeting to keep us moving in the right direction. The next IFDC meeting is scheduled for September 13th Rob will reach out to the facilitators and note takers regarding their availability.
 - Upcoming IFDC meetings, September in Champaign and November in Carbondale. Jim Z. thinks that the Strategic Planning meeting should be held as soon as possible to make progress on the action items, Tom W., is in agreement.
 - Question, is there still an opportunity to influence the next year budget to address some of these concerns and act on the action items. Tom W., we have a budget but there are currently no details on the lines. So, for FY 19 the IFDC has a budget, Fiscal needs to go through the 905 budget to determine line items. Bill G., are you looking at Fish and Wildlife monies? Tom W., No, at this time we are looking at Forestry. I have an idea that we will tapping into other funding when we are out of funding, but there are currently no lines.
 - Jim Z., should we plan on having a facilitator at this meeting. We need to post details of meeting and get out to every IFDC member. Tom W., having a facilitator is a very good idea for a September meeting. Then at the November meeting the Council can be presented with ideas and suggestions for action items.
 - Rob S. believes that it would be a good idea to have a facilitator for the Strategic Planning meeting. It is agreed that a facilitator for this meeting would be advisable.
 - Bill G., Lisa Helmig can check with the Shawnee to see about someone available to serve as a facilitator. So, Rob should check with Lisa on availability of facilitator and also be sure to let me know confirmed date.
- Jim Z. calls for vote on **MOTION** on the floor. Motion carries. Rob Sproul signs off. Council has further discussion of Summit matters.
 - Bill G., returns to the disbanding of the Invasive Species Council (ISC) as discussed as one of the Summit points of concern, noting that it was disbanded for a number of reasons, mainly budgetary. Wade C., There will need to be a coordinated effort when it comes to re-establishing and budgeting for the ISC. Reinee H., former budget came out of various sources, the Natural Heritage and real estate tax – urban interface monies. Tom W., we can start the discussion with them, Chris Evans thought that is was because his position was cut. That may have had a lot to do with it, but it comes down to budget.
 - Terry D. yes, there is a lot of interest in invasive species issues but it is hard to get a cohesive message. Reinee H., pollinators have serious problems as well. Jim Z., it may be a good idea to also involve the Farm Bureau in future discussions.

Agenda Item:

Minutes of the May 10th IFDC Meeting

- Minutes were reviewed and discussed by committee members. Jim asked if there were any additions or corrections; corrections were noted.
- Wade C., asks that further explanation/clarification of his affirmative to Paul D. be included in the minutes. Patti points out that there is further discussion of this issue on page three of the minutes as presented and that she will bring a notation of that forward as a correction to the May 10th minutes; for the records. (Correction that was made is included in here for reference)
05-10-18 IFDC minutes: page 2 Paul D., raises question. Does EQIP cover the cost of aerial applications? Wade C., - yes it can. Clarification of this statement from page 3 of 05-10-18 minutes: Wade C., it must be stressed that aerial does not mean spray and walk away. EQIP recognizes need for control of bush honeysuckle, they are paid to treat resource concerns like honeysuckle; not necessarily to dictate the method of application/treatment. The land itself dictates the specific method that will work best.
- **MOTION:** Tom W, made a Motion to approve Minutes as written with correction; seconded by Terry D; Motion carries.

Agenda Item:

IDNR Report, presented by Tom Wilson.

- Tom W., Things are quiet in the Legislature since the budget was passed. Appropriations equal legal spending authority. Backlogged on being able to do anything. We are hopeful that we can start spending the grants down.
- Reinee H., is there any report if Urban has been funded. Jim Z. questions, who determines what programs are funded. Tom W., the fiscal officers from each area determine what is needed by each organization and take those requests up the line, eventually ending up in the Governor's office; to get those appropriations increased takes political influence. Jim Z., speaking of that, there has been discussion in the Council about getting our budget augmented. Tom W., once the new House and Senate are seated, then constituency could go forward and petition for changes to funding. The Council is currently funded at historic levels.
- Tom W., IDNR has no staff changes pending. The fire season is just beginning to slow down now that we are experiencing higher humidity levels. Wade C., how is the fire coverage accessed? Tom W., they are looking at actual areas burned.
- Chris Young is going over the budget, he has been asked about development of a longer term business plan, staffing, and opportunities for more revenue.
- Tom W., looking at the IL Timber Buyers Licensing Act. Looking at registering all timber harvests prior to action. We know that we are not getting all monies due. This will not be a fast process and there is no hard time-line, but we're looking sometime in the near future.
- Tom W., State Nursery news. Goals are that the Nursery needs to be self-sufficient and perhaps hire more staff to increase product/production. Bottom line is that someone has to pay something for growth.
- Tom W., Forest Health. Chris Young is having conversations about splitting a full-time Forest Health position between F.S. and ???. There needs to be a full-time person on staff. F.S. would like to see Resource Conservation as a priority.
- Tom W., Fire training will be offered again at John A Logan College (JALC) October 22 – 26, 2018. Crab Orchard and Giant City have been chosen as training sites. 4 states are involved, MO, IL, IN, and IA and can send attendees for the training including crew boss, engine boss, heavy equipment, p211 – 212. Jim Z., are student eligible. Tom, yes there are 20 – 30 spaces available.
- Tom W., notes that a recent conversation he had regarding a variety of issue with Chris Young, was the best meeting of that type he has been to in a year. Very positive.

- Tom W., Herbicide issues – Dicamba is in the news – looking at it as 2-4D damage, parts per billion. The listing has to be sent to CA. We can say it is herbicide damage not what type. Reports of Dicamba damage have been a relatively quiet but now we are getting a few more. Weather is a crucial component; we will see after the season is over what has worked and what hasn't. Will be working with AG, they are trying to sort those out mainly looking at the impact on AG, however, we are looking at non-AG problems.
- Tom W., Illinois hosted a 22 state fire-managers meetings. Positive reaction and compliments on how the meet was conducted; all were pleased with the meetings.
- Question for Tom; is there going to be a Capital Budget Cost Share. Tom W., technically yes – However, probably going to tap into that to cover salaries. Bill G., \$300,000 would really help landowners with RCPP in place. Wade C., if I am a landowner, do I have any hope of ever getting 4% Cost Share back. Tom W., we are really hoping to make Cost Share a priority. Bill G., when program came back there was only \$80,000 available. Tom W., one year we got money as late as February/March.
- Budget and Farm Bill discussion. Bill G., RCPP at \$681,000 this has been adjusted for contracts. Jim Z., how many more years will this cover? Bill G., Probably have funding for 1 more year. There may be a slim chance of addition funding. This really depends on the Farm Bill too. Terry D., Farm Bill should be done before mid-term. Bill G., there are groups hoping to run RCPP programs after the Farm Bill passes, if RCPP continues. Terry D., it is not currently named in the Farm Bill., however, could still be considered as part of the bill.
- Jim Z., thanks Bill for the IDNR report and asks for any further discussion.

NOTE: Since the meeting is moving quickly it is determined that the Council will go through the Agenda and then break for lunch.

Agenda Item:

Issues/Recommendations to the Illinois General Assembly: Group.

- Tom W., if we come up with new funding it would be nice to protect that funding. This can be done but it has to be put forward thoughtfully in process and language. If we go down that road we need to make a formal proposal. Terry D., short-term something like that may be the best opportunity to make sure our monies are there and available.
- Bill G., since our group is so small today, I am afraid that we really can't get very far addressing issues/recommendations to the General Assembly. Council members present are in agreement.
- Bill G., something that needs to be addressed is submission of the Annual Report. The need for bigger / better IFDC annual reports, was noted in one of the Summit breakout session, however, Bill feels that there is a need to go forward with the report for 2018, and submit it on time. This report is typically due 30 days after the close of the fiscal year. Tom W., would be leery of putting too much in the report at this time. Bill G., thinking this report should be light/concise, if all are in agreement he will go ahead with preparing this report. Tom W., the Summit was a special project, it could be noted in your annual report i.e. that a full Summit Report will be available on Oct 1. Also, there will be some things we can ask for in the Summit report. Items that came up in the Summit breakout sessions and which will be discussed in the upcoming meeting. Bill G., will prepare an Annual Report and send it to SIU for printing and mailing to Legislature.

Goals and Objectives for the Council for FY 19: Group.

- Summits: There is no need for a full Summit every year, but we could do some regional meetings, and next fiscal year invite some attendees. A full Summit as recommended every 3-5 years seems good.
- If we want to work on an annual plan we can do that, but we will need to go through the Strategic Plan that is developed after in the upcoming follow up meeting.

Agenda Item:

Letter of Support for multi-State training on Invasives: Bill Gradle discusses the letter as presented to the Council members for review. Time is given for members to review letter.

- Bill G., this is a letter in support of the RREA grant funding proposal. There is no monetary obligation on the part of the council; we would just be sending forward a letter of support to the USDA/NIFA grant program.

MOTION: Terry Davis makes Motion in support of Bill sending the letter of support forward on behalf of the Council with the caveat that the RREA share with the IFDC what they learn from this project. Noting that conveying the better use of social media will be helpful to all. Jim Z. suggests changing the word Extension to Outreach in the body of the letter. Wade Conn seconds Motion. Motion carries. Jim Z., if no further discussion Council will move to Other Business, if any.

Other Business:

- Question: What do we have left to do on the Forest Action Plan (FAP)? The regional office has accepted it and we are waiting until the data has been updated before it is re-submitted as the final FAP.
- Tom W., please put in the minutes that we need to check with Paul Deizman about the progress of the IL Forest portion/ Forest Products pamphlet. Also need to be sure that the Council has paid committed funds to project; money was set aside. Bill G., Paul requested initially funding and then requested funding again and then it still was not completed; without completion would money have been distributed? Tom W., I have not seen or heard anything about other states submitting their funding for the project.
- Jim Zaczek asks if there is any other business to discuss.
- Bill G., if the Council liked the ball caps we could consider getting more of those made. Tom W., thinks people like the caps and that it would be a good idea to have more made if they are needed.
- Jim Z., will the IFDC have a presence at the State Fair again this year. Yes, at the Conservation World tent.
- Reinee distributed copies of final drafts of the new signage that the Council helped pay for. Welcomes input from the Council.
- Jim Z, asks for any further discussion on other business before adjourning for lunch. No further discussion the Council is adjourned for lunch and will reconvene at the Hickory Smokehouse here in Springfield for lunch.

LUNCH 12:00 – 1:10 p.m. - Hickory Smokehouse, Springfield, IL. Lunch provided by the IFDC.

- Bill G., Thanks all members for their attendance. Since all Agenda items were concluded prior to lunch break; there is a call to adjourn the July meeting of the IFDC.

MOTION: Tom Wilson makes Motion to adjourn; seconded by Wade Conn. Motion carries.

- The July 12th meeting of the Illinois Forestry Development Council is adjourned at 1:15 p.m. Details of September meeting of the Council will be sent to members.