

## Illinois Forestry Development Council – Meeting Minutes November 8, 2018

**Location:** Touch of Nature Environmental Center – Friends Room – Makanda, IL

**Attendees:** Bill Gradle, Director (IFDC), Jim Zaczek, Chair (IFDC), Paul Deizman (IDNR), Elliot Lagacy (IDOA), Mike Brunk (Urban), Lydia Scott (Morton), Joseph FitzSimmons (IFA), Chris Whittom (IDNR), Benjamin Snyder (IL SAF), Tom Wilson (IDNR), Stan Curtis (Industry Rep), Wade Conn ((NRCS), Kim Watson (IL DCFO), Brendan Cain (USFS-Shawnee NF), Patti Cludray, Recorder (SIUC).

NOTE: Patti Cludray, Recorder had to leave room prior to meeting being called to order. Although there was no official recorder for that time items from that portion of the meeting (*italicized herein*) are included based on notes taken by Jim Zaczek and Bill Gradle and an attendance list that was provided to the recorder upon her return.

**Call to Order:** 10:15 a.m. – *The November 8, 2018 meeting of the IFDC was called to order and members were welcomed by IFDC Chair, Jim Zaczek. The meeting agenda and the minutes of the September 13, 2018 meeting of the IFDC were distributed to the committee members. Minutes were reviewed and discussed by committee members.*

- *Jim Zaczek asks for further discussion or if there are any additions or corrections to the September 13, 2018 meeting minutes. None are noted.*
- **MOTION:** *Motion was made and seconded to approve the September 2018 minutes as written; Motion Carries.*

### **AGENDA ITEM:**

**IFDC Action Plan Follow-up:** *Bill Gradle opens this discussion; Action Plan Items were discussed in the order outlined in the Agenda.*

- *Item 2 – Annual Report Distribution - Bill Gradle, presents an update on the Annual Report to the Council.*

NOTE: 10:30 Patti Cludray returns to IFDC meeting room– resumes duties as meeting recorder.

- Item 5 – Increase Communication – Was to be presented by Karla Gage, since Karla was not able to attend today's meeting, this Item will be tabled till the next meeting of the IFDC.
- Item 7 – Relationship Building – Was to be presented by Karla Gage, since Karla was not able to attend today's meeting, this Item will be tabled till the next meeting of the IFDC.
- Item 9 – Council Attendance Issues – Was to be presented by Ray Herman, since Ray was not able to attend today's meeting, this Item will be tabled till the next meeting of the IFDC.
- Item 16 – Increase IFDC Funding – Jim Zaczek leads this discussion. There is a little light at the end of the tunnel, we need to develop a better relationship with the Farm Bureau (FB). They may be willing to help us and we are in a position to help them by sharing data. Jim will work to cultivate this relationship on behalf of the IFDC and appreciates any suggestions/ideas.
- J FitzSimmons (IFA)– Council might want to focus on one issue and make an informative appeal to the FB on that issue. Council should think of 2 -3 individuals who would commit to writing 2 -3 articles to be included in FB publications.
- Council members agree that would be a good idea and discuss possibilities for articles that could be written, i.e. Utility Tree Trimming

- Jim will pursue these ideas and put together some information that he can present to the FB. Request the Council members to send him ideas/information and he will incorporate that into an appeal to the FB.
- Tom W.- If the Council is considering asking for an increase in State funding the IFDC should discuss and make a plan for what will be done with any increase in funding. Without a well thought out plan any request will not fly. This plan should include a justification for the increase in funding as well.
  - ❖ Jim to Tom – Do you possibly have an example of what this justification should look like.
  - ❖ Paul D. – The fact that we were discussing many funding issues in lots of areas of need at the Summit could be good material for a justification.
  - ❖ Jim Z. – the DNR’s need for District Foresters is an example of a serious need for funding. Tom W., - Gaging on past interest it appears that the FB would be supportive. Funding issues have had an impact on their members across the State.
  - ❖ Bill G., - recommends not asking for a State increase at this time; a more serious matter to take to the State is the re-design of Workmen’s Comp (WC) here in Illinois. Stan Curtis has good information on why the current WC program here in IL is devastating. Bill G., - requests that Stan please provide him with a brief summary; he believes that Sen. Barickman is interested in this issue. Stan C., - indicates that an article he prepared on these issues was published in the last Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) newsletter, he will be happy to provide information to Bill. Tom W., -- The need for a re-design of IL WC is an ongoing issue and is one that we could get support for across the State. Years ago there was a WC reform package, but it was ineffective and did not help our industries. Kim W., - notes that she works with business owners every day and WC insurance is one of their main problems/issues/concerns.

**AGENDA ITEM:**

**“Under the Canopy” Reprint Update:** Mike Brunk opens the discussion on this agenda item and provides the Council with an overview.

- We are looking to do a 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of this publication. When the 1<sup>st</sup> edition was printed we began with a distribution of 100,000 copies across the state with good reviews. A 2<sup>nd</sup> edition was then prepared some years later, with updates. Initially, the idea of this publication was to address common questions that Foresters are asked; this publication goes over questions such as tree planning/ species selection/ planting and other factors in an easy to understand visual format which is and has been quite popular. This publication was originally developed with sponsor support. Sponsors will be recognized as always in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, IFDC among others (USDA, USFS) have sponsored the publication in the past. Looking at a printing of 500,000 copies plus costs for shipping. Distribution will be to over 500 different agencies; such as 3-4 cases to Tree City USA, copies going to all Soil and Water districts, District Foresters offices, Regional Planning and Conservation offices, Morton Arboretum, Illinois Arborists, etc.
- Coming before the Council today requesting a \$10,000 sponsorship from IFDC for a number of updates and revisions to the publication (i.e. text updates, changes to the poster side, tree table update with new drawings of trees made from photos. There is a good response to this publication and continuing requests. Also, the green light has just been given to go forward with the final changes; so have been working on the spreadsheets and are hoping to have a final draft ready for printing by the end of the year. Council discussion continues.
  - ❖ Tom W. – would Council funds be spent before the end of the fiscal year? Mike B., - yes. Tom W., if the Council approves this request, we must be provided with a request for reimbursement no later than early June. Mike B., USDA is asking for completion of reimbursement by mid-June; there will not be an issue completing this goal.
  - ❖ Mike B., we want to fast-track this project; the IFDC played a big part in previous editions of this publication and would ask for the Council’s continued support. We will not be cold-

shipping the publication; calls will be made to agencies to be sure that they are interested in receiving the publication. Elliot L, -- Soil and Water dist meeting is in December would be a good opportunity to see how many of the publication they will need. Mike B., -- this publication is applicable everywhere in IL and is the result of a 5 year endeavor. Many experts came together to prepare the initial publication, and this was a huge task completing something that everyone agrees upon. Elliot L. – when was the 1<sup>st</sup> edition published? Mike B., 2007 – prior to this publication a Tree Growing Guide was developed for central, southern and northern Illinois.

- ❖ Tom W., to Mike – How many sponsorships are you looking for; how much money is needed? Mike B. – The cost of the printing and shipping will be \$200,000; monies have already been expended on updates, so all sponsorships we can get are appreciated. Mike thanks the Council for their consideration of this request.

- **MOTION:** Tom Wilson makes a Motion in support of the IFDC providing a sponsorship in the amount of \$10,000 for the update/printing of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the “Under the Canopy” publication. This motion is seconded by Lydia Scott. Jim Z. calls for further discussion; there is none. Motion Carries.

#### **AGENDA ITEM:**

**IDNR Report:** Tom Wilson offers update to the Council. Things have been pretty quiet in Springfield. With the change of Administration in January, it is anticipated there will be a new Director but no large changes to DNR are anticipated. Tom notes to the Council that he is curious to see what happens, and hopes there are no decreases in funding.

- Stan C., to Tom – how quickly do you think changes will take place. Tom W., probably after the first couple of months that the new administration is in place. The big questions will come later on with the budget still on general revenue and still tight. We will be working with the legislature to bring on additional reviews; something we will be looking at, for example, i.e. 4% fee, etc. This is the time to discuss big concepts looking at the big picture. Joe F. – this may be a good time to think about coordination of 4% tax in relation to WC reforms. More revenue from the 4% tax would be generated if WC revisions were in place, helping IL Forestry enterprises. Tom W., this sounds like a good idea for discussion.
- Tom W. – State Nurseries
  - ❖ Would like to have a Nursery website; would like to have the capability for online ordering and acceptance of payment. An outside agency may be brought in to assist with this.
  - ❖ Hoping for continued growth, there is a 5 year plan to be self-sustaining.
  - ❖ Working with milk-weeds.
  - ❖ We are in danger of losing some of our old funding next spring/summer, so we will be exploring corrections to legislation, that was made in error, wherein allowance was not made for the expenditure of old monies. The Legislators will be going into special session and this should be fixed then.
  - ❖ Lydia to Tom – do you have th number of the additional plots that you will be working with the Urban FIA. Tom W., -- Not a solid number, but is about 200 plots.
- It is announced that Tom will be retiring from his State Forester position after 37 years with the IDNR. Advertisement for a full-time State Forester will be coming soon, looking to fill ASAP. Tom will be returning however to assist with fire training. Other positions the IDNR will be looking to fill will be for a Forest Health professional, looking a lot at populations. Districts will be shifted and realigned.
- Jim Z., extends the IFDC’s thanks to Tom Wilson for his service to the Council and the State of Illinois.
- Stan C. to Tom W. – Regarding the IDNR Forest Health professional position, will this be a part or full time position? Tom W., -- they are advertising for a part-time position but the hope is that it will transition to a full-time position.

- Jim Z., thanks Tom for the IDNR report, calls for any further discussion of IDNR matters or other business.

### **Agenda Item:**

#### **Other Business**

- Lydia S., acknowledges she could not be at the September 2018 meeting of the Council, however, Tricia did relay the Council's request for more information on various environmental topics including forest disease issues and health updates for Illinois forests, etc.. She has been working on the following and will be happy to answer questions the Council may have.
  - ❖ Contacted Jody Shemp regarding Oak Ecosystem Restoration and he provided a memo with information which Lydia will share with the Council.
  - ❖ Memo is being prepared for presentation to the Legislature in support of an Invasive Species Council
  - ❖ Forest Health updates are being compiled and these can be sent to Council members electronically.
- Lydia asks if Council members have any questions for her regarding these or other issues opens discussion to Council.
  - ❖ Brendan C., notes Oak wilt is present in Oak Wood bottoms and Oak decline is throughout the Shawnee. Bringing to attention the fact that in 10 – 15 years Ash will no longer be a significant part of the Forest. Looking to the Farm Bureau for designation as an insect and disease area in the Farm Bill. Combating these issues on the Shawnee is going to take a coordinated effort. Lydia S., -- There is an ongoing Ash Study in place, citizen science oriented; she will let Brendan know if that study moves forward.
  - ❖ Stan C., -- has a forest health question for Lydia, what do we know about Asian Jump worms: landowners have seen them on So. IL properties. Lydia – findings are that they are not as devastating as borers, however, most damaging to herbaceous plants. Stan – are there re-gen problems. Yes, heard of this recently, these insects are much more active in the top 4 – 6 inches of soil, can bring a report to the Council on these worms if wanted.
  - ❖ Lydia –notes she would like to have a list of the new Illinois Legislature if possible and other key positions in the new Administration.

#### **Other Business**

- Chris Whittom brings a change to the rules regarding travel reimbursement to the Council's attention. He is mentioning this because, the last time he tried to process an IFDC member's travel reimbursement through the system it was kicked back. Travel is at .55 per mile for use of personal vehicle. You must get a quote for a car rental and use a rental if it would be cheaper than POV reimbursement. Suggestions of having a 3<sup>rd</sup> party cover mileage is not a good idea. Council members discuss the mileage issue with concern that requiring use of a rental instead of the members POV could keep members from attending meetings. Kim W., -- notes that for some there are no rental agencies close by, which may be a problem.
- Tom Wilson reminds members that the legal office still does not have sexual harassment training certificates from some IFDC members. Please send your certificates of completion to [Rhonda.brown@ill.gov](mailto:Rhonda.brown@ill.gov). These may be scanned and emailed.
- Jim Z., Chair, asks if there is are any Other Business items to discuss, none noted. The meeting is adjourned for lunch. Council is reminded that after lunch Dr. Charles Ruffner from So IL University will be guiding a tour of research plots here at the Touch of Nature Environmental Center. Additionally Ben S., reminds members that the Society of American Foresters meeting will begin at 1:30 at Giant City Lodge, with dinner at 6:00 p.m. this evening.

LUNCH: 11:45—12:35 17<sup>th</sup> Street BBQ is provided by the IFDC.

12: 40 The November meeting of the IFDC is called to order, Jim Z., asks if there is any further business or discussion.

- Council is reminded that the finalization of the Illinois Forest Action Plan is still needed once the new data is compiled. Council should consider including a funding provision this FY or early next for the completion and submission of this document; discussion of this should be included as an Agenda item for the next meeting of the IFDC.
- Wade C., what is the next IDNR leadership plan? Tom, this has not been officially announced yet, the union will give its official recommendation. Paperwork has been started, so replacement will be announced soon.
- Jim Z., reminds Council members that beginning January 2019, the bi-monthly meetings of the Illinois Forestry Development Council will move to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Jim thanks the Council for their attendance and calls for a Motion to Adjourn.

**MOTION:** Stan Curtis makes Motion to adjourn; seconded by Joe FitzSimmons. Motion carries.  
The November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Illinois Forestry Development Council is adjourned at 12:50 p.m.  
The next meeting of the IFDC will be Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, in Champaign, Illinois.