

Illinois Forestry Development Council – Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2020

Location: 4-H Conference Room, John R Block Building, Springfield, IL

Attendees: Eric Holzmueller (Director-IFDC), Dave Gillespie (SAF), Elliot Lagacy (IDOA), Michael Brunk (IDNR), Steve Felt ((IL Tree Farms), Paul Deizman (IDNR), Lauren Lurkins (IL Farm Bureau), Dale Shumaker (AISWCD), Stan Curtis (IL Forest Industry), Joel Pisoni (Guest), Jenny Lesko (SAF), Roy Bailey (IL Forestry Association), Mike McMahan (Illinois Forestry Association), Lydia Scott (Environment), Wade Conn (NRCS); By phone: Kim Watson (ILDOC), Logan William (IL Finance Authority), Rob Sproule (IAA), Lisa Helmig (US Forest Service), and Nicholas Mott (Representative Windhorst Rep)

Call to Order: 10:10 a.m. – Eric Holzmueller, IFDC Director welcomed members, and guests.

AGENDA ITEM: Minutes of the January 8, 2020– Meeting Agenda, the Lunch Pre-Order Menu and Minutes of January 8, 2020 meeting of the IFDC were presented to members by Eric Holzmueller

- Council is given time to review the minutes.
- **MOTION:** Wade Conn makes a motion to approve minutes as written; motion is seconded by Dale Schumaker; Eric H. calls for any further discussion.
 - Motion is voted on and carries.
- End of report.

AGENDA ITEM: Executive Director Report. Eric Holzmueller, IFDC Director provides this report

- Discussion of budget so far there has been \$4,487 spent on Personnel, \$458 spent on Travel, \$615 on meeting expenses, and \$556 for overhead for a total of \$6,116. It appears there will be about \$10,000 money left from the \$60,381 that was allocated to SIU to run the Council to use for other Council expenses.
- End of report.

AGENDA ITEM: IFDC Member Update: Eric Holzmueller, IFDC Director opens this discussion.

- There are still a few vacancies on the Council. Members discuss the vacancies and possible candidates.
- It is noted that new IFDC appointees have not received their official notice of appointment.
- Continue to reach out to some individuals who are listed on Council but not been attending – Eric H. contacted Ken Konsis and verified he is not interested in serving on Council.
- Stan C. introduced Joel P. Stan C. is stepping away from Council at the end of the year and brought Joel P along as a possible replacement for industry representative.

- Discussed Steve Graves resume as a Council Representative for private landowners. Paul D. made a motion to strongly endorse Steve Graves as a Council Rep. Lydia S. seconds. No further discussion.
 - Motion is voted on and carries.
- End of report.

AGENDA ITEM: Legislative Issues Update: Discussion is open to Group.

- Paul D. discusses pesticide legislation. IDNR needs to do a better job of posting natural areas. Pesticide penalties are being updated – will likely increase. There will also be some more restrictions on Dicamba, push to do a better job of mapping sprayed areas so others aware.
- Paul D. also discussed IL timber licensing act. Working with law enforcement and there are a lot of ideas that need to be waded through. Stan C. requests industry representation at next meeting between IDNR and law enforcement.
- End of report.

AGENDA ITEM: Urban Committee and IL DNR Urban and Community Forestry Report:

Mike Brunk leads discussion.

- In the process of approving 160 applications for Tree City USA.
- Working on increasing federal funding to IL for Urban Forestry to be used for getting communities involved with urban forestry.
- Working with Arbor Day Foundation to provide training areas across the state.
- Developing a urban forestry strike team. It is a relatively new program that is primarily involved with hazard tree abatement and tree salvage/preservation, example project would be working with areas affected by EAB. More volunteers are needed.
- End of report.

AGENDA ITEM: Forest Stewardship Program and Forest Legacy Report: No Forest Legacy report

AGENDA ITEM: IL DNR Report: Paul Deizman leads discussion.

- Paul Deizman is new State Forester, Council congratulates Paul D.
- Still working on two positions in HR, Forest Health and Fire Program Manager
- Hoping to also hire Regional Foresters and replacement for Jenny Lesko former district in Fairfield.
- Landscape Scale Restoration Grants funding announced. Morton Arboretum project funded. Let the Sun Shine In project will likely not be fully funded, perhaps partially.
- IDNR will sell trees to IDOT to plant in areas that need reforested and on marginal lands. Also working together on a living snow fence – project in early stages.
- Discussion on use of 4% funds. IDNR primarily uses it to cover Division of Forestry salaries. There is a request to use some of the money for cost share. Ideally it would be a consistent amount that gradually increases from year to year. Will know more when budget is approved this summer.
- End of report.

Break for lunch

AGENDA ITEM: Small Grant Program review of proposals: Eric leads this discussion.

- Seven recipients submitted progress reports and things are on schedule for all projects
- Discussion on announcing new round of grants. Plan is to announce now, review in July. Projects would be approved pending on availability of state funding.
- Two additional proposals were discussed for funding, one from SIU Touch of Nature and the other from IFA. Both projects took place at SIU Touch of Nature and were similar in nature (invasive species control). Discussion whether both should be funded because they were similar, but both funded based on they were stand-alone projects with distinct objectives
- **MOTION:** Roy B. makes a motion to approve both proposals Dave G. 2nd.
 - Motion is voted on and carries
 - Eric will contact recipients. End of report.

AGENDA ITEM: Other business: Group leads discussion.

- IL SAP report in draft format – final coming in a few months.
- Wood utilization report available in electronic format.
- Lydia S. reported that Let the Sun Shine In project working with individuals from Indiana as a model to educate landowners and stakeholders
- Dale S. asked about the STAR proposal. Steve S. said he would follow up and report back.
- IL Invasive Species Council still working on reinstatement.

Next meeting will be in Harrisburg, IL on May 13 in the Shawnee National Forest office.

Meeting is adjourned at 2:00.