

## Illinois Forestry Development Council – Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2022

**Location:** Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:** Eric Holzmüller (IFDC Director), Jay Hayek, (U of I, IFDC Chair), Dale Schumaker (AISWC), T.J. Benson (Wildlife Society), Lydia Scott (Environmental), Scott Swisher (Forest Industry), Lorrie Karcher (IL Finance Authority), Tom Walsh (IFA), Steve Graves (Private Timber Grower), Tricia Bethke (IFA), Kim Watson (IL DCEO, David Gillespie (IFA), Casey Calvert (Walnut Council), Mike Brunk (IL DNR), Tom Gargrave (IL DNR), Jenny Lesko (SAF), Wade Conn, and Brad Petersburg (Guest)

**Call to Order:** 9:05 a.m. – Jay Hayek - IFDC Chair welcomed members and guests with introductions

- Introduced Brad Petersburg- private landowner in northwestern IL who is interested in IFDC activities and requested to attend meeting today as a guest.
- Mike Brunk – Ethics training is now available, please complete by the end of September

### **AGENDA ITEM: Minutes of the July 13, 2022 review.**

Meeting Agenda and Minutes of July 13 meeting of the IFDC were sent by email to members by Director, Eric Holzmüller.

- Council members were given time for review and asked if any errors or omissions were noted in the minutes as distributed. Typo was noted and corrected.
- MOTION to accept by Lydia S., SECOND by Tom W. Motion PASSES unanimously.

### **AGENDA ITEM: Executive Director Report**

Eric H. presents this report.

- Ranking for FY23 projects will be discussed later in agenda
- Agreement between IDNR and SIU finalized (funds IFDC council for next three years)
- IFDC members were sent an electronic copy of FY report – will print off and send out to General Assembly
- Face to face opportunities returning -
  - Gave a forest management talk to at National Walnut Council meeting in July
  - Giving a forestry talk next week to new IL forest landowners
  - Hosting regional forestry FFA event this Friday and state event on 9/24
- Last meeting we made a motion to support changes to invasive species list. I reached out to Director Callahan at DNR to let her know that the Council supports the change but wanted to get her thoughts on such letter but have not heard back.
- Last but not least remember to take your ethics training
- Eric asks for any questions, none noted

### **AGENDA ITEM: Legislative Update:**

Eric H. leads discussion.

- TBLA update – Eric reached out to Natalie F. in August. She said they were continuing to work internally and hoped to call a stakeholder meeting towards the end of September. I know some of the DNR personal was on a fire detail which might explain some of the delay.
- Brad P. had a question about use of the 4% funds
- Tom G. Most of the funds are used to support Division of Forestry staff, with exception of funds that go to IFDC ~\$118,500. Acknowledges that in the past some of the funds did go to cost share however budget reductions over the past 10-15 years have made this difficult. Hopes to return some monies to cost share program in the future.
- Lydia S. reports that the Inflation Reduction Act will have an impact across IL but details are still needed on how it will be spent.
- Eric H. – The NRCS announced that the southernmost counties in IL (Alexander, Hardin, Johnson, Pope, and Union) received cost share support to restore oak ecosystems through RCPP
- Lydia S. – Northeastern IL also received an RCPP
- Kim W. – the Back to Business grant program will be relaunched soon.

### **AGENDA ITEM: Urban Committee Report**

- No report

### **AGENDA ITEM: Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Report.**

Mike B. reported on Urban Forestry activities

- Will participate in a bipartisan infrastructure funding forest action plan; Mason State Nursery is submitting a separate proposal
- DNR core grant was approved by USFS with funding for two years and will involve multiple partners including expanding into the southern Illinois region with a new partnership with SIU
- Working with Trees Forever on risk assessments with the Urban Forestry Strike Team
- IAA is working on creating recruiting videos to highlight the profession
- Tree City USA Applications opened up 9/13/22

Tom G. reported on other DNR activities

- District forester interviews on 9/15/22
- Have permission to move forward on 10 positions – mostly field operations, also pushing for wood utilization position
- 20 individuals from DNR including some district foresters went on fire details in CA and TX but are now back – these activities help build relationships with other state partners
- Fire academy on October 19 at JA Logan Community College
- Attended NASF meeting to discuss S&P Forestry including rules for new funds
  - Doesn't appear that they can be used for cost share

### **AGENDA ITEM: New / Old Business**

- Small projects – Project proposals were ranked by Council members prior to meeting. Eric H. tallied rankings and presented results to Council. Some discussion of rankings, but no objections to overall methodology or results.
  - MOTION to fully fund top five projects and partially fund sixth, but they must maintain original deliverables made by Wade C., SECOND by Tom G. Motion PASSES unanimously.
  - Eric H. will notify all groups/individuals who submitted a proposal of Council decision
- Tom G. requested a short summary of cost share priorities by Council members – please respond via email.
- Scott S. reported lumber prices appear to be softening according to the Hardwood Market Report
- Dale S. – there will be a Conservation Day on October 6 at the Pulaski Outdoor Classroom Project that IFDC funded
- Tom W. IFA report
  - Completed 8 training sessions across IL
  - Annual conference in Galena, IL (9/16 to 9/17)
  - Participating in Boy Scout Fall Family Camp 2022 at Camp Lowden
  - Looking forward to working with Walnut Council and Tree Farm on future events
- Tricia B. – IFA is also working with DNR to set up seed collections sites across IL in a push to get more seed to the state nursery
- Casey C. – Walnut Council hosted national meeting in Carbondale, IL in July and had 120 attendees
- Jenny L. – SAF in in the process of incorporating
- TJ B. – still awaiting to see if Senate approves Recovery of Americas Wildlife Act
- Tom G. – requested if district foresters could attend November meeting if available – no objections by Council members

### **AGENDA ITEM: Next meeting**

November 9, 2022 – will be a virtual meeting

### **MOTION to ADJOURN: Motion carries.**

The September 14, 2022 virtual meeting of the Illinois Forestry Development Council is adjourned.