

## Illinois Forestry Development Council – Meeting Minutes

July 13, 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), Nicholas Mott (Windhorst IL House Rep), Scott Swisher (Forest Industry), Lorrie Karcher (IL Finance Authority), Lauren Lurkins (IL Farm Bureau), Tom Walsh (IFA), Steve Graves (Private Timber Grower), Tricia Bethke (IFA), Robin Hanna (IL Institute Rural Affairs), David Gillespie (IFA), Casey Calvert (Walnut Council), Mike Brunk (IL DNR), Jenny Lesko (SAF), Rob Sproule (Urban), Scott Schirmer (IL Department of Ag), and Matt Pustejovsky (IL Tree Farm)

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

### **AGENDA ITEM: Minutes of the May 11, 2022 review.**

Meeting Agenda and Minutes of March 9, 2022 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 Robin Hannah, SECOND by Dave Gillespie. Motion PASSES unanimously.

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

Eric H. presents this report.

- All of the FY22 projects have ended, most of them were completed. I will be highlighting these projects in our upcoming annual report, but just a reminder about some of the work that was done:
  - AISWCD went statewide in their youth-oriented tree project plantings
  - IFA completed 1 of 2 projects –
  - Chris Benda held his NA training workshops and updated big tree registry
  - River to River CMA – developed a membership management database and produced invasive species control videos
  - SIPBA developed a new website
  - KCB established an urban area tree planting / education area
  - SIU/Pease produced a IL Forest Action Story Map that is incorporating feedback from DNR and should be available to public soon.
- Eric asks for any questions, none noted

### **AGENDA ITEM: IFDC Member Update**

No new members to introduce

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

Eric H. leads discussion.

- TBLA update – After last Council meeting Natalie Finnie was contacted to discuss meeting with stakeholders. She said Senator Murphy is not going to be involved in negotiations at this point but has started an internal conversation with DNR and the new Acting Director of the Division, Tom Gargrave. She is planning on calling a stakeholder meeting in the next few weeks.
- TJ B. – Recovery of Americas Wildlife Act has passed US House and needs approval from Senate.
- Scott Sw. – Mentioned that Caterpillar headquarters are moving to Texas. Noted that Illinois has double the regulations compared to US average which makes it difficult for large and small businesses.
- Lydia S. – The Illinois Invasive Species Council wants to add the Callery (Bradford) pear tree to the IL invasive species list. Currently, to do so requires approval from the IL General Assembly/Governor. The IL ISC wants to make this process easier by switching it to administrative rule.
  - MOTION to have IFDC write a letter of support to change the process of adding an invasive species to the invasive species list to administrative rule by Lydia Scott, SECOND by Steve Graves.
    - Discussion notes that IFDC Director will ask DNR their thoughts on the matter to see if they would welcome such a letter.
    - IFDC would need to work with ISC to ensure correct verbiage is used that will help ISC obtain desired action.
  - Motion PASSES unanimously.

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

Rob S. presents this report to the Council

- The Urban Committee last met on April 19<sup>th</sup>. A summer meeting is scheduled for August.
  - Working on urban forestry updates to IL Forest Action Plan
  - Continue to identify communities to bring on board to Tree City USA program

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

Mike B. and Jenny L. present this report to the Council.

- Forestry secured some federal infrastructure funding, however spending is on hold until an agreement can be made with USFS on how to best use those funds.
- INHS field foresters have started their positions across the state – are working with district foresters to assist them with their duties.
- Fire program will likely head out west towards end of July / beginning of August.
- Advertisement for the district forester position (Fairfield) has closed and is now at CMS.
- Working with SIU to hire an urban forester to establish a presence and build more capacity in the downstate area.
- Working with Morton Arboretum to assist implementation of a large, federal grant to improve urban forestry in Chicago.
- Working with additional partners to develop EAB protocols that can be used at a national level.

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

- Small projects – Eric H. – For FY23 the Council received 10 proposals from 10 different individuals/agencies requesting a total amount of \$78,346. We have AON project slated for next year so will have \$45,000 to devote to these submitted projects.
  - Council members were given a copy of the projects via email prior to meeting
  - Given we have more money requested that is allocated to projects, members reviewed award criteria process.
  - MOTION to have Hayek/Holzmueller draft a ranking document for Council members to review. Once approved, ranking document will be sent out, along with proposals, to rank FY23 projects. SECOND by Robin Hanna.
    - Further discussion noted these projects will be reviewed prior to September meeting.
    - This aligns with project approval from previous years as it is typically the time when the Council budget is officially approved.
  - Motion PASSES unanimously.
- Matt P. – IL Tree Farm Committee has selected the Tree Farmer of the Year who will be recognized at the State Fair in August and host a field day later this fall.
- Casey C. – Walnut Council is hosting their national annual meeting from 7/24 to 7/27 in Carbondale, Illinois. The event is open to anyone who would like to register and attend.
- Tom W. – IFA annual meeting – September 16 & 17, Chestnut Mountain Ski Resort, Elizabeth, IL. IFA is also working on hosting a joint meeting with other IL forestry focused organizations (Tree Farm and Walnut Council) sometime next spring.
- Tricia B. – IFA has hosted three EAB trainings in southern Illinois and one more is scheduled.
- Scott Sc. – Spongy (gypsy) moth applications (insecticide and mating disruptions) are complete in northern Illinois. Species continues to slowly move south. Continuing to deal with
- Group – discussion on reports of damage to trees from pesticides, both from landowners adjacent to farms as well as producers who apply on their own farms. This issue appears to be contributing to oak decline along with pests, weather, and tree age. No simple solution to resolve decline issue is appears to be available at this time.
- Joel P. – Stumpage prices are steady, but higher than they have been compared to last few years. Fuel prices are reducing distance logs are being transported before they are processed.
- Lorrie K. – IL Finance Authority has applied for USDA funding and is looking for partners, such as IFDC, to distribute funds if awarded.

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

September 14, 2022 – will be a virtual meeting

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

The July 13, 2022 virtual meeting of the Illinois Forestry Development Council is adjourned.