

## Illinois Forestry Development Council – Meeting Minutes

November 9, 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), Lorrie Karcher (IL Finance Authority), Steve Graves (Private Timber Grower), Tricia Bethke (IFA), David Gillespie (IFA), Casey Calvert (Walnut Council), Tom Gargrave (IL DNR), Nicholas Mott (Windhorst proxy), Robin Hanna (IL Institute for Rural Affairs), and Scott Schirmer (IL Department of Ag)

**Call to Order:** 9:02 a.m. – Jay Hayek - IFDC Chair welcomed members and noted there were no guests or new members in attendance today.

### **AGENDA ITEM: Review of the previous meeting minutes**

Meeting Agenda and Minutes of September 14, 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 Dale S., SECOND by Casey C. Motion PASSES unanimously.

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

Eric H. presents this report.

- Contacted the FY23 small project recipients and they all agreed to get started including Chicago Region Trees Initiative who agreed to proceed with their project at a lower funded amount while maintaining all of the original proposed project deliverables.
- Spoke with representative from Director Callahan's office and he said while they appreciated the input they do not need a letter of support for changes to adding species to Invasive species list as it is a DNR initiative at this time.
- In September, SIU hosted the State FFA Forestry contest. The winning school from Olney, IL went onto the National contest where they finished 4th and had an individual that finished 7<sup>th</sup>.
- SIU Forestry hosted a conclave in October - historically an annual event but severely disrupted over the past few years because of covid - SIU finished second.
- Remember to take your ethics training.
- Eric asks for any questions, none noted.

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

Eric H. leads discussion.

- TBLA update – Now working with Dan Lewis (Legislative Liaison at IDNR) as Natalie Finnie has recused herself due to a potential conflict of interest. According to Dan, IDNR's Forestry Division and Office of Law Enforcement have had several meetings with the Office of Legal Counsel and the Office of Legislation in recent weeks and

months to discuss our recommended updates/changes to the statute. They will need several more meetings to finalize their proposal, but are making progress. He also mentioned that they have asked the Governor's office for their approval to carry TBLA legislation but does not expect to hear back on that until after the upcoming November veto session, likely in December or early January.

- Tom G. – Followed up on Eric H. comments – the Division has met about 3 times. Meetings were short and discussed several issues, mostly pertaining to clarifying the legal language so that they would be able to enforce the act better. Once they have a usable product, they will present it to the Council with the goal of getting it ready for the spring so that it is not rushed. They are also looking into making changes in the Transportation Act and to give district foresters more authority to monitor logging sites.
- Scott Schirmer – Firewood rules are under review. Also mentioned that the Department of Ag checks that logs are pest free but does not verify if they were purchased by a licensed timber buyer. Perhaps this is an opportunity to work with Division.
  
- **AGENDA ITEM: Urban Committee Report**
  - No report

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

Tom G. reported on other DNR activities

- Introduced the USDA Emergency Forest Restoration Program which provides payments to landowners following natural disasters.
- Interviewing 2 Natural History Survey Foresters – goal is to have 6 total.
- Looking to hire 3 positions in Fire with Federal funds to help local fire departments acquire more equipment.
- Dr. Miller continues his forest health efforts for the State. Notably he has observed some oak decline in various flyovers across IL and is working on pinpointing a cause to the elusive problem.
- The Nursery has a new hire that will start soon and has secured Federal funding of \$160,000 for the next 3 years to help with operations. There is a preliminary investigation to restart the Union County Nursery, including looking at possible alternative uses.
- Continue to request permission for new positions from DNR, including 1 District Forester (Wayne County), 2 Regional Foresters, Wood Utilization Forester, 2 administrative aides, and 1 State Forester.

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

- Tricia B. – IFA has a new President, Paul Deizman. They are thankful for the IFDC funding to use for landowner education. Additional initiatives for next year include working on a seed collection exchange and continuing EAB education.
- Lydia S. – The Invasive Specie Council meeting is on 12/6 in Springfield, IL.

- Casey C. – Walnut Council upcoming meeting in Springfield. Discussing the challenge of managing properties that are donated. Planning on a spring field day with partners. Recently visited the Krotz farm in IA to look at walnut planted by direct seeding.
- Robin H. – Will retire on January 1, 2023 and is looking for a replacement to represent on the Council.
- Steve G. – The Illinois Audubon Society is planning a tree planting event on Plum Island, a 52 acre island near Starved Rock State Park. Island was acquired by IAS in 2004.
- Scott Schirmer – The spotted lantern fly has been positively identified in IN and headed towards IL. Lots of species are hosts but can prefers (and can kill) grapevine and tree of heaven. Mostly a nuisance on other hosts and can create a mess in outdoor spaces. Possibly a trade issue as it could affect movement of logs and nursery stock. Trying to engage wine growers in southern IL to decide level of regulation (if any).
- Tricia B. – mentioned use of citizen groups to survey potential hosts and map susceptible areas.

**AGENDA ITEM: Next meeting**

January 11, 2023 – will be a virtual meeting

**MOTION to ADJOURN:** Motion carries.

The November 9, 2022 virtual meeting of the Illinois Forestry Development Council is adjourned.