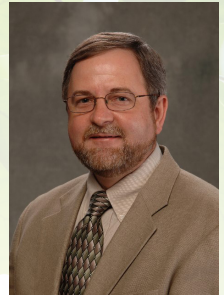




## ***Illinois Forestry Development Council***

The Council shall study and evaluate the forest resources and the forest industries of Illinois.



### **Illinois Forestry Development Council: Activities for 2014-2015**

#### **Inside This Addition**

Fiscal Year 2014 & 2015  
Reports

Illinois forests are significant contributors to the economic and well-being of Illinois citizens and to the ecological vitality of all creatures that inhabit our state. It is important that our Illinois forests are well understood and sustainably managed to ensure their health and importance into the future.

Toward this end, the Illinois Forestry Development Council (IFDC) was created in 1983 with the passage of the Illinois Forestry Development Act (525 ILCS 15) to study and evaluate the nature and extent of the state's forest resources and forest industry, and to provide guidance for sustainability of our forest resources. There are 29 members of the council that are representative of woodland owners, farmers, state and federal land management agencies, forest industries, environmental concerns, the General Assembly and the Governor's office and others. The IFDC serves to nurture and help determine and develop economic and management opportunities for forest owners and rural and urban communities, facilitate promotion of soil, water, and wildlife enhancement actions through management plans, determine the success of incentives necessary to stimulate development of forest resources, and other actions to advance forest stewardship and development in Illinois.

I would like to formally welcome to the Council our new official Director, Bill Gradle. Bill has had a distinguished career in forestry and natural resources and the council is fortunate to have him as Director. Bill will be leading actions of the IFDC including providing administrative support to the Council, solicit and build statewide support for IFDC's short- and long-term strategic goals and recommendations, authoring newsletters and reports on council activities, and other council initiatives. The following is a report on council activities and recommendations for future actions.

Sincerely,

Jim Zaczek

Chair, Illinois Forestry Development Council  
Chair and Professor of Forest Ecology, Department of Forestry, Southern  
Illinois University

IFDC web site

[ifdc.nres.illinois.edu/](http://ifdc.nres.illinois.edu/)

## Illinois Forestry Development Council Biennial Report – FY2014/2015

*Note: This report will cover the last two fiscal years and will return to a single reporting year for FY2016.*

During the fiscal years 2013 and 2014, the Council had been involved in a number of statewide forestry issues that affect the delivery of forestry technical assistance and financial technical assistance to private forest landowners and municipal/urban forestry interests and communities.

Funding was restored to the Council in FY2014 to provide for an Executive Director, administrative support, and grant funding.

Grants that were approved and completed for funding in FY2014 were as follows:

<b>Title/ Purpose</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1. Managing Your Backyard Forest Workshop	Macon Co. SWCD	\$2,000.00
2. "We Planted All These Trees, "Now What?"	Illinois Forestry Publication Assoc.	\$3325.00
3. Open Oak Woodland and Barrens Workshop Joint Venture	Central Hardwoods	\$2524.95
4. "Selling Timber" Publication	Assoc. of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts	\$2,150.00
5. Safety In Forestry Workshop	Illinois Walnut Council	\$2,200.00
6. Emerald Ash Borer Kiosk/Smokey the Bear 70th Year Carving	IFDC/IDNR	\$6,000.00

The Council also directed DNR to utilize \$10,000 of Council funding to protect the infrastructure of the Union County State Tree Nursery.



Grants that have been approved for the FY2015 cycle are as follows:

<b>Title/Purpose</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1. Forest Composition Changes Research/ Education	Southern Illinois University@Trail of Tears St. Forest	\$3,300.00
2. "Under the Canopy" Publication	City of Urbana	\$5,000.00
3. Southern IL Woodland Mgmt. Workshop	Giant City St. Park/ Trail of Tears St. Forest	\$1,750.00
4. Hardwood Lumber Workshop	Illinois Extension Service	\$1,155.00
5. "Profiles in Forestry" Outreach	Illinois Forestry Association	\$5,000.00
6. Across the Miles software Outreach, web-based	Illinois Forestry Association	\$948.00
7. IL Invasive Species Awareness Conference Workshop and Outreach	Morton Arboretum	\$3,900.00
8. Thousand Cankers Disease Education Material Publication	Morton Arboretum	\$5,000.00
9. Shrub Invasion and Oak Establishment in IL Forests Publication	IL Natural History Survey	\$4991.00
10. Urban Forestry Activities Planning for Summit, Prof. Development	IFDC Urban Committee	\$4500.00
11. "IL Stop the Spread" Publication	Shawnee RC&D	\$1750.00
12. 63 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Midwestern Forester's Conclave	SIU Forestry Club	\$1550.00
13. FDA Outreach E-newsletter	IL Forestry Association	\$2830.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$41,674</b>



All of these current year projects are progressing well as indicated in their quarterly reports.

Council initiatives during the past two years include the following:

- Encouraged the Director of IDNR to select a qualified individual with a forestry degree and a working knowledge of Illinois forestry issue to fill the State Forester position when it became vacant in December 2013. Director Miller selected Tom Wilson, effective June 1, 2014, which met the Councils' criteria.
- Encouraged IDNR to maintain two State operated tree nurseries to provide bare root seedling material and sell those seedlings to the public to offset costs to maintain the two nurseries. The Director has agreed to sell seedlings. The Council has worked with Senator Sullivan to secure funding.
- Encouraged the IDNR to increase available cost-share from the 4% pool of funding. FY14 funding was \$80,000. In FY15, this was increased to \$600,000. We thank former Director Miller for the increase.
- Jim Zaczek, Council Chair, announced that effective June 1, 2014, Bill Gradle accepted request to assume the Executive Director position, on a temporary appointment.
- The Council wrote a letter to the Illinois Commerce Commission requesting that when power lines are approved to be built through managed private forestland that landowners be duly compensated for the loss of resources. No response yet from the chairman, Mr. Doug Scott.
- The Council approved a proclamation to designate October as "Oak Awareness Month", sponsored by the Morton Arboretum.
- The Executive Director met twice with new IDNR Director Wayne Rosenthal to discuss Council priorities and goals.

- The Council is working with eleven other forestry groups, state and federal agencies to secure a Regional Conservation Partnership Proposal through USDA that will increase the amount of Environmental Quality Incentives Program dollars available to forest landowners. This will provide increase technical and financial assistance for developing forest management plans and the resources to implement those plans and existing plans.
- The Council met six times during FY15 and is looking forward to working with the new administration and the legislature in updating appointments to the Council.

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## Other Business



The Council has worked with the other forestry organizations in Illinois, such as the Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Illinois Walnut Council, Illinois Forestry Association, Illinois Tree Farm System, Illinois Association of Consulting Foresters, Illinois Arborist Association, USDA Forest Service and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, to promote forest sustainability. Through IDNR, we have amended

the current Forest Action Plan to include Urban Forestry interests that will make them eligible for State and Private Forestry Grants. The Council will be commenting on the newly revised Forest Action Plan this coming summer.



Invasive Species are proving to be very challenging in the rural and urban forest landscapes. Emerald Ash Borer, the Asian long horned beetle and a number of invasive plants are increasing the need for technical and financial assistance all across the state. The Council will be working with the other forestry organizations to bring more federal funding into the State through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program during this next calendar year to address Invasive Species issues.



## Illinois Forestry Development Council

This Illinois Forestry Development Council was created back in 1983 upon passage of the Illinois Forestry Development Act (525 ILCS 15). In addition to the members of the Council, several Task Groups work on projects and issues related to private and public woodland ownership, forest resource analysis, forestry outreach and education, legislation, long-range planning, timber marketing and promotion, and urban planning. The 29 members of the Council represent the following interests or groups:

Member	Representing	Member	Representing
Mr. Michael Podolsky	Landowner Engaged in Farming	Dr. James J. Zaczek	Southern Illinois University Carbondale   Dept. of Forestry
Mr. Terry Smith	Landowner Engaged in Farming	Mr. Philip Nelson Mr. Elliot Lagacy **	Illinois Department of Agriculture
Mr. John Torbert	Private Timber Grower	Mr. Wayne Rosenthal Mr. Tom Wilson, CF **	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
<i>Vacant</i>	Private Timber Grower	Mr. Marty Johnson **	Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Mr. Stan Curtis	Wood Products / Primary Forest Industry	Mr. Chris B. Meister Ms. Lorrie Karcher ** Mr. Patrick Evans **	Illinois Finance Authority
Mr. Craig Willenborg	Wood Products / Secondary Forest Industry	Mr. Christopher Merrett	Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs
Mr. Greg Zak	Illinois Tree Farm Committee	Mr. Dan Reitz (D) **	IL Speaker of the House
Mr. Michael McMahan Ms. Stephanie Brown **	Illinois Forestry Association	<i>Vacant</i> **	IL House Minority Leader
Mr. Jeremy Parish	Illinois Walnut Council	Mr. Gary Forby (D) **	IL Senate President
Mr. Jeff Harris	Illinois Chapter of the Society of American Foresters	Mr. John O. Rones (R) **	IL Senate Minority Leader
Mr. Heath Hagy	Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society	Mr. Ivan Dozier * Mr. Wade Conn **	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Illinois
<i>Vacant</i>	Urban Forestry Representative	Mr. Allen Nicholas *	USDA Forest Service, Shawnee National Forest
Mr. Steve Ludwig	Illinois Arborist Association		
Mr. Myron Kirby Mr. David McCormick **	Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts		
Mr. Danny Lybarger	Environmental Issues		
Dr. Jeffrey D. Brawn Mr. Jay C. Hayek **	University of Illinois   Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences		

\* Ex-officio Members

\*\* Designee or Alternate