

Illinois Forestry Development Council – Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2018

Location: NRCS State Office Conference Room, Champaign, IL

Attendees: Bill Gradle, Director (IFDC), Jim Zaczek, Chair (IFDC), Lisa Helmig (Shawnee National Forest), Stan Curtis (Industry/Forest Products), Reinee Hildebrandt (IDNR), Paul Deizman (IDNR), Elliot Lagacy (IDOA), Wade Conn (NRCS), Roy Bailey (Tree Farm/Contractor), Mike Brunk (Urban), Rob Sproule, (IAA Oakpark), Patrick Evans (IL Finance Authority), Patti Cludray, Recorder (SIUC)

Call to Order: 10:00 – The May 10, 2018 meeting of the IFDC was called to order and members were welcomed by IFDC Chair, Jim Zaczek.

- The meeting agenda and the minutes March 8, 2018 meeting of the IFDC were made available to the committee members. Minutes were reviewed and discussed by committee members.
- Bill Gradle informs IFDC members that since the last meeting 2 official appointees have been named to the Illinois Forestry Development Council; Lydia Scott (Morton Arboretum) is named as the Environmental Issues Representative and Terry Davis has been name as a Landowner Engaged in Farming Representative.
- Jim Zaczek asks for further discussion or if there are any additions or corrections to the March 10 meeting minutes. None are noted.
- **MOTION:** Wade Conn makes a motion to approve minutes as written; motion is seconded by Elliot Lagacy; Motion carries.

Agenda Item:

IDNR Report: Paul Deizman presents the DNR update for Tom Wilson.

- Good news, an Office Professional was hired at Pittsfield – Pike County office.
- IDNR is seriously involved with policing Dicamba usage and reported damages. ORC and Foresters are making sure to follow-up on damages reported at State sites; private landowners may also ask for damage review. A mandatory cooperative Forest Service review is required in delivery methods across affected programs; this will happen the 4th week of June, this year.
- Tom W. will be hosting a 22 State Fire Supervisor meeting the week after the Forestry Summit.
- Jim Zaczek asks members if there are any questions or further discussion on the IDNR report; no further discussion at this time. Jim thanks Paul for presenting the IDNR report to the Council.

Agenda Item:

Urban Committee Report: Rob Sproule presents this update to the Council.

- The Urban Committee met last week via conference call. This will be a brief report since the Committee has decided to hold off on making any decisions on a finalized work plan until after the Summit. Efforts are being focused on the upcoming Forestry Summit and the thought is that after the Forestry Summit on June 12-13 the Urban Committee will have a better idea how proceed with work plan priorities.
- Jim Zaczek thanks Rob for this update.

Council turns attention back to the Dicamba issue mentioned in the IDNR Report.

- Jim Zaczek questions; if any tree damage is being seen yet in Dicamba treated areas.
 - No, not yet; really the trees are just budding out, so there have not been any reports of damage so far. Maybe in a week or two, ORC could get an update out.
 - Paul D. - In reality damage must be documented on a scientific basis to determine whether there is actual/recognized and repeat problem with Dicamba.
 - Elliot L., - Once Dicamba is applied it can take 3 or more weeks to see damage.
- Paul D., - There are alternatives to Dicamba. A number of states are using aerial applications of Rodeo in late fall/November. They are noting 90-100% weed kill and less damage. This seems to be working great and the aerial applications cost much less per acre. Aerial applications can be made to areas of 20 acres or more.
 - Patrick E. - Have any damages been noted with this practice so far. Paul D. - Not so far. 4 years of research has been documented and it looks good with no down side other than a couple of odd situations such as over-spray or accidental application to the wrong area.
- Paul D., raises question. Does EQIP cover the cost of aerial applications? Wade C., - yes it can. FDA cost share could cover but there is no funding.
- The Illinois Recreational Access Program IRAP spends one half to one third of State hunting fees collected on habitat management. Looking for landowners to hunters access to their land and participate in the program, INDR will help landowners manage their land for allowing hunting access. Youth hunts; turkey hunting have been the focus so far. There is no liability to the landowners who participate and hunters are provided with a parking permit which must be displayed during their hunting activity. There is a lot of useful information on the IDNR IRAP website including information for landowners on how to enroll in the program.
- Paul D., once a landowner is in the IRAP DNR will assist with prescribed burns; weed management and Forest Management plans, etc. Hope is that re-authorization for the program is included in the Farm Bill. Landowners also receive rental fees.
- Jim Z. - Going back to concern about any application of Dicamba or other herbicides. Giant Cane is an evergreen and would like those regulating applications to proceed with caution when it comes to recognizing and spraying near Giant Cane. Only 2% of Canebreaks remain so, the hope is that Foresters will identify these Canebreaks and avoid those areas. Unfortunately, people often treat Giant Cane as a weed. In the working FAP it is a species of concern.
- Jim Z. – Asks for further discussion; if none will move to next agenda item.

Agenda Item:

Improving Oak Hickory Forest Types-RCPP Update: Bill Gradle provides Council with this update.

- RCPP projects could include aerial applications, it is not excluded from the standards and it could be an option for funding; In fact the RCPP standards are under rewrite and it could be mentioned in the rewrite that aerial applications be included as an accepted application method. Council discusses this.
 - A concern is expressed that only someone who has been trained must be responsible for application.
 - Bill G., aerial application will really lower the cost. Wade C., it must be stressed that aerial does not mean spray and walk away. EQIP recognizes need for control of bush honeysuckle, they are paid to treat resource concerns like honeysuckle; not necessarily to dictate the method of application/treatment. The land itself dictates the specific method that will work best.

- Paul D., Only a certified applicator can spray no matter what the method. Bush honeysuckle is affecting all aspects of Forestry; now hunters are saying we can't get through the stuff to hunt. So, now even non-foresters are getting involved.
- Wade C., - there could be a problem if unknowledgeable people are getting involved who don't recognize species; they may be spraying the wrong things. Everyone agrees that spring is the riskiest time for application. Once treated dead honeysuckle deteriorates quickly but prescribed burn follow-up is a good practice. And, follow-up with a 2nd application is always required for control.
- Question raised about the RCPP applications received. Bill G. – 207 applications were ranked; prior to sign up 1.2 million in funding was available, 56 contracts were awarded at about \$861,000. Next year we may be able to use the rest of the funding; in addition, there may be the possibility of additional funding.
 - Wade C., - Things change for some projects; i.e. they are not completed. The advantage is that gives us time to reallocate money that come back into the system and re-spend on other projects.
 - Stan C., did everyone stay in the program? Wade C., yes for the most part the money awarded is being spent on approved projects.
- Bill G., - We could have approved the entire remaining 1.2 million this round, but we don't have the manpower to get all the projects done, so the \$861,000 that was awarded was more manageable. Also, this year since the NW corner is back in the mix, 18 projects from that area were approved. There is a pretty good distribution in our 4 target areas; we will be monitoring that. Our hope is that the current projects will spur additional RCPP projects.

Agenda Item:

Forestry Summit Planning – report presented by Rob Sproule

We are looking at 50 attendees; this can be adjusted up through Saturday before event.

- Rooms: Not all invitees will need rooms; rooms will be available at the Summit rate, after Saturday rooms may be a little more. Some invitees that were thought to be coming and needing rooms have not responded yet. Most local invitees will not need rooms. Members who have not responded were asked to do so, as soon as possible. Forest Service employees will need rooms, but will pay for their own.
- Summit Survey: Invitees will be sent a follow up next week; a pre-summit survey is being set up on Survey Monkey. This survey will include a link to the FAP; will need to have Jay Hayek add that link to the website. There will also be an opportunity for the attendee to select their meal preference / dietary needs on the survey as well.
 - Is the FAP on the IDNR site? Bill G. - since it is pending approval it is not we are still waiting on that. The link to the FAP does not need to be a public link; we just need a link so people can look at it as a document that will be used at the Summit. It needs to be a link that can be given to the attendees.
- Catering: Bill/Rob will be meeting with catering to figure out meal choices for attendees. Once we get a head-count then we can figure out what we need for special dietary needs. The survey will give us general numbers.
- Reception: We have 3 sponsors for the cocktail hour/ open bar. Trees Forever; Open Lands Association and Arborists Association.
- Breakout Sessions: Changing landscape of Forestry; Forest Health; Forestry Professionals; Funding and Advocacy.

- Facilitators: The facilitators have been confirmed and assigned to breakouts; Eric Holzmuller; Steve Ludwig; Tom Gargrave; Chris Evans.
- Moderators: So far, do not have all the moderators that are needed. Moderators will collect the information from the session; taking notes, etc. Council members discuss this need. Paul Deizman offers to volunteer at a moderator (can go anywhere needed); Beth Corrigan has indicated that she will be a moderator if needed.
- We will want to meet with the facilitators and moderators sometime before the break-outs begin, to go over some guidelines.
- Speakers: Keynote speaker will be Wayne Rosenthal, IDNR Director; Ivan Dozier will also be one of our speakers. Tom Wilson will introduce the FAP and the breakout sessions.
- Promotion items: are here and they look good; the cups; pens; banners; and thumb drives are available at meeting for the council to review.
- Press release: is being drafted about event.
- Other: Members if you want to bring resource items for distribution at the event, a table will be set up for those. We are asking organizations to provide 2 – 3 slides to include as a background video for the event.
- Jim Z., are there any questions for Rob before we break for lunch.
 - Has U.S. Fish and Wildlife been invited; they do manage habitat? Will check on that.

LUNCH: 11:30 – 12:30 Break for lunch. Jimmy Johns is provided by the IFDC.

- Jim Z. – Thank you to Rob Sproule for being a mover/shaker on the Summit. Asks council if there are any additional Summit questions.
 - Rob S. – Patti could you get name tags with lanyards for the attendees; Patti agrees to do so. Thinking that it may be a good idea to come in the day before the Summit; to get an early start on preparing the binders. Discussion; Lydia and Beth planning to be there on the 12th by noon. Patti would be willing to come up early and help if needed. It is agreed that Rob and Patti will go to Champaign on Monday, June 11; stay at the I-Hotel (will talk to Kelsey about getting the Summit rate for two room the day before) and meet at 8:00 a.m. to work on binders and other items.
 - Attire for event will be Business Casual.

Agenda Item:

Other Business:

- Council has questions about the current IL FAP and time-line for the economic analysis and updated data that the Forest Service was wanting included before approving. Discussion.
 - Scheduled to finish next year. Project is funded, still are missing some states. Illinois is one of 11 States with a full detailed profile.
 - The council has already paid \$2500 for editing, etc. In addition to the time that Paul Deizman committed to the initial update himself.
 - Paul D., It is coming along; Bill, would you like me to get back to you with an update on progress. Bill G., - No just give us an updated timeline; there is nothing that can be done right now.
 - Paul D., can pull out a detailed version of the data that has been updated. Patrick E., - with timber prices going up those numbers will be changing. Paul D., the product that is being used is an implane #value added industries model. There are large numbers in Illinois dealing with paper.

- Paul D., The upcoming study also includes and addresses Urban as a section, but where it will sit in the final report, is unsure. Jim Z., Urban related landscape is a section. Paul D., there will be an updated Sawmill Directory every year from here on out as well.
- Bill G., - Will be working on the Council report to the General Assembly and would like input and recommendations. So, IFDC members start thinking about what should be included in the report; send those ideas to Bill. This report is due 30 days after the end of the fiscal year.
- Patrick E., - The IL Finance Authority is working with banks in municipalities to assist with loans. This program was originally set up for veterans; however program could be expanded to assist others; i.e. sawmill owners. Paul D., it is recognized that mills are having a rough time here in IL, some governance would be helpful. Patrick E., this is not a grant program but perhaps the Finance Authority can assist with lower interest loans than what the banks are currently offering.
- Council discussion: when the IFDC Meeting is next held in Southern Illinois it might be nice to go have a look at the Trail of Tears Burn Study sites; would anyone be interested in a field tour?
 - Mike B., - in the past we have had our meeting with an overnight. Paul D., would it work to let our meeting out early, say 2:00 p.m. and have the tour optional? Mike B., - The Urban Committee was thinking of holding this type of tour as well, in September or November.
 - Maybe representatives could come out and show what is going on. Paul D., - actually in November should be done with the fall burn. Lisa H., - speaking of burns; the spring burns were very successful on 2 compartments.
 - IFDC agrees that November IFDC meeting should be held in So. IL. Jim Z., will work with the IDNR to be sure someone is there to lead tour.
- Rob S. – So will the IFDC be meeting in July or foregoing that meeting because of the Summit.
- Wade C., believes it is important to re-convene right after the Summit to review the information and ideas that will be discussed in the break-outs at the Summit and, Rob S., - review the ILFAP and report to General Assembly.

MOTION: Elliot Lagacy makes motion to hold IFDC meeting in July; seconded by Wade Conn. Motion carries. Jim Z. – calls for any further discussion.

- Council decides to hold July 12th meeting; Springfield, IL – IDNR Building.

MOTION: Rob Sproule makes motion to adjourn; seconded by Elliot Lagacy. Motion carries.

- The May meeting of the Illinois Forestry Development Council is adjourned at 1:30 p.m.