

Illinois Forestry Development Council – Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2024

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Eric Holzmüller (IFDC Director), Lorrie Karcher (IL Finance Authority), Scott Schirmer (IL DOA), Dale Shumaker (AISWCD), Paul Deizman (IFA), Brad Petersburg (Private Timber Grower), Kenneth Jolly (IL DNR), Joel Pisoni (Industry), Scott Swisher (Industry), Mike Brunk (IL DNR), Avery Viadero (SIU), Kim Watson (IL DCEO), Nicolas Mott (IL House Rep), and Steve Graves (Private Timber Grower)

Call to Order: 9:00 a.m. – Eric H., IFDC Director

AGENDA ITEM: Review of the previous meeting minutes

Meeting Agenda and Minutes of the May 8, 2024 meeting of the IFDC were sent by email to members by Director, Eric H.

- Council members were given time for review and asked if any errors or omissions were noted in the minutes as distributed.
- MOTION to accept by Steve G., SECOND by Dale S., Motion PASSES unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: Executive Director Report

Eric H. presents this report.

- Small project reports and invoices for FY24 were collected and forwarded to DNR for payment.
- New proposals for FY25 small projects program have been collected.

AGENDA ITEM: Legislative Update:

- Eric H. - TBLA update – Admin rules were published on May 30, 2024
- Update on other legislation of interest to IFDC
 - HB1855 - Illinois Forestry Fix – was sent to Governor on June 26, 2024
 - All other previous legislation is in the rules committee.

AGENDA ITEM: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Urban & Community Forestry Report.

Report by Mike B. on IL DNR urban activities.

- IL ranks #2 in nation in the number of communities enrolled in Tree City USA
- IL is #1 in Tree City USA growth awards.
- More funding opportunities for communities are available, primarily with IRA funds. Dollars available are for both large and small communities, removal and replacement of trees, invasive species control, and more.

AGENDA ITEM: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Forestry Report

Kenneth J. reported on IL DNR forestry activities.

- Taryn Beiri was hired as District Forester in southern Illinois.
- Additional District Forester positions are open, as well as, positions in Springfield.

- With anticipated passage of Illinois Forestry Fix, the next step is to revise the administrative rules to implement cost share program for FDA landowners.
- Additional cost share funds for private landowners are being sought by the Division of Forestry from Forest Service.
- Looking into the use of drones for aerial application of herbicides – lots of potential with this technology.
- State Fair planning continues.
 - MOTION to fund admission costs for IFDC members who volunteer at Fair by Steve G., SECOND by Scott. Sch. Motion PASSES unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: New / Old Business

- FY25 small projects program – IFDC received four proposals (Attachment 1).
 - Council members discussed submissions. They will review them further and send feedback to the Director within one week.
 - Deadline for submission is extended - additional proposals will be considered at the September meeting.
- Roundtable discussion was opened to members.
 - Tricia B. – reported that IFA will conduct a timber harvest on IFA property to help promote forestry to the public. The annual meeting will be at Touch of Nature on October 22-24.
 - Dale S. – Annual meeting will be held in Springfield – everyone is welcome to attend.

AGENDA ITEM: Next meeting

September 11, 2024 – will be a virtual meeting – Eric H. will send out a calendar invite.

MOTION to ADJOURN: Motion carries.

The July 10, 2024 virtual meeting of the Illinois Forestry Development Council is adjourned at 10:35.

Attachment 1. Illinois Forestry Development Council FY25 Request for Proposals

For FY25 the Council received 4 proposals from 4 groups/agencies requesting a total amount of \$31,004.25. Below is a table summarizing the proposals received by the Council. On the following pages you will find the proposals themselves.

Table 1. Summary of proposal received from FY25 Illinois Forestry Development Council RFP.

Agency	Contact	Title	Amount Requested
AISWCD & 4-H	Curt Sinclair & Dale Shumaker	4-H Green Communities Tree Program	\$7,500.00
Illinois Forestry Association	Brad Petersburg	Advancing Forest Management and Training	\$8,778.00
Illinois Tree Farm	Matt Pustejovsky	Family Forest Field Day 2025	\$4,726.25
St. Daniel the Prophet Catholic Church	Louise Kuhny	A Demonstration Project to Establish a Sustainable Landscape	\$10,000.00
Total requested:			\$31,004.25