

Illinois Forestry Development Council – Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2023

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Eric Holzmüller (IFDC Director), Lydia Scott (Environmental), Lorrie Karcher (IL Finance Authority), Steve Graves (Private Timber Grower), Tom Gargrave (IL DNR), Joe Hansen (IL Arborists Association), Matt Pustejovsky (IL Tree Farm Program), Justin Dodson (SNF), Casey Calvert (Walnut Council), Chris Evans (U of I), Scott Swisher (Forest Industry), Scott Schirmer (IL DOA), Tricia Bethke (IFA), Paul Deizman (IFA), Ms. Ellen Bogardus-Szymaniak (USFS), Dale Shumaker (AISWCD), Mike Brunk (IL DNR), Kim Watson (IL DCEO), and TJ Benson (IL Wildlife Society)

Call to Order: 9:00 a.m. – Chris Evans - IFDC Chair

- Members gave a brief introduction of themselves to group.

AGENDA ITEM: Review of the previous meeting minutes

Meeting Agenda and Minutes of May 10, 2023 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. None were noted.
- MOTION to accept by Dale S., SECOND by Casey C. Motion PASSES unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: Executive Director Report

Eric H. presents this report.

- Sent out a draft of FY23 report. Will send final version to IL general assembly and post on IFDC website
- Discussed results of article “Regeneration and Growth following Silvicultural Treatments in a Productive Central Hardwood Forest” from Trail of Tears State Forest. Key takeaway is that despite best efforts, there is currently there is a lack of oak regeneration on sites that have been harvested, burned, and/or had TSI highlighting the difficulty of regenerating oak on productive sites. As foresters we need to think about how to best manage species that do arise from these management practices.
- Gave a talk on forest taxation to beginning forest landowner group.

AGENDA ITEM: Legislative Update:

- Eric H. - TBLA update – Bill passed both house and senate – currently awaiting Governor’s signature.
 - Tom G. - starting admin rules process.
 - Scott Swisher – will industry be involved in process – as was promised during the development of the TBLA?
 - Eric H. and Scott Schirmer both stress the importance of seeking input from the industry as they can provide invaluable feedback on this process and might even be able to bring up issues that agency may not even be considering.

- Tom G. – the development of admin rules is an internal process that must be done in a way that will allow agency to enforce the law, however there will be an opportunity for feedback on the rules.
- No other legislative issues discussed.

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

Mike B. reported on IL DNR urban activities.

- Illinois (Brunk) is the Chair of the USFS Region 9 Urban State Coordinators Committee
 - Currently developing protocol to best utilize urban forest strike teams.
- Processing \$1.2 million in core funding with 6 partners across state in both urban and rural areas.
- Using a newsletter to disseminate information about grant opportunities in the State.
- Working with a professional marketing team to develop ways to attract more interest in urban programs – will also create a new urban forestry logo.

AGENDA ITEM: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Forestry Report.

Tom G. reported on IL DNR forestry activities.

- Nursery produced 1 million tree/shrubs (35 species), 1,200 pounds of wildflower seed, and 2,000 containerized trees. Union Nursery will be used to collect seed this fall.
- FDA has approximately 9,800 landowners covering 565,000 acres.
- Fire Program is working on a rewrite of the Wildlife Fire Policy, Engine may be called out soon.
- Wood utilization position was filled by Kyle Burkwald
 - Will oversee Timber Buyer Program
 - Manage State Forests
 - Oversee Ginseng Dealer's License Program
- Position update:
 - Currently have 6 Forest Ecologists to assist District Foresters.
 - Have 4 District Forester positions open.
- Working on procuring new vehicles which is challenging due to limited dealer supply.

AGENDA ITEM: New / Old Business

- For FY24 the Council received 14 proposals from 12 groups/agencies requesting a total amount of \$97,032.06. See Attachment 1 for a list of proposals and amount requested.
- Council members were sent proposals and ranking criteria prior to this meeting.
- Given there are more requests for dollars than what is available, Council members will review and score proposals based on ranking criteria. They will submit rankings to Eric H. by Sept. 1.
- Eric H. will tabulate information and present the results to the Council during the September meeting.
- Roundtable discussion was opened to members.

- Casey C. – Walnut Council will have their annual meeting in July in Missouri, an estimated 300 members will be in attendance. Will host a field day in White County in February and have a proposed field day in Douglas County (TBD).
- Scott Sch. – Spongy moth traps are up, and spraying was completed in May (2,800 acres). Mating disruption treatments were implemented in June (25,000 acres). Weather was ideal for both treatments. Additional treatments are planned in northern tier counties for next year in areas that are infested.
- Matt P. – IL Tree Farm met in June. Working on improving quality of their database with the goal of streamlining and simplifying the process so as to have more frequent contact with members.
- Dale S. – AISWCD is hosting annual meeting July 17-18.
- Tricia B. – IFA is looking to host 4 urban forestry trainings. Recently acquired a donated property where they are hoping to demonstrate good forest management and may have another donor interested in giving more acres to IFA. Annual meeting will be in September.
- Justin D. – SNF Tim Pohlman recently retired as the Forest Ranger and Dennis Wilson will take his place. Have a patch of oak wilt in Oakwood Bottoms that needs to be treated. Looking for a list of contractors that do forestry work in the state – would be helpful for SNF as well as surrounding landowners.
- Chris Evans – U of I Extension is still looking to replace the beginning forest landowner coordinator and extension forester. There is some concern with laurel wilt on sassafras, in some areas it can cause high mortality.

AGENDA ITEM: Next meeting

September 13, 2023 – will be a virtual meeting – Eric H. will send out a calendar invite.

MOTION to ADJOURN: Motion carries.

The July 12, 2023 virtual meeting of the Illinois Forestry Development Council is adjourned at 10:40.

Attachment 1. - Illinois Forestry Development Council FY24 Request for Proposals

For FY24 the Council received 14 proposals from 12 groups/agencies requesting a total amount of \$97,032.06. Below is a table summarizing the proposals received by the Council.

Table 1. Summary of proposal received from FY24 Illinois Forestry Development Council RFP.

Agency	Contact	Title	Amount Requested
American Bird Conservancy	Mike Baltz	A Forestry for the Birds training program for Indiana and Illinois in the Central Hardwoods Bird Conservation Region	\$ 7,026.50
AISWCD & 4-H	Dale Shumaker & Curt Sinclair	4-H Green Communities Tree Program	\$ 7,500.00
Chicago Region Trees Initiative	Varak Bosnoian	Tree Tag Language Expansion (Arabic) and Basic Pocket Guide to Urban Environments	\$ 8,400.00
Heartlands Conservancy	Eric Wright	Southwestern Illinois Tree Steward Program Strategy and Outreach Expansion	\$ 10,000.00
Illinois Forestry Association	Zach DeVillez	Enhancing public involvement in Forestry through education and information transfer	\$ 9,150.00
Morton Arboretum	Melissa Cusic	Support for the Illinois Invasive Species Council Annual Meeting	\$ 5,000.00
Northwestern Illinois Forestry Association	Ken Beach	Chainsaw Safety Training Program	\$ 2,500.00
Northwestern Illinois Forestry Association	Ken Beach	Youth Tree Knowledge Contest	\$ 500.00
Northwestern Illinois Forestry Association	Ken Beach	Schurmeier Teaching Forest, Guidebook and Signage Updates	\$ 6,000.00
Natural Land Institute	Kerry Leigh & Alan Branhagen	IL. Conservation Land Trusts Model Forestry Policy and Procedures Development	\$ 10,000.00
Shawnee RC&D	Raymond Bieri	Volunteer Forest Restoration in Southern Illinois	\$ 9,000.00
Southern Illinois University	David Gibson	Monitoring rare plants on privately owned forest properties to incentivize enrollment in forest conservation plans	\$ 9,764.00
Walnut Council	Casey Calvert	Family Forestry Field Day 2024	\$ 4,921.56
Village of Godfrey Parks	Chris Logan	La Vista Trail Invasive Species Management and Restoration	\$ 7,270.00
Total			\$ 97,032.06