

Illinois Forestry Development Council – Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2025

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Eric Holzmüller (IFDC Director), Lorrie Karcher (IL Finance Authority), Scott Schirmer (IL DOA), Joel Pisoni (Industry), Steve Graves (Private Timber Grower), Justin Dodson (USFS), TJ Benson (IL Wildlife Society), Casey Calvert (Walnut Council), Matt Pustejovsky (IL Tree Farm), Lydia Scott (Env Issues), Scott Swisher (Industry), Kyle Burkwald (IL DNR), Kenneth Jolly (IL DNR), Dale Schumaker (AISWCD), Paul Diezman (IFA), Phil Cano (USFS), Joe Hanson (IAA), and Nathan Phillips (Guest - GL Beaumont Lumber Company)

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

- Brief introduction of members present.

AGENDA ITEM: Review of the previous meeting minutes

Meeting Agenda and Minutes of the March 12, 2025 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 Lydia S., SECOND by Dale S., Motion PASSES unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: Executive Director Report

Eric H. presents this report.

- Working with constituents to coordinate suggestions for SB2426 – Amendment to Forest Products Transportation Act.
- Meeting scheduled to discuss Timber Prices Report
- Please complete your 2025 State Trainings.

AGENDA ITEM: Legislative Update:

- SB1837, SB2073, HB3959, SB2613 have been sent to assignment.
- SB2426 has been modified based on stakeholder feedback.
- Pesticide Notification Act is in place and will have an impact on urban industry.
- Discussion to recommend increasing haul weights to be in line with other states.

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

- 2024 Tree City USA results from the Arbor Day Foundation - Illinois has the 2nd most Tree City USA communities in the nation and is #1 in having the most Growth Awarded Tree City USA communities.

AGENDA ITEM: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Forestry Report

- Forest ecologist positions have been cut.
- The initial Federal funding proposal does not appear to be favorable for State funding.
- No public comments were received for FDA administrative rules.
- Harvest underway at Sand Ridge State Forest – mostly pine.

AGENDA ITEM: New / Old Business

- Roundtable discussion was opened to members.
 - Scott Sch. – Spongy moth program on pause.
 - Casey C. – Working on finding a replacement for Executive Director – position has been announced – it will be located in Purdue.
 - Matt P. – Feedback was positive from Family Forestry Field Day – two most popular topics were used of drones and goats.
 - Nathan P. – Tariffs have created uncertainty which has slowed market some.

AGENDA ITEM: Next meeting

July 9, 2025 – will be a virtual meeting.

MOTION to ADJOURN: Motion carries.

The May 14, 2025 virtual meeting of the Illinois Forestry Development Council is adjourned at 11:18.