

# Illinois Forestry Development Council – Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2024

**Location:** Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:** Eric Holzmüller (IFDC Director), Lorrie Karcher (IL Finance Authority), Scott Schirmer (IL DOA), Joel Pisoni (Industry), Avery Viadero (SIU), Nicolas Mott (IL House Rep), Steve Graves (Private Timber Grower), Justin Dodson (USFS), TJ Benson (IL Wildlife Society), Tricia Bethke (IFA), Casey Calvert (Walnut Council), Matt Pustejovsky (IL Tree Farm), Lydia Scott (Env Issues), Scott Swisher (Industry), Kyle Burkwald (IL DNR), and Kevin Rohling (U of I)

**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 September 11, 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 Scott Sw., SECOND by Scott Sch., Motion PASSES unanimously.

## **AGENDA ITEM: Executive Director Report**

Eric H. presents this report.

- Contacted individuals who submitted small project proposals for FY25 – everyone who received fundings has agreed to start working on their project.
- Please complete your 2024 State Trainings.

## **AGENDA ITEM: Legislative Update:**

- No new legislative issues to report on.

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

Report by Kyle B. on IL DNR urban activities.

- Processing a record number of Tree City USA applicants.
- Have over \$3 million in funds available to communities through various grants.
- Working with Morton Arboretum to improve ordinance process for communities.

## **AGENDA ITEM: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Forestry Report**

Kyle B. also reported on other IL DNR forestry activities.

- Wood Utilization reports that an estimated 38 million bd ft has been harvested this year in IL.
- Wood innovation grants are available to improve processing in southern Illinois.
- Funding for land restoration grants is available.
- IL DNR fire crews have had 5 deployments this year to assist on firefighting in forests throughout US.

**AGENDA ITEM: New / Old Business**

- Roundtable discussion was opened to members.
  - Scott Sch. – Spongy moth numbers in 2025 are estimated to be “normal”. The elm zigzag sawfly has been confirmed in Cook County.
  - Casey C. – The Walnut Council October field day has been canceled. Working on finding a replacement for Executive Director (L. Jackson).
  - Group discussion on how much wood is bought from out of state buyers as opposed to being process in IL. Eric H. will present more information at next IFDC meeting.
  - Joel P. – Dry weather has increased inventory and prices are stable but not as good as they were two years ago.
  - Kevin R. and Tricia B. – IFA had over 70 attendees at their 2024 annual meeting at Touch of Nature in Carbondale, IL. The 2025 meeting will likely be in central or northern IL. Started search for a new coordinator.
  - Justin D. – Announcement for the new Shawnee National Forest supervisor should be coming soon. SNF burned 13k acres last year of FS and adjacent private lands and sold 6.5 million board ft of timber. Firewood Scout (<https://firewoodscout.org/>) may be of interest to people who want to buy and burn locally produced wood. Illinois needs vendors to participate.

**AGENDA ITEM: Next meeting**

January 8, 2025 – will be a virtual meeting – Eric H. will send out a calendar invite.

**MOTION to ADJOURN: Motion carries.**

The November 13, 2024 virtual meeting of the Illinois Forestry Development Council is adjourned at 10:15.