# Meeting Minutes July 8, 2026

## Illinois Forestry Development Council

**Location: Remote (Webex)**
**Presiding: Chris Evans, Chair**

### 1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Chris Evans called the meeting to order shortly after 9:00 AM. Roll call proceeded through self-introductions.

**Council Members & Partners Present:**

Avery Viadero, Casey Calvert, Felipe Cano, Jenny Reiman, Kerry Warren-Couch, Kevin Rohling, Mariah Mack, Matt Pustejovsky, Paul Ladner, Scott Schirmer, Steve Graves, T.J. Benson, Taryn Bieri, Tricia Bethke, Joe Hansen, Michael Brunk, Kenneth Jolly, Lori Karcher, Laura Lyon.

### 2. Approval of May 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve May minutes as amended: Casey Calvert. Second: Joe Hansen.

Approved unanimously.

### 3. IDOA Presentation – Spongy Moth, Invasive Species & Export Certification

Scott Schirmer presented program updates including nursery inspections, pesticide work, invasive species monitoring, wood-product export certification, and spongy moth trapping.

### 4. Chair's Report

Chris Evans reported on FY26 Small Grants outcomes, success stories on wedsite, annual legislative report submission, sawmill directory progress, and review of IFDC Mission.

## 5. Liaison Report

Michael Brunk noted successful processing of FY26 grant invoices and requested completion of council member training.

## 6. IDNR State Forester's Report

Kenneth Jolly reported on wildfire deployments, FDA Cost-Share rule revisions, audits, international trade missions, federal grants status, nursery cooler replacement, and federal funding restoration.

Action Item: requested IFDC input on FDA Cost-Share rule for funding cap on annual Cost-Share payments.

## 7. Urban Forestry Program Report

Michael Brunk highlighted statewide canopy mapping efforts, Tree City USA growth, federal grant awards, and Legacy Tree Task Force work. Council will send cost-share cap recommendations to the Chair by email.

## 8. New Business – FY27 Small Grants Program

Nine proposals totaling $81,513 submitted.

Motion by Joe Hansen to approve all nine projects contingent on timeline correction for Project B; second by Matt Pustejovsky; motion carried with one dissent.

## 9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:19 PM. Next meeting scheduled for September 9, 2026.