

Forestry Committee
AISCWD Quarterly Board
December 8, 2014 @ Northfield Inn – Springfield, IL

Present:

Tom Beyers
Terry Davis
Randy Molitoris
Darrell Roegge
Dick Breckenridge, IEPA
Wade Conn, NRCS
William Gradle, IFDC
Myron Kirby, AISWCD
Catherine Dunn, AISWCD
Sarah Still, AISWCD

Absent:

David McCormick, Chairperson
Elliot Lagacy, NRCS
Tom Wilson, IDNR Dan Schmoker, IWPA
Dotti Schmoker, IFA
Ray Herman, Tree Farmers
Paul Diezman, IDNR

1. Call to Order: Terry Davis called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

2. Roll Call: Done by Catherine Dunn, AISWCD CREP Resource Specialist. William Gradle reported that Tom Wilson is the new State Forester for IDNR and that Chris Witham has replaced Paul Diezman at IDNR.

3. Approve Agenda

First: Darrell Roegge *Second:* Tom Beyers *Carried:* Yes

4. Approval of June 2014 Meeting minutes:

First: Tom Beyers *Second:* William Gradle *Carried:* Yes

5. Partner Reports

IFDC – William Gradle

Bill Gradle reported that Mike McMahan is the President of the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) and that John Edgington is the Vice President. Gradle also reported the Stephanie Brown has been hired as the Executive Director for the IFA.

Bill also reported that IDNR now has \$600,000 available for cost-share on forestry practices and that the Illinois Forestry Development Council has been funded again. Bill reported that Tom Wilson is confident that the IFDC would get this funding annually. Dick Breckenridge asked where this money is coming from. Wade Conn and Bill responded that 4% of the amount that a forest harvest generates goes into this fund.

Bill reported that the U of I is looking to hire another Extension Forester.

IEPA – Dick Breckenridge

Dick Breckenridge reported that the comment period on the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy is open until January 23rd. Dick let the committee know that while forestry is not emphasized in the strategy, there may be future opportunities for forestry funding if there is documentation about how forest management practices can contribute to reduction of nutrient loss. He noted that new committees will be formed as part of this strategy and that there needs to be a forestry presence.

Tom Beyers pointed out the Ohio had voluntary efforts for nutrient reduction but there are now mandatory regulations in light of the water quality problems in Lake Erie. Dick responded that it is possible that this could happen in Illinois.

NRCS – Wade Conn

Wade Conn reported in New Business.

IDOA – No one present to report.

Others – No other partners present to report

6. Old Business

Forestry Workshop Update

Randy Molitoris reported that the Macon County Forestry Workshop was very good. The workshop featured examples of forests before and after controlling for invasive species and that the difference was striking.

On-Going Lawsuit

Terry Davis reported that his district is involved in a lawsuit regarding wrongful harvest off of district-owned land. The facts of the case are straight-forward and the case is now focusing on whether the IDNR has the authority to oversee the Loggers Act. The Illinois Supreme Court will hear this lawsuit.

7. New Business

RCPP

Wade Conn reported that in light of declining funding for EQIP and other federal programs, RCPP is an innovative way to bring in money for projects and that it would allow for coordination across partners. Wade reported that Shannon Allen is the Initiatives Coordinator with the state NRCS office and can answer questions about RCPP.

Wade noted that SWCDs may be interested in working with IFDC, DNR, or other groups to find a focused watershed to address concerns related to forestry and to find partners, and commented that the IFDC is looking to see if there is any interest to partner for an RCPP project. Bill Gradle asked if the committee could ask the AISWCD Board if they would be supportive of an RCPP project related to forestry.

The motion was made to ask the AISWCD Board for their support of a forestry-related RCPP project.

First: Randy Molitoris *Second:* Terry Davis *Carried:* Yes

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Terry Davis at 3:07 pm.

First: Randy Molitoris *Second:* Terry Davis *Carried:* Yes