

Indiana Land Resources Council notes

November 9, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Location: Morgan Monroe State Forest Training Center, Martinsville, IN

Council Members in Attendance:

- Jeff Page
- Richard Beck
- Kara Salazar
- Beth Tharp
- Mayor Tom DeBaun
- David Kovich
- Seth Harden

Others in Attendance:

- Donna Roglar, Indiana DNR Forestry Division
- Randall Pflueger, Columbus Resident
- Shelby Huff, ISDA
- Regan Herr, ISDA

Meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. ET

Shelby Huff- the June meeting minutes were sent to members of the council following the June meeting and ahead of the November meeting. Any questions, comments or changes?

- Mayor DeBaun made a motion to approve the June minutes.
- Jeff Page seconded the motion
- All council members voted to approve the meeting minutes

Kara Salazar, overview of Land Use Summit in September 2021

- The goal was to convene and share perspectives regarding agriculture and natural resources planning
- We had 3 objectives for land use summit:
 - Emphasis on community and community planning
 - Focus on ag and natural uses on land use objective
 - Practical tools and resources for community planning.
- Summit features: Diverse speakers, Sessions of Panel Discussions and speakers.
- Attendees were broad and diverse
- Land Use Summit occurs every other year
- We shared the Guidebook again: we updated links in 2021 and included the new section on pollinator friendly solar as well
- Summit was 2 half days (Sept. 8th and 9th) and was completely virtual
- Session links for registered guests will be available for 1 year with Socio through Purdue
- Day 1 sessions:

- Climate change and renewable energy community planning
- Community engagement processes for land use planning
- Innovations in environmental planning
- Day 2 sessions:
 - Pollinator friendly solar
 - Creative community engagement
 - Think Big! ARPA
 - Renewable energy ordinances
 - Using virtual tools and charrettes for community engagement
 - Innovative community planning for stormwater and floodplain management
 - Dr. Sara Banas Mills
- Attendees: 115 attendees, high number of non-profit attendees, several from planning commissions or departments, some from private sector consulting
- Survey: 52 responses, most from local planning staff, gov. agency staff, most survey respondents plan for county purposes. Highest session attendance in breakouts: Renewable energy and climate change.
 - Conference: Met Expectations
 - 90% of attendees are somewhat likely to very likely to use what they learned at the conference
 - 80% attendees would recommend attending this conference to others
- Future topics: CAFOs, Open Space Planning, Prime Farmland Protection, Solar Planning, Real Estate and Affordable Housing
- Budget: 2021 cost: \$6,900, 2019 cost: \$10,000. Grants have covered most expenses and kept registration low
- Attendance: 2019- 150 attendees vs. 2021- 115

Shelby Huff, Carbon Working Group update

- Overview of carbon credits
 - Farmers and forest owners can implement practices that store carbon and then sell them as “offsets”.
 - At that point certain companies purchase the offsets from farmers or forest owners and sell the credits to large companies (I.e. Microsoft, Walmart, etc.)
- Overview of the Growing Climate Solutions Act (Braun, U.S. Senator)
- Overview of Senate Bill 373 from the IN 2021 Legislative Session
- Overview of bill questions and concerns: Budget/Resource concerns, state vs. federal approach in global market, issues with contracts, etc.

Seth: What farmers did you survey?

Shelby: this was a survey we circulated at the Indiana Corn Growers and Soybean Alliance’s Summer Policy meeting.

Richard: How does all this work and why would a farmer do this if there is not structured program?

Seth: Most farmers are super skeptical about carbon markets as a whole.

Discussion was had regarding state carbon plans vs federal plans

Jeff Page, Forestry in the State of Indiana

- Forestry is the leading agriculture sector in Indiana
- Indiana ranks #1 in Hardwood office furniture
- Supports 70,000 jobs in Indiana
- The industry is trying to work toward increasing forestry knowledge for consumers and constituents
- Forestry outreach:
 - Education boxes
 - Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment project,
 - Hoosier Hardwoods Festival
 - Woods On Wheels Exhibit
 - Natural Resource Teacher Institute

Donna Rogler provided review of her role in assisting in explaining forestry and forestry management to teachers

- Forests are a naturally renewable resource

Meeting Adjourned at 2:54 p.m. for the council members to tour the Woods on Wheels Bus.