

Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Indiana Farm Bureau

Welcome & Introductions

Participants:

American Tree Farm System: Bob Burke

Carmel Urban Forestry Committee: Cheryl Gettelfinger

DNR Entomology: Phil Marshall

DNR Fish & Wildlife: Mitch Marcus

DNR Forestry: Chris Gonso, Brenda Huter, Brett Martin, Jack Seifert, Phil Wagner

DNR Nature Preserves: Cloyce Hedge

Ecologic: Jon Berhman

Farm Service Agency: Michelle Howell

Hoosier Backcounty Horsemen: Susan Miller, Connie Tarplee

Hoosier Environmental Council: Tim Maloney

Hoosier National Forest: Anne Carey, Judi Perez

Indiana Association of Consulting Foresters (IACF): Mike Warner

Indiana Forest Alliance (IFA): Brian Richwine

Indiana Forest & Woodland Owners Association (IFWOA): Phil Gramelspocker, Bob Schiable, Robert Woodling, Liz Jackson

Indiana Hardwood Lumberman's Association (IHLA): Ray Moistner, Ashley Tandy

Indiana Society American Foresters (ISAF): Brian Gandy

Indiana Urban Forestry Council: Ashley Mulis

Indiana Walnut Council: Liz Jackson, Hugh Pence

Indiana Wildlife Federation (IWF): Doug Allman, Travis Stoelting

Jackson Township, Brown County: Leonard Murray

National Association of Conservation Districts/ Soil & Water Conservation Districts: Tom Crowe, Jennifer Boyle

Purdue University Forestry & Natural Resources: (PU FNR) Bill Hoover

Purdue University Hardwood Tree Improvement Regeneration Center: Charles Michler

Sierra Club: Richard Miller

The Nature Conservancy: Joe Tutterrow

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Ken Collins

Expanding the Purpose of the Stewardship Committee, Jack Seifert

Handout: *Indiana Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee: Mission Statement & Operating Procedures – 2010 DRAFT*

The Division of Forestry would like to shift the mandate of the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee to include the implementation of 2010 Statewide Forest Strategy. Draft Mission Statement and Operating Procedure was presented to committee for review. The draft also increases the meeting schedule to 3 times per year (September, January, and May).

Changes made to the draft by the committee:

Mission Statement – Second Paragraph- Second Sentence

Draft Statement: “The Indiana Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee has no authority to formulate state forest policy, but functions to promote communication and understanding of current forest management issues.”

Revision: “The Indiana Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee informs state forest policy functioning to promote communication and understanding of current forest management issues.”

With change, committee accepted the revision of the Mission Statement & Operating Procedures.

Forest Legacy Program, Brenda Huter

Handout: *Indiana Forest Legacy Program Projects & Proposals*

PowerPoint Presentation: 2 slides, Indiana Forest Legacy Program Projects & Proposals & Discover Woods

The Forest Legacy Program is a US Forest Service Program that provides grants to states to purchase in fee or purchase conservation easements on important working forests within state designated Forest Legacy Areas. Indiana may submit 3 projects up to \$10,000,000 each year to the US Forest Service. Projects from across the nation are ranked. The ranked projects are then submitted for federal funding.

Indiana currently has about 7,000 Forest Legacy acres completed. In the past year, the Hills of Gold II easement has been purchased but final federal paperwork has not been completed so the project is not yet closed. This leaves one active project: Luke’s Run Project in Owen County.

Discover Woods Project was submitted for 2011 funding. The project made the President’s List with funding for the Happy Hollow Tract, but the federal budget has not been released.

Projects for 2012 funding are due end of October. The Division of Forestry’s recommendation is to resubmit the Discover Woods Project. No new applications have been received in the past year. Committee approved.

Strategic Forestland Conservation Program, *Chris Gonso*

Handout: *Forest Patch Map* on the back of the itinerary

PowerPoint Presentation: Strategic Forestland Conservation Program

The first action step under Statewide Strategy #1 (Conserve, manage and protect existing forests, especially large forest patches) is the development of the Strategic Forestland Conservation Program to work on planning in Target Forest Patches: Ravinia, South-Central Indiana Patch (Shawnee Hills, Brown County Hills, and Knobstone) Patoka, Bluegrass, Whitewater, Sugar Creek, Little Pigeon, Raccoon, Minnehaha. Data and maps were also provided relating to location and trends affecting existing large forest patches and showed current availability of statewide parcel level information to help make conservation and stewardship efforts more efficient and effective.

Thousand Cankers Disease, *Phil Marshall*

Handout: *Emergency Rule #10-554(E), Pest Alert –Thousand Cankers Disease*

PowerPoint Presentation: Thousand Cankers Disease

US range of *Juglans sp.* is mainly in eastern half of the country. Thousand cankers disease is moving from western US. It has identified in Tennessee in street trees. It has not been currently identified in Indiana. 8 states including Indiana have enacted quarantines on black walnut. Several other states are working on quarantines. *Pityophthorus juglandis* is the beetle that is carrying the *Geosmithia morbida* fungus spores that causes the cankers. As the beetle borers into the tree, it inoculates the tree with the fungus. Early symptoms (late June/August) appear anywhere in the crown, a portion of the crown may look thin, die back of branches. Affected trees die in approximately 3 years. In the next year, the Division of Entomology will begin doing some survey work to look for thousand cankers disease.

Indiana Emergency Rule: Applies to any walnut originating from or transiting through a regulated area. There are exemptions for nuts, processed lumber that is 100% bark free, kiln dried with square edges, finished wood products. To get a compliance agreement to move walnut through Indiana the material must be inspected at the point of origin and must deliver a phytosanitary certificate to the state entomologist at least 24 hours before the material enters Indiana. A state inspector will check the product when it arrives.

Forestland Property Tax Assessment Impacts, *Phil Wagner*

PowerPoint Presentation: Forest Assessment

Division of Forestry is working with Department of Local Government Finance to get consistent assessment of forestland statewide. The law says that land assessment is to be based on use. If a forest is being used for an agricultural product (timber, maple syrup) then the land should be assessed at the agricultural rate with an 80% deduction. If the forest is being managed for other things not including an agricultural product then the land is to be assessed at excess

residential. Counties are not consistently assessing forest. Evidence of using forest for agricultural products: management plan, financial records demonstrating management records.

Roundtable Reports

This agenda item was moved forward for this meeting to facilitate development of Action Step work groups/subcommittees as members were asked to share organizational capacity information - staff numbers and budget - as well as accomplishments and goals.

IUFC: 2010 accomplishments include the following: Sample Urban Statewide Inventory Tools brochure mailed to legislators and town government; working on a media campaign to raise the awareness about the value of community trees. In 2011, IUFC will work to increase contact with legislators about the importance of increasing tree canopy cover to the recommended in 25% and to increase IUFC's funding stream with the goal of providing grant funds for tree planting projects within cities and towns not currently eligible for funding through the CUF program.

IFWOA: Professional Foresters Directory is now online. The new professional directory is due in 2011. Timber Harvest Meetings 4 meetings across the state; November 5 & 6, 2010 Landowner conference. Ties to the Land - Successional Planning available to other organizations.

DNR Nature Preserves: The division is still intact despite budget challenges. Nature Preserves has a project on Hoosier National Forest identifying RTE species. The runs the Natural Heritage Database and works with the Division of Forestry in planning initiatives by sharing this data. In the future Nature Preserves will be partnering with Division of Fish & Wildlife to do habitat restoration using Pittman Robinson dollars.

Hoosier National Forest: The forest is celebrating its 75th anniversary. The Hoosier NF manages 202,000 acres in 9 counties. The Forest Plan 2006 guides the multiple use management on the property. Ken Day retired in June. New forest supervisor should be in place by Jan. Two forest closure orders have been issued: caves have been closed due to white nose syndrome in bats; firewood closure to prevent EAB spread. Past year funding has been good due to stimulus money. 2011 budget still in the air, but reductions are expected. The forest has 60 employees, and \$6 million budget. In 2011, American chestnut plantations will be planted on the forest. Landscape scale conservation is being pushed to achieve conservation goals.

Backcountry Horsemen: Backcountry Horsemen is a non profit group that works to maintain & build trails on federal & state land. The group has 4 master educators in leave no trace. There are approximately 80 members in organization.

IHLA: IHLA has joined with IFIC (Indiana Forest Industry Council). The purpose of IHLA is to promote forest products and provide loggers professional training. IHLA is publishing a list of loggers based on the amount of training they have had (gold, silver, bronze). More mills are

becoming green certified. IHLA has completed the branding website “Premium Indiana Forest Products.” On the website users can find forest products by using a map. IHLA was involved with the Habitat for Humanity house and the Boy Scout Bridge at the 2010 State Fair. Department of Agriculture is promoting forest exports during overseas markets trade missions.

IFA: Organization has been working on ending logging ended in backcountry of Morgan Monroe State Forest. IFA would like to see an increase of old growth forests in Indiana. IFA is also working on sustainable logging on private lands. In the upcoming year goals include promoting the forest resources to help the public understand the importance of their forests and continuing their backcountry efforts.

Ecologic: Ecologic is working to get Southern Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Organization (SICWMO) established. They are currently working to hire a director for the Weed Management Organization. SICWMO purpose will be to get landowners information on invasive species and find resources to get control done.

Purdue FNR: Purdue FNR seeks to provide the science to achieve goals for forest & wildlands. Landowner extension programs continue with various partners. HEE (Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment) update: Morgan Monroe State Forest clearcut is complete with interpretive sign; the HEE baseline information is to be published by the USFS Experimental Station; conducting various management strategies to monitoring impact. Purdue is starting a series of online educational programs using Adobe Connect.

HEC: HEC’s focus on improving clean energy policies, sustainable agriculture, and alternative transportation. In 2010: Energy- pushing for net metering policies to provide credit for excess energy produced by on a property. Clean air act enforcement settlement with Duke reducing air pollution, \$5 million mitigation to go to the US Forest Service; Transport- Patoka acquisition using \$11 million from Peabody Coal. 2011: Energy - Property Assessed Clean Energy funding for retrofitting; Agriculture - better standards for CAFOs, Transportation - legislative effort to expand funding for public transport in urban areas bolster bus and install commuter rail, continue effort to change I-69 route by increasing awareness.

IN Association of SWCD: Organizations comprised of representatives from 92 local SWCD. It publishes a weekly newsletter to SWCDs. The association is working to get bill passed for natural resource funding. It also has representation on the national levels.

FSA: CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) expansion- In 2005 there were 3 watersheds slated to enroll 7,000 acres, touching 29 counties. In 2010, the program was expanded to 11 watersheds slated to enroll 26,250 acres and touching 65 counties. Practices include hardwood tree plantings, bottomland timber, and riparian buffers. Currently there are 800 active CREP contracts (5,700 acres). CRP 39, the first general signup since 2006, just closed. For Indiana, land was approved in 78 counties. The goal is to maintain program enrollment.

Purdue University Hardwood Tree Improvement Regeneration Center: The center is working on genetic improvement of 6 tree species. Breeding program for black walnut for resistance 1,000 cankers disease is starting. Will study to see if there is a difference in resistance between black walnuts in a native forest & urban setting. Other projects include restoration of butternut and American chestnut.

Division of Fish & Wildlife: Working with partners on wildlife habitat issues, invasive species monitoring, and the governor's Wabash & Muscatatuck initiatives.

IWF: The director's position open. John Goss left to working on Asian carp. IWF is a broad base conservation group focusing on backyard habitat, education/outreach, clean water, clean air, rough grouse decline early successional habitat. Travis Stoelting, biologist from Purdue University, has been hired to work on forest issues: habitat improvement projects, development on documents on forest management educational.

IACF: Organization is open to consultant foresters. The group's focus is on professional development & education. IACF develops the pricing report in Woodland Steward. Current areas of interest include forest certification- cost & implementation, invasive species control (working with cooperative weed management areas), and economics of forest management.

ISAF: ISAF is part of the national organization for professional foresters. The focus at national & state level is on forest policy, education, promotion of the profession (concern about the decline in forest enrollment in college). ISAF supports the Woodland Steward,

TNC: TNC has added 3,000 of protected land some of which is going to Hoosier National Forest & DNR Division of Forestry. Ellen Jacquart has been instrumental in getting the Invasives Council going. Dan Shaver is working to reenergize the Forest Bank Program. TNC is partnering on the Wabash & Muscatatuck project areas.

Sycamore Trails RC&D: RC&D covers west-central Indiana. The organization is focusing on eradication of bush honeysuckle & multiflora rose.

Monroe County Landowner: Working to keep urban & rural areas separate in planning. In the rural areas, the land cannot subdivide land in saturated area. Limitations on other rural areas must be approved by planning commission. This affects landowner's ability to landowner to move their land may depreciate rural land values.

Sierra Club: The organization has not been much involved in forest issues. Recent focus has been on removing phosphate from lawn fertilizer, working on recreation access to the Lost River. The club is supporting efforts to stop logging in back country area of State Forests. The organization would like to see more old growth forest in public ownership. Group members are interested in recreation and hiking.

USDA: USDA has contribution agreements with the Division of Forestry. Professional foresters are used for invasive species, TSI, riparian buffers, and planting projects. Division of Forestry had separated EQIP funding (CCPI). USDA is working with Purdue to provide Forestry training to district conservationists. Sycamore Trails had invasive species workshops around the state. USDA would like to prioritize invasive species control funding. Web Soil Survey is adding black walnut index.

Indiana Walnut Council: Group has 130 members. Its purpose is to encourage landowners to plant trees and forest management. There are 2 meetings a year.

2010 Strategy Implementation & Designating Leadership

Committee reviewed Action Steps listed in the Statewide Strategy and voted for priorities with dots (see top results below).

*DOF Division vote priorities in bold

<u>Action Step</u>	<u>FSCC Votes</u>	<u>Short/Long-term</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>
Conserve large forests			
1.1		Long	Strategic Forestland Conservation Program
1.2	8		Forest Mitigation Bank
1.3	14	Long	Economic incentives to keep forests as forests
1.4	7		Increase parcels w/mgmt. plan
1.5	7	Short	Decrease parcelization by addressing succession
1.16	8	Long	Incentives for reforestation
Restore and connect forests in riparian areas			
2.2	10	Long	Target tech. assistance to connect patches
2.6	11	Short	Prioritized forestation along riparian corridors
2.8	7		Cost share for increasing riparian forest cover
Expand Best Management Practices			
3.1	12	Short	Expand BMPs
3.3		Long	Promote & encourage BMPs
Coordinate education, training, and technical assistance			
4.1	7	Long	Expand partnership on any strategy
4.3		Short	Target communication to land use decision makers
4.8		Short	Enhance training and ed. for private landowners
Maintain and expand markets for Indiana hardwoods			
5.4	6	Long	Timber check off
5.2		Short	Promote use of hardwoods in IN, sustainable, LEED
5.5		Long	Promote & refine oak sp. regen

The above list of Action Steps from the Statewide Strategy will be the basis for prioritization and formation of subcommittees whose leaders will report to the full committee on progress at regularly scheduled meetings. Subcommittees will work separate from the full committee and may include non-Stewardship Committee member partners. The full Stewardship Committee will provide oversight, guidance and direction to subcommittees as necessary.

Directions to complete this agenda item:

Please select from the above list the Action Step subcommittee(s) upon which your organization will have representation and dedicate resources (time/money) in collaborative effort. Also indicate the particular Action Steps where your organization would act in a leadership capacity to organize work group effort and report to the full committee. Please respond with this information to Chris Gonso at the Division of Forestry – cgonso@dnr.in.gov by November 1, 2010. Subcommittee and leadership posts will be communicated to the full committee thereafter. Please note any deadline conflicts as soon as possible.

Next Meeting, Agenda Items & Important Events

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee will occur on **Wednesday, January 26, 2011** in Indianapolis, IN.

Forestry related events:

IN Forestry BMP Training - Atterbury Office – 10/12

Invasive Plant Field Day – PU Wright Center Lafayette – 10/13

Landmark Program – Clifty Falls 10/13-14

Call B4U Cut's – Be Woods Wise Jasper 10/14

FSC State Forest Annual Audit – 10/18-20

Call B4U Cut's – Be Woods Wise Greencastle 10/21

FSC Classified Forest Audit – 10/21-22

Call B4U Cut's – Be Woods Wise Huntington 10/28

IFWOA Landowner conference Richmond 11/5-6

Hardwood Leaders Forum – Charlotte, NC 12/7