

Indiana Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee Meeting
June 13, 2011 Farm Bureau Building, Indianapolis, IN

Attendees

American Chestnut Foundation: Bruce Wakeland

Carmel Urban Forestry: Cheryl Gettelfinger

Cole Hardwoods: Jeff Manges

DJ Case: Dan Witter

Hoosier Environmental Council: Tim Maloney

Hoosier Backcountry Horsemen: Susan Miller

Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts: Ray Chatlin

Indiana DNR, Fish & Wildlife: Gary Langell, Mitch Marcus

Indiana DNR, Forestry: Chris Gonso, Scott Haulton, Brenda Huter, John Seifert, Mike Seidl, and Phil Wagner

Indiana DNR, Nature Preserves: John Bacone

Indiana Farm Bureau: Warren Baird, Katrina Hall, Bob Kraft, Pete Hanebutt

Indiana Forest & Woodland Owners Association: Robert Woodling

Indiana Land Protect Alliance: Barry Banks

Indiana Society of American Foresters: Brian Gandy

Indiana Tree Farm: Bob Burke, Ken Day

IUPUI, Center for Urban Policy and the Environment: John Ottensmann

Indiana Wildlife Federation: Barbara Simpson, Travis Stoelting

National Wild Turkey Federation, Indiana Chapter: Bud Dennemann

Natural Resource Conservation Service: Ken Collins

Private Forest Owners: Tom Hougham

Purdue University: Bill Hoover, Brian McGowan

Purdue University, HTIRC: Lenny Farlee

Sierra Club, Hoosier Chapter: Richard Miller

Southern Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area: Tom Tremain

The Nature Conservancy: Joe Tutterrow

USDA, Farm Services Agency: Michelle Howell

US Fish & Wildlife Service: Rich Geboy

US Forest Service, Hoosier National Forest: Melany Glossa, Judi Perez

Walnut Council: Hugh Pence

Welcome & Introductions

John Seifert, State Forester, IDNR – Division of Forestry

Property Tax of Farm & Forest – History & Impacts

Katrina Hall, Indiana Farm Bureau – Public Policy

PowerPoint Presentation: *Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee*

Handouts: PowerPoint notes; *Agricultural Land Base Rates for the Assessment Dates: March 1, 2003-2011; Overview of Agricultural Land Value*

The Classified Forest Program began in 1921. Enrolled land is assessed at \$1 per acre. Woodlands can be assessed as agricultural woodlands (80% deduction of agricultural base) or excess acres (based on market value). The following assessment changes have caused pressure toward the Classified Forest Program: Annual adjustments or “trending”; 2012 Pay 2013 reassessment will likely move more farmland to excess acres (higher assessment); Pressure on Assessors to keep assessments as high as possible due to Supplemental Homestead that removes big portion of tax base.

New Limited Liability for Private Landowners Providing Hunting Access & Agritourism

Robert Kraft, Indiana Farm Bureau

New law (IC 34-31-9) takes effect July 1, 2011. The law says that the agritourist (e.g. hunting lessee) assumes the risk of participating in the activity. The provider must post a sign (posted at the main entrance) or have tourist to sign a waiver. Agritourism includes farmers markets, u-pick, livestock expeditions, resource base activities such as education, hunting, fishing, riding. The law covers the behavior of wild and domestic animals. It also includes land, water and structures located on a building. The law does not apply if warning was not posted or if landowner has knowledge or should have had knowledge of specific danger and failed to notified. The sign language is provided in law; wording must be in 1 inch black letters:

Warning. Under Indiana law, an agritourism provider is not liable for an injury to, or the death of, a participant in agritourism activities at this location if the death or injury results from the inherent risks of agritourism activity. Inherent risks of agritourism activities includes risks of injury inherent to land, equipment, and

animals as well as the potential for you to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to your injury or death, or for other participants to act in a manner that may cause you injury or cause your death. You are assuming the risk of participating in this agritourism activity.

Farm Bureau will make sign available to members. Landowners should use caution since law has not yet been tested and hence no existing case law.

Indiana Residents Perceptions of Woodland Management

Daniel Witter, DJ Case & Associates

Powerpoint presentation: *Indiana Residents' Perceptions of Woodland Management*

The 2009 Survey was a collaborative effort of Indiana Division of Forestry, Purdue University, & DJ Case. Respondents (1,402) were English speaking Indiana residents 18 years old & older. Hopes are to repeat the survey every 5 years.

The majority of respondents don't distinguish between State Forests and other publically held land. Most over estimate the amount of forest in government ownership.

Respondents were concerned about health & productivity of Indiana's woodlands. The majority believed that green certified forests are well managed, but could not explain what certification is. Most agreed that woodlands should be managed for a balance of wood products and other benefits (recreation, wildlife, water quality).

Subcommittee Reports & Discussions

Action Step 1.3 Subcommittee Report

Chair: Brian Gandy (gandybrian@hotmail.com)

Action Step 1.3 - Increase economic incentives to keep land in forest, restore forests, slow parcelization and consolidate small tracts, with emphasis on and additional incentives for large tract forests. This action step includes targeted tax incentives, cost-share and conservation payments, and economic development for forest services and products other than lumber (see Strategy 5). Also, work with various commissions, counties and others to develop demand for lower quality hardwoods present in improvement cuts and urban wood "waste." This action step could require State or Federal level legal or regulatory changes.

The subcommittee did not meet since the last meeting, but is planning a meeting later this summer.

Action Step 1.10 Subcommittee Report – No Report

Chair: Charles Michler (michler@purdue.edu)

Action Step 1.10 - Develop a unique Agricultural Commodity Check Off program for timber to provide funds for management incentives, research/education, and product promotion. Timber Check Off program will improve the quality of hardwoods grown in Indiana, expand existing markets, increase demand and create new uses and markets.

Action Step 2.6 Subcommittee Report

Chair: Tim Maloney (tmaloney@hecweb.org)

Action Step 2.6 - Encourage forestation along stream and river corridors while using existing tools to prioritize placement of forested riparian buffers: watershed tool, Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE), Water and Environmental Programs (WEP).

The next subcommittee meeting will be July 14. It will be a webinar on federal riparian programs. A field trip is planned for later in summer. The committee is developing an informal database of riparian programs.

Action Steps 3.1 & 3.3 Subcommittee Report

Chair: Bill Hoover (whoover@purdue.edu)

Action Step 3.1 - Expand BMPs to include invasive species, silviculture, and specialty situations like urban forests and threatened and endangered species.

Action Step 3.3 - Promote and encourage the increased use of Forestry BMPs.

Committee has had one conference call and is planning a face to face meeting in September. The committee has a summary of current BMP activities and will publicize the existing materials. Grant funding related BMPs was not received.

Action Step 4.3 Subcommittee Report – No Report

Chair: Bob Burke (kingwalnut@sbcglobal.net)

Action Step 4.3 - Use existing databases and directories to reach landowners, forest industry professionals, community decision makers and policy makers in general with special effort directed to groups and individuals involved in land-use change decision making. Demonstrate advantages of forested corridors to local officials.

Action Step 4.8 Subcommittee

Chair: Robert Woodling (robertwoodling@netscape.net)

Action Step 4.8 - Enhance and expand training and education of private landowners with emphasis on field days, managing for woodland health and “conserving the family woodlands”. Training should be planned in advance and advertised extensively for example in the Woodland Steward. This action step should include the use and expansion of the Indiana Demonstration Forest program. Written resources should be easily obtainable and presented in an easily understood format (e.g., Landowners Guide to Managing Family Woodlands).

Committee is working on the online forestry education database. They have run into a problem. They need to be able to convert an Adobe fillable form file to .csv file so it can be imported in to Access.

The Hardwood Export Market, Why it Matters

Mike Seidl, ISDA-IDNR Forestry

Jeff Manges, Cole Hardwood, INC

PowerPoint: Environmental Policies, Illegal Logging, Trade and the US Hardwood Industry

Cole Hardwood: Exports are making up 70% of their business, exports have kept business going during the recession

Exports: Globalization – Consumption of wood production is increasing fastest outside the US. The highest demands is coming from China (common and upper grade materials), EU (upper grade), and southeastern Asia. The demand is being driven by housing privatization, commercial construction, rising consumer wealth, and the hospitality industry. The markets to watch are China, Southeast Asia/Vietnam, Middle East (Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Turkey), Latin America, India, EU (mature market).

Modeling Land Use Change in Central Indiana

John Ottensmann

PowerPoint Presentation: *Urban Sprawl, forests, and the luci2 Urban Simulation Model*

luci2 is a computer model that allows users to create and compare scenarios reflection policy choices and assumptions about future development. *luci2* website is www.luci.urbancenter.iupui.edu.

White-nose Syndrome – What Landowners Should Know

Richard Geboy, WNS Coordinator, USFWS

Powerpoint: White-Nose Syndrome: Educating Public and Private

White Nose Syndrome (WNS) was first noticed in 2006 in New York. Infected hibernacula have seen 40-100% mortality of bats. Recovery rate is very slow. *Geomyces destructans* is the fungus that causes the WNS. It likes cooler temperatures (below 70 degrees). The more humid environments seem to be experiencing higher mortality rates. Species: little brown bat, eastern pipistrelle, northern myotis, Indiana bat, big brown bat, small-footed myotis have been impacted by WNS. Other possible species gray bat, cave myotis, southeastern myotis. WNS spreads from bat to bat transmission and possibly human transfer. Slowing the spread options: cave closures, outreach, decontamination protocols. WNS was confirmed in Indiana in 2011 in Washington, Crawford, and Monroe Counties.

Roundtable Reports

Division of Forestry: John Seifert & Phil Wagner

1.3 Million EQIP funding will be focused on Hoosier National Forest Purchase Area. The Division of Forestry is working to expand that to the counties containing the purchase area.

The Division of Forestry received one 2011 State & Private Forestry Competitive Grant:

Landowner Deer Impact Assessment Tool

Total project: \$265,000

Federal funding: \$132,500

This project is a collaborative effort to produce tools that will allow forest managers and landowners to determine if the property level deer population is too high to manage for oak regeneration or reforestation on a given tract of land and promote forest health and diversity. Information gathered result in the development of a deer indicator map that reveals levels of deer damage to forest regeneration on private lands statewide.

The Division is facing significant budget cuts. The Division went from \$12.3 mil to \$9.3 million budget. To survive, we have consolidated offices, done some creative financing, gotten savings from retirements, and used our dedication fund. Our dedicated fund will be depleted in two years.

The Division is maintaining status quo on timber harvest.

CFM section: The Classified Forest & Wildlands Program grew by 23,000 acres in 2010. The staff is not growing. In the last 6 months, 25% of the district foresters (5) have retired. We have filled 2 positions and are waiting to hear if we will be able to fill the remaining 3 positions. We will be implementing a new online landowner database in July.

American Chestnut Foundation: Bruce Wakeland

500 resistant chestnut trees were planted on the Hoosier National Forest as a test plot.

Carmel Urban Forestry: Cheryl Gettelfinger

Mapping of tree preservation areas – education tool and way to keep larger older trees – is complete in 4 of the 6 sections of the town

Hoosier Environmental Council: Tim Maloney

Attended a Department of the Interior Meeting. HEC is pushing for full funding of Restoration Fund; clean energy policy; and transportation initiatives.

Hoosier Backcountry Horsemen: Susan Miller

Trail Repair Work Weekend is the weekend of June 18-19 at Deam Lake SRA. Take Pride in America trail work day and other trail work days are coming up. Hoosier Backcountry Horsemen will be involved with the Hoosier Outdoor Experience.

Indiana DNR, Fish & Wildlife: Gary Langell & Mitch Marcus

Deer administrative rule is still out for comment. There will be public hearings in late July- one north, one south.

Indiana Forest & Woodland Owners Association: Robert Woodling

IFWOA met with David Hayes, Department of Interior. USDI is looking for landscape projects

IFOWA is taking applications for the Deam Award. For details contact Liz Jackson.

Indiana Society of American Foresters: Brian Gandy

The winter ISAF meeting focused on getting youth interested in Forestry and increasing enrollment in forestry at Purdue University.

Indiana Tree Farm: Bob Burke, Ken Day

Funding has been decreasing.

Indiana Wildlife Federation: Travis Stoelting

IWF continues working with landowners across the state. IWF is getting involved with the American woodcock initiative.

Natural Resource Conservation Service: Ken Collins

Budget issues are looming for NRCS.

NRCS need to find a better way to prioritize areas for invasive species control. Ideas or suggestions are welcomed.

Purdue University: Bill Hoover & Brian McGowan

The replacement for Bob McCormick starts July 1. The biometrics position has also been filled and will start in August. HEE conducted a field visit to the clearcut on Morgan-Monroe State Forest

Purdue University, HTIRC: Lenny Farlee

Planted 12,000+ trees this spring.

Working on 1,000 canker disease monitoring.

The Nature Conservancy: Joe Tutterrow

TNC is working to redefine the Forest Bank Program. There has been a slowing of land purchases.

USDA, Farm Services Agency: Michelle Howell

FSA STO Conservation Chief position interviews will likely take place this month.

The USDA FY 2011 budget has significant reductions. A Voluntary Early Retirement Authority was approved in May. Early retirements must occur between July 29 and August 31, 2011.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – General Sign-up 41, list of accepted offers is to be released soon. Indiana has submitted a request for an additional 6,000 acres for State Acres of Wildlife Enhancement Program (SAFE).

US Forest Service, Hoosier National Forest: Melany Glossa & Judi Perez

Travel limits have been put in place. There have been cuts in budget.

The watershed initiative assessment is creating watershed plans for priority watersheds. On June 22, Greenfire movie preview is at 1:00pm.

There is a new website for the Hoosier National Forest.

Walnut Council: Hugh Pence

Indiana should market itself as the Birding Capital of the Midwest. This could be used to accomplish forest manage on State Parks.

Next meeting:

Tentative Date September 12, 2011