

**Indiana Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee Meeting**  
September 12, 2011 Farm Bureau Building, Indianapolis, IN

***Attendees***

American Chestnut Foundation: Bruce Wakeland

Carmel Urban Forestry: Cheryl Gettelfinger

Hoosier Environmental Council: Tim Maloney

Indiana Association of Consulting Foresters: Mike Warner

Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts: Ray Chattin

Indiana DNR, Entomology & Plant Pathology: Phil Marshall

Indiana DNR, Fish & Wildlife: Mitch Marcus

Indiana DNR, Forestry: Dan Ernst, Chris Gonso, Brenda Huter, John Seifert and Zack Smith

Indiana DNR, Nature Preserves: John Bacone

Indiana Farm Bureau: Warren Baird

Indiana Forest & Woodland Owners Association: Phil Gramelspacher, Liz Jackson and Robert Woodling

Indiana Natural Resources Foundation: Bourke Patton

Indiana Society of American Foresters: Brian Gandy

Indiana Tree Farm: Ken Day

Indiana Wildlife Federation: Travis Stoelting

National Wild Turkey Federation, Indiana Chapter: Bud Dennemann

Natural Resource Conservation Service: Ken Collins, Shannon Zezula

Private Forest Owners: Tom Hougham

Purdue University FNR: Lenny Farlee, Songlin Fei, Mike Jenkins and Rob Swihart

Purdue University, HTIRC: Charles Michler

Sierra Club, Hoosier Chapter: Richard Miller

USDA, Farm Services Agency: Michelle Howell

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

US Forest Service, Northeastern Area State & Private: Miranda Hutten

US Forest Service, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science: Leslie Brandt

Walnut Council: Hugh Pence

### ***Welcome & Introduction***

John Seifert, State Forester, IDNR – Division of Forestry

### ***NextGen Forestry project***

Russ Dotzauer, IDNR – Management Information Systems

PowerPoint Presentation: *Introducing the Indiana Forest Resource Management System*

The Indiana Forestry Exchange website ([www.INForestryX.com](http://www.INForestryX.com)) is being expanded to include applications relating to tract management information for private forest landowners. The website will allow users to access information about their forests (area info, soils, easement, inventory, management history, etc.) and provide data, like Classified Forest & Wildlands annual reports, to their forester(s) or consultant(s). Online INFRMS system will also incorporate and expand existing accessible public information on State Forest tract management.

### ***Forest Legacy update***

Brenda Huter, IDNR – Division of Forestry

PowerPoint Presentation: *Expanding*

Handouts: *Indiana Forest Legacy Program Projects & Proposals, Discover Woods Forest Legacy Proposal*

Discover Wood Forest Legacy project proposal was approved.

### ***Invasive species disturbance in forests***

Mike Jenkins, Purdue University

PowerPoint Presentation: *Invasive Species and Disturbance*

Presentation considered disturbance as a driver of invasion, interactions between disturbance and invasion and invasive species as a disturbance. Ailanthus, Microstegium, Paulownia and other forest invasive plants were considered.

### ***Subcommittee Reports & Discussions***

#### **Action Step 1.3 Subcommittee Report**

Chair: Brian Gandy ([gandybrian@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

Subcommittee met in August. They are exploring a more permanent Classified Forest status with voluntary stiffer withdrawal penalty and plan to bring idea to IDNR for consideration. A variety of other action items are under consideration.

#### Action Step 1.10 Subcommittee Report

Chair: Charles Michler ([michler@purdue.edu](mailto: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.

Committee is waiting to see what happens with national timber check off efforts and should know next year if it will advance.

#### Action Step 2.6 Subcommittee Report

Chair: Tim Maloney ([tmaloney@hecweb.org](mailto: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).

Subcommittee met/held events twice since June. In first event, Ken Collins of NRCS presented on riparian forests and cost share programs. In second event, Jim Norris of ISDA led field day touring different installed riparian buffers (at different ages). Subcommittee will meet again in October on agricultural drainage issues. Following that final informational meeting the subcommittee will develop recommendations to the Stewardship Committee.

#### Action Step 4.8 Subcommittee

Chair: Robert Woodling ([robertwoodling@netscape.net](mailto: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).

Focusing on filling the need for a method to highlights what works in forestry education. Subcommittee has developed a way to capture base data (and store in database) using a registration facility and fillable form that collects data and exports to MS Excel. They are running that facility on an event in November.

### ***The Indiana Tree Project***

Bourke Patton, Indiana Natural Resources Foundation & Becky Fisher, Creative Street Media Group

PowerPoint Presentation: *The Indiana Tree Project*

Handout: *Bookmark*

Indiana Tree Project ([www.indianatreeproject.org](http://www.indianatreeproject.org)) is a tax deductible way for individuals, organizations and companies to contribute to reforestation efforts in Indiana that expand public lands through Indiana State Forests. There are sponsorship opportunities available. The Indiana Tree Project is on Twitter and Facebook. Stewardship Committee members are asked to “like us”, donate, link to us on website and write about us in your newsletter.

### ***Forest management promotion in the Shawnee Hills and Highland Rim eco-regions***

Zach Smith, IDNR – Division of Forestry

PowerPoint Presentation: *Forest management promotion in the Shawnee Hills and Highland Rim eco-regions*

This project/cost-share program addresses the Hoosier National Forest purchase area and includes private forestland that is in counties containing HNF purchase area. The goal is to increase Classified Forest & Wildlands Program by providing \$300,000 per year in cost share using EQIP based rates. \$85,000 was allocated last year. This program reduces the demand on NRCS district conservationists.

### ***Central hardwoods climate change response framework***

Leslie Brandt, PhD., Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science

PowerPoint: *Central Hardwoods Climate Change Response Framework*

The key components of the climate change response framework are vulnerability assessment, partnerships, science applications and needs, and adaptation resources. They are looking for data tools and info that can feed into vulnerability models as well as expert reviewers and opinion. They will then apply the developed tools on the ground. The project description is available online:

<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/niacs/climate/centralhardwoods/> Documents from past work in Wisconsin are also online:

[http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/niacs/climate/Wisconsin/draft\\_docs/](http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/niacs/climate/Wisconsin/draft_docs/) Anyone interested in being involved in any way can contact: [lbrandt@fs.fed.us](mailto:lbrandt@fs.fed.us)

### ***NRCS state resource assessment***

Shannon Zezula, Natural Resource Conservation Service

PowerPoint Presentation: *NRCS National State Resource Assessment*

Handouts: *NRCS 2011 State Resource Assessment Project Report - Indiana*

*Introduction, Resource Category - Degraded Plant Condition, RESOURCE CONCERNS – DEFINITIONS*

Resource assessment is an effort to combat “random acts of conservation” and focus efforts to areas that are priority, at risk and needing treatment. Highlighted forestry related resource concerns; excessive plant pest pressure, inadequate structure and composition, habitat degradation and undesirable plant productivity and health.

### ***Roundtable Reports***

#### **Purdue University FNR: Songlin Fei**

Songlin Fei is the newest faculty at PU FNR coming from Kentucky where he worked for 6 years as an assistant professor. He is a biometrician and modeler. He will focus on two main areas, invasive species spatial patterns in the landscape to regional scale addressing why it's there, and forest dynamics, how they change over time and changing spatial composition. He also is interested in American Chestnut.

#### **Purdue University, HTIRC: Charles Michler**

HTIRC has been funded by USFS to do national website on Thousand Cankers Disease. The site is close to going live. The address will be <http://www.thousandcankers.com/> HTIRC is collecting seed, will be publishing newsletter soon and adding a staff scientist, physiologist.

#### **American Chestnut Foundation: Bruce Wakeland**

ACF offers thanks to cooperators. They had annual meeting previous Friday. They hope to add a staff position and are trying to finish restoration plan.

#### **Purdue University FNR: Lenny Farlee**

There will be an invasive plants field day on October 5<sup>th</sup> in coordination with the West Central Cooperative Weed Management Area. They are also planning a field day at SIPAC for November 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Indiana Society of American Foresters: Brian Gandy**

ISAF semi-annual meeting will occur at Brown County at the end of the month to look at the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment. FFA convention is recruiting young foresters.

#### **Walnut Council: Hugh Pence**

Walnut Council is concerned about the effects of TCD. Considering differing successes in the examples of EAB and ALB, we need to be more aggressive about control to try to save resource.

**Indiana Association of Consulting Foresters: Mike Warner**

Last June was the national meeting in New Orleans. Two weeks ago was the local chapter meeting. There are similar issues being considered. Consultant forester price report was used in Woodland Steward website. Membership participates to give indication of stumpage prices. There is a small membership but a large impact.

RC&D groups lost support, greater than \$1 million for Indiana. They supplied staff office and coordinating help. This left RC&Ds in Indiana (good partners) struggling, some more than others, to develop business plans. They are still available to provide support. They are still active. Many have forestry high on their priorities.

**Purdue University FNR: Rob Swihart**

Classes resumed for 310 undergraduates and 91 graduate students. PU FNR began working 5 years ago on sustaining hardwood ecosystems experiment. They are working on general technical report with 18 data chapters and getting reviews in. State Forester is requested to write preface. PU FNR had been operating under a hiring freeze for 2-3 years. Songlin Fei is the first hire in a long time and a vital position. Committee members are urged to talk with him. The American chestnut group at PU (22 members) continues to grow. It is a successful partnership with the American Chestnut Foundation. The department benefits from partnerships established over many years and are thankful for collaborative efforts.

**Indiana Forest & Woodland Owners Association: Liz Jackson**

IFWOA annual conference is on November 4 & 5<sup>th</sup> at the Jasper Inn. There will be a field tour on the first day and a showing of Greenfire (Aldo Leopold documentary) that evening. There will be concurrent sessions on the following day, Saturday, as at previous annual conferences.

**Hoosier Environmental Council: Tim Maloney**

HEC continues to work on many environmental topics including water quality rule making relating to CAFO and statewide anti-degradation policy scheduled for adoption. They are working on transportation and promoting public transportation in Central Indiana. They are promoting possible high speed Chicago to Cincinnati corridor. HEC annual environmental forum will be on December 10<sup>th</sup> at Butler University.

**Natural Resource Conservation Service: Ken Collins**

In the top 15 most utilized practices are brush management (invasives control) and TSI. Teams are meeting to work on those practices to standardize payment rates across states. They are also looking for a better system to prioritize sites.

**Indiana Tree Farm: Ken Day**

Tree Farm members in SAF and ACF are working to conduct re-inspections on tree farm properties to reduce their dues. There is a Tree Farm landowner field day being planned for March 10 in Jasper. It will be coordinated by Lenny Farlee.

**Indiana DNR, Forestry: Dan Ernst**

State forests (13, 2 in Northern Indiana) are busy with resource management program. They are winding down from recreation season. Research work is underway. Resource management activities included 14 million board feet of timber sold last year certified FSC, SFI. In October, full audit will be done for certification bodies. There may be stakeholder processes involved. Watch for these solicitations. State forest properties are also busy on restoration of facilities. Starve Hollow lake sediment removal is one big project. LARE is contributing funding. Preliminary funding has also been secured for restoration of CCC buildings at Martin and Jackson-Washington State Forests.

**USDA, Farm Services Agency: Michelle Howell**

Additional Acres for SAFE. Indiana FSA has received 6,000 additional State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) in mid-August, including 1,000 acres in the Indiana Bat priority area. These acres are based on a first-come, first-served continuous sign-up. We currently have approximately 800 acres available to allocate for the SAFE tree practice.

The SAFE Program is a continuous CRP program that began in 2008 with 13,100 acres for wildlife enhancement. With the addition of these 6,000 acres, our total includes 19,100 acres for this CP38 practice.

**Indiana DNR, Forestry: John Seifert**

Classified Forest & Wildlands will also be audited by certification bodies in the week before the State Forests. We put in group certificate in primary industry and now are looking at rolling out a group certificate for secondary manufacturing. People (companies) are receptive. We should be in a good position after recovery to capture market share.

There have been a number of retirements (9 positions currently open). 7 of the 9 open positions are for professional foresters. We might be able to fill one or two but will be operating at reduced staff levels. All staff is doing two times as much. We have gone from a \$12 to a \$9 million budget and still hitting performance targets. People are being asked to step forward and take on additional roles.

DoF is also consolidating offices and looking now to consolidate Morgan-Monroe and Fire

Headquarters but we are trying to include an educational center in that consolidation. Going to try to find charitable contributions. Educational center will be completed with a December deadline and will include dorms, conference center, offices and rooms. Rooms will highlight different hardwood species. The goal is to have larger meetings there. It will be able to handle up to 100 people in auditorium style seating.

Turkish delegation came to Indiana. Mike Seidl's work with hardwood economic development continues paying dividends. Turkish group was impressed with timber stands.

**Indiana Forest & Woodland Owners Association:** Robert Woodling

Natural Resource Sustainability Task Force had first meeting 2 weeks ago. They are prioritizing resources and looking at what other states do. They'll report to Natural Resources Study Committee and Governor in 2013. Task Force members include IASWD, Bill Weeks with LPA, IFWOA, The Nature Conservancy's Mary McConnell, Indiana Wildlife Federation, 2 State Senators and 2 State Representatives.

***Next meeting:***

Tuesday, January 17, 2012. Possibly at Morgan-Monroe State Forest – Location TBD.