

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Indiana Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee Meeting

October 11, 2022

Morgan-Monroe State Forest Training Center

Council Member Attendees

Indiana DNR, Division of Forestry: John Seifert – Council Chair

Ruffed Grouse Society and Indiana Association of Consulting Foresters: Jerry Seitzinger

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service: Dan Harland

Hoosier Hikers Council: Bonnie Wilcoxson

Independent Representative: Tom Hougham

Indiana DNR, Division of Forestry: Brenda Huter

Indiana DNR, Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology: Megan Abraham

Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association: Liz Jackson

Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association: Ray Moistner

US Forest Service, Hoosier National Forest: Jeremiah Heise

Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts: Joe Schmees

Indiana Natural Resource Conservation Service: Dan Shaver

Hoosier Environmental Council: Tim Maloney

Sierra Club of Indiana: Lora Kemp

Indiana State Department of Agriculture: Jesse Cororay

Indiana DNR, Division of Forestry: Darren Bridges

Absent Member Organizations

Indiana Arborist Association

Indiana DNR, Division of Fish & Wildlife

Indiana Land Protection Alliance

Indiana Wildlife Federation

Indiana Trail Riders Association

Indiana Society of American Foresters

US Forest Service State and Private Forestry

*Organizations currently considered inactive due to 2 subsequent absences

Introduction and DNR Updates

John Seifert introduced himself and then had everyone in attendance introduce themselves and the organization they are representing. He also gave an update of staffing, positions open and those working to be filled. He noted that this was the biennial budget cycle and that the Division of Forestry had submitted a budget that would fill all open positions, make necessary improvements to state forests resource needs like invasive species and recreational facilities that were in most need of repair. Finally, he talked about future Committee meetings spending a half day in the field touring examples of forest management on private lands.

5 Year Strategic Plan

He also reviewed major topics that would be part of the next 5-year strategic plan. They included: maintaining the oak component in Indiana's forests, both public and private; continue to grow and sell 2.5 million seedlings; develop systems to pay landowners for ecosystem services; begin using prescribed fire to maintain forest diversity and the oak component; grow the summer teacher forestry practicum; maintain state forest timber sales at target levels of sustainability; continue aggressively controlling major invasive species; acquire strategic additional land to enhance the state forest system; and enhance the urban forestry program both in staff and resources to meet the growing need.

NRCS Updates of EQIP and CRP

Dan Shaver NRCS Forester gave an update on NRCS program and how the funding was being applied across the various programs and the state. See file on the website.

Forest Tours

Yellowwood (harvest area) - Darren Bridges lead the tour to review the past timber sale on Yellow State Forest in the Backcountry area. There was a discussion of the management plan, environmental reviews, typical logging practices and best management review after the sale.

Morgan-Monroe (prescribed fire) - Darren also lead the discussion on the prescribed fire applied to the tract. He noted the goal was to reduce seedling, sapling and poles size maple and beech trees to allow more sunlight to reach the forest floor. All with the goal of establishing a new recruitment of oak seedling before a future timber harvest occurs. He noted that this site had a mixed oak forest and his goal was to at least keep the same mix. It was noted that many of the larger sugar maple survived the fire and a follow-up treatment to control them would be next.

Morgan-Monroe – John Seifert lead a discussion on site preparation in an old pine stand and the enrichment planting of oak seedlings – red and white. The site was cleared before planting and then followed up with a broadcast herbicide application to kill volunteer and resprouting trees. The Division is exploring any number of options of keeping oak a part of the future forest mix.

Markely (private landowner) - Mr. Markely and consulting forester Dan McGuckin discussed the motivation of the recent timber sale, the follow up timber stand improvement work and future conditions of his forest. A very well manage private forest. The harvest created a number of opportunities for early succession wildlife habitat.

Creech (private landowner) – Consulting forester Mike Spaulding discussed the management plan, eventual single tree harvest and follow up timber stand improvement work on this land. A very aggressive plan was enacted to reduce invasive species and remove the subcanopy layer to improve light conditions to prepare the forest for better oak regeneration conditions.

Meeting adjourned around 4:30 pm.