

Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry

DRAFT

Indiana Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee Meeting

September 11, 2012 Farm Bureau Building, Indianapolis, IN

Attendees

American Chestnut Foundation: Bruce Wakeland

Ball State University Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management:
Josh Gruver

Carmel Urban Forestry Committee: Cheryl Gettelfinger

Hoosier Environmental Council: Tim Maloney

Indiana DNR, Entomology & Plant Pathology: Phil Marshall

Indiana DNR, Fish & Wildlife: Mitch Marcus

Indiana DNR, Forestry: Dan Ernst, Chris Gonso, Brenda Huter, John Seifert, Zach Smith
and Phil Wagner

Indiana Farm Bureau: Warren Baird

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

Indiana Society of American Foresters: Brian Gandy

Indiana State Department of Agriculture/IDNR: Mike Seidl

Indiana Tree Farm: Ken Day

Indiana Urban Forestry Council: Holly Jones

National Wild Turkey Federation, Indiana Chapter: Bud Dennemann, Randy Showalter

National Association of Conservation Districts: Tom Crowe

Private Forest Owners: Tom Hougham

Purdue University FNR: Lenny Farlee, Bill Hoover, Songlin Fei

Purdue University, HTIRC: Jim McKenna

Southern Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area: Tom Tremain

The Nature Conservancy, Indiana Chapter: Joe Tutterrow

USDA, Farm Services Agency: Michelle Howell

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

Walnut Council: Hugh Pence

All presentations posted on committee website.

Welcome & Introduction

John Seifert, State Forester, IDNR – Division of Forestry

Agricultural assessments, property tax and implications

Larry DeBoer, Purdue University

PowerPoint Presentation: *Soil Productivity Factors and Farmland Assessment*

There is a trend increase in the agricultural base rate for Indiana property tax assessments. There is a four year lag and drought impacts will be felt in 2016.

2012-13 Farm Bureau policy agenda & Farm Bill update

Kent Yeager, Indiana Farm Bureau

Handouts: *Indiana Farmland Base Value Data, Tax and land use slides*

This is the 7th Farm Bill worked on. Direct payments are gone. Money will be saved on Conservation Reserve, reduced by 2/3rds. Lesser known programs will be hard to save. Farm Bureau priority is to maintain safety net, especially with regard to weather. There is no plan to take House Ag Committee bill to floor. Anything is on the chopping block. January 2nd is a big date.

American Chestnut Restoration

James McKenna, Purdue – HTIRC

PowerPoint Presentation: *American Chestnut Restoration*

September 20th tour of Jackson Washington American Chestnut orchard.

Sustainable Natural Resources Task Force update

Robert Woodling, IFOWA

PowerPoint Presentation: *Sustainable Natural Resources Task Force*

Task force doesn't want to step backwards, wants to add forests. Division of Forestry funding has dropped by 30%. Task force interested in funding DoF to hire 20 assistant district foresters and land acquisition funding to enlarge canopy. Also, they are interested in establishing riparian buffers on all major waterways in state and considering ideas for funding.

March 2012 tornado impacts on Clark State Forest and private lands

Dan Ernst, IDNR – Division of Forestry
PowerPoint Presentation: *Henryville Tornado*

Also, Farm Service Agency's Emergency Forest Restoration Program provided ½ million dollars for this event and has program fact sheet.

Forest Legacy update

Brenda Huter, IDNR – Division of Forestry
PowerPoint Presentation: *Expanding*
Handouts: *Indiana Forest Legacy Program Projects & Proposals, Discover Woods Forest Legacy Proposal*

There was no interest in changing the current areas or updating the Assessment of Need. Discover Wood Forest Legacy project resubmission was approved.

Drought Impacts, Tulip scale, EAB and TCD

Phil Marshall, IDNR – Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology
PowerPoint Presentation: *Drought impacts, Tulip scale, EAB and TCD*

North facing slopes impacted more severely because they don't know how to tolerate stress. Found increased mortality in Brown County SP because of lack of management. Drought stress will result in increased mortality five years out. This season is the most significant forest canopy mortality event in our lifetimes in Indiana.

Roundtable & Subcommittee Reports

Purdue University FNR: Bill Hoover
Bill Hoover is going to retire and transfer the price report to IDNR.

Indiana Forest & Woodland Owners Association, Walnut Council: Liz Jackson
IFOWA annual conference information is available. Walnut Council is concentrating on TCD.

The Nature Conservancy: Joe Tutterow
Dan Shaver is refocusing on Forest Bank.

Indiana Tree Farm: Ken Day
They had a new location at the State Fair at the Normandy Barn and it was good. John Stambaugh was Tree Farm Inspector of the Year and recognized in Florida in June. Tree Farm got a \$3,000 grant to help with WFYI video (www.indianaexpeditions.org, click on "Forests at Work")

Indiana Farm Bureau: Pete Hanebutt
Farm Bureau is focused on tax, value and assessment issues.

Indiana Society of American Foresters: Brian Gandy

ISAF fall meeting is happening soon. ISAF is jointly sponsoring biomass meeting with Purdue (see below).

Walnut Council: Hugh Pence

Walnut Council annual meeting in West Virginia is US Forest Service oriented and will occur July 28-31, 2013. The Walnut Council is focusing also on 'other fine hardwoods'.

American Chestnut Foundation: Bruce Wakeland

He is concerned with the War on Invasives. We are losing the war. The BMP subcommittee was started and there is a need for State policy to deal with forest invasive plants. The committee should look at Tom Tremain's 2 page outline on BMPs. Invasive Species Council is meeting on September 26th at 9:30 am (Gramelspacher). Illegal aquatic invasive plant list has been created (Marshall).

Indiana Forest & Woodland Owners Association: Raoul Moore

Raoul is killing a lot of invasives personally and conducting training with Sycamore Trails RC&D. There is a need for more people in the woods to attack invasives. Invasives interfere with mushroom hunting.

Southern Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area: Tom Tremain

Invasive Plant Advisory Committee reports to the Invasive Species Council. They will be reporting on 9/22/12 on 1.) BMPs, recommending that a pilot program be undertaken by IDNR land management divisions and INDOT, 2.) official list of terrestrial invasive plants, and 3.) development of a statewide Early Detection Rapid Response program.

Hoosier Environmental Council: Tim Maloney

Riparian Forest Subcommittee will finalize report this fall. October 6th HEC will sponsor Patoka appreciation day near Oakland City, IN. On October 11th HEC is hosting a debate for the lieutenant governor candidates at the Indiana Historical Society. On Saturday, December 1st will be the Greening the Statehouse forum at the University of Indy.

Purdue University FNR: Songlin Fei

Songlin Fei is a modeler interested in invasive species and forest ecosystem dynamics. More specifically, he is interested in invasive species satellite mapping and remote sensing techniques for strategic planning. Also, he is interested in developing geospatial database for stand dynamics relating to growth and yield and turnover to better understand how species replace each other.

Ball State University Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management: Josh Gruver

Josh Gruver is on the faculty at Ball State researching with department, but more of a social scientist and focused on decision making within natural resources context. He came from Penn State. He is particularly interested in interviewing and understanding how landowners divest land. He is learning about Indiana and looking to continue his research.

Indiana DNR, Forestry: Dan Ernst

Division of Forestry has launched a 300 acre property called Covered Bridge Retreat. Its website is www.coveredbridgeretreat.dnr.IN.gov. The main lodge can be rented to private parties for \$250/night. There is also a 21 site campground. The entire property can be rented for \$2,000/week.

Purdue University, FNR: Lenny Farley

There is a woody biomass meeting taking place September 26-28th with concurrent sessions on harvesting and wildlife impacts. More information is available at Purdue's Forestry & Natural Resources calendar online.

Purdue HTIRC, James McKenna

There will be an American Chestnut Foundation event from 4pm until 8pm on Thursday, September 20 with the State Forester as the keynote speaker. It will take place near Brownstown, IN.

HTIRC is working a lot on Thousand Cankers Disease.

Indiana DNR, Forestry: John Seifert

Certification has been maintained on State Forestland for SFI & FSC. Division of Forestry decided that it is no longer justifiable to maintain Tree Farm certification. Audits will take place in October on public and private lands.

There is a HEE project tour in October. Division purchased anabat sonar detectors to look at bats on the landscape. The results after use are showing a similar situation to Neotropical migrants.

Redesign competitive grants may be on hold. It is not looking like that funding will come through.

State Forests harvested 14 million board feet of timber. Money will be issued to counties in October.

Division of Forestry is currently going through the budgeting process. The next two years should be 'status quo' compared to this year, about \$9.2 - 9.3 million. There is a mandated 3% reversion.

USDA, Farm Services Agency: Michelle Howell

SAFE

Indiana Bat- over 3,000 acres obligated, 82 acres remaining.

Additional SAFE acres requested from WDC but we have not received this additional allocation yet.

Also, FSA has requested two new SAFE priority areas but, at this time, we have not received any word on approval.

EFRP – Tornado

Emergency Forest Restoration Program is a 2008 Farm Bill program for emergency measures to restore private forest land that is damaged by a natural disaster (ice storm, tornado, etc.)

March 2nd, 2012 tornado (EF3 tornado) in Washington & Clark counties received authorization to implement and fund this program from WDC- Washington Co - \$41,000, Clark Co. - \$209,000

Intent: to clear out debris and allow natural regeneration – not to improve the area. Funding is very limited.

Next meeting:

Tuesday, Feb. 19th 2013