

## Indiana Land Resources Council

Thursday November 14, 2019

Crawfordsville, IN

### Members Present

Tom Slater  
Beth Tharp  
Kara Salazar  
Steve Eberly  
Jeff Healy  
David Kovich  
Richard Beck  
Jeff Page

### Others in attendance

Barbara Sha Cox  
Chris Gonso  
Stacy Herr  
Greg Slipper  
Connie Neiningger  
Jeff Cummins  
Katie Nelson

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Thank you Steve for all your work and service to the ILRC. Congratulations on your new role. Eberly: It's been an honor. Helping people understand what it means to be a Hoosier. I thank you. Introduction of Richard Beck
3. Approval of minutes. Eberly moves to approve minutes, second by Kovich. Passes unanimously
4. Ethics Training – completed
5. Legislative Update – Summer Study Committees
  - a. Farmland Preservation
    - i. Topic came up from Rep. Bauer's bill. A lot of development in his area. Our concern was, can ISDA develop and implement a program. Are there existing tools? ISDA, USDA, American Farmland Trust, Farm Bureau and others presented. Committee recommended that there are existing tools available and they didn't think there was a need for a new program at the state level.
  - b. Forestry
    - i. Focused discussion on state forest management. Many people testified. Activists testified that they wanted a 10% set aside, unmanaged. Others presented that the science suggests that management can restore new growth and protect wildlife. At the end of the day, this question is not settled. ISDA testified on economic development perspective. Hardwoods is our number one agriculture product in the state. No formal recommendation. More to come on both issues.
  - c. Questions
    - i. Kovich: DNR recommends management plan, right?
      1. Yes, their management strategies align with what Purdue has found in studies.
6. Indiana Land Use Summit – Debrief, Kara Salazar
  - a. 160 attendees.
  - b. 98 survey responses and some really helpful feedback
  - c. We also feel like we received enough positive feedback that it would justify another summit
  - d. People liked the panel format.
  - e. Suggestions were that we have a mix of standard presentations with panel discussions. Perhaps lengthen panel discussions

- f. Reduce break in networking time. Lunch was a little long. We will keep this in mind.
- g. Small committee to recruit for exhibit tables next time.
- h. People were concerned that they didn't have agendas in advance although it was posted on the website. We will work on reminders and additional emails.
- i. Lunch speaker was good but felt a little political. Maybe pair with more education.
- j. Hit our audience well, except for local elected officials. AIM was same day.
- k. Diverse group in attendance, one of the most diverse I have attended
- l. Everyone who responded said they would recommend the summit except for one person. That person scored us very high in everything else.
- m. Purdue Land Use Team is willing to host or co-host another land use summit. Recommendation would be every other year. We can discuss ILRC's interest in this.
- n. Majority of attendees plan at the county level.
- o. Continuing education credits didn't seem to be a very big need for this group but 10 people did receive planning credits.
- p. Vast majority of people said we "met" or "exceeded" expectations.
- q. Rated very positively when asked about using information
- r. People offered many suggestions for additional topics. This shows the need for another summit.
- s. Cummins: Anecdotally I heard that people liked the rural component and it was more heavily focused on rural issues. There isn't another land use summit. No place to get such a broad range of issues. Gave them a good foundation in many topics.
- t. Salazar: Lunch came out early, speaker went short. Something we can fix in the future.
- u. Cummins: Value in networking time, but not quite that long.
- v. Salazar: Some people suggested facilitated discussion. That can be a pro and a con.
- w. Tharp: Any idea geographically where attendees came from?
  - i. Salazar: They were located all over. I'll have to look at the registration details for that.
- x. Healy: I read through all the comments. Pretty wide spread but a lot in the middle. Topics that were mentioned a lot were forestry and flood plain information. Economic Development also mentioned. People want to know about those types of things because they hear a lot of rhetoric about them. ILRC doesn't have a contract to do it again, correct?
  - i. Salazar: No, contract ended August 30.
- y. Healy: Doing it again would mean another budget?
  - i. Cummins: Yes, cost of putting on event and then decide if we wanted to supplement information. I think it would be worth looking at where updates may be needed. ISDA would have to look at that.
- z. Salazar: We could also look at additional sponsorships. We didn't look at those very much this year.
- aa. Kovich: I like the idea of doing a summit every other year.
- bb. Tharp: Do we think local officials didn't attend because of AIM or other reasons?
- cc. Salazar: We can't be sure. AIM is a popular conference though.
- dd. Cummins: This was kick-off. We want to make an effort to get this document series out and around. Work of the council has concluded from development standpoint but conversations need to continue.
- ee. Tharp: Should there be some more strategy to that? A lot of work went into that and I want to make sure it is at the forefront of communities making decisions.

- ff. Cummins: We have a suggestion that we will address during our planning for 2020 later in the agenda.
  - gg. Healy: Do you have tracking of who downloads the pdf?
  - hh. Salazar: I asked for the analytics but haven't received them yet.
  - ii. Salazar: We're using the document in our land use planning programs and we're tracking that and we can track whether they used it make decisions if we're part of their planning process.
7. Chris Gonso, Indiana Forest Action Plan
- a. Work with division of forestry for little over 10 years and now in shared position with ISDA.
  - b. In 2010, I helped develop the 2010 Forest Action Plan. Meant to address all state acres.
  - c. DNR has asked me to assist with 2020 plan as well.
  - d. I would like the ILRC to take an active part in this plan as well. Best way is through the committee.
  - e. Secondly, provide written comment and response and review the document. The draft that will come out for public comment is very much open to new ideas. We would like to integrate work you are doing where ideas overlap.
  - f. Origin of Forest Action Plan is federal requirement. State of Indiana receives a few million dollars to help forest lands across the state. There is also an increasing amount of competitive funds that are awarded by grants and those funds are specifically tied to this action plan. It is also an opportunity to bring stakeholders together and establish relationships and common ground.
  - g. We had a huge process in 2010 to develop that plan. Largely, we think those issues remain the same today. A few we do need to focus on more this time around.
  - h. Priorities include: preserve and protect existing forests, restore forests, expand BMPs, especially invasive species, technical assistance, establish strategic partnerships, attain and expand markets for hardwoods
  - i. A majority of our forests are 80-120 years old. We don't have old or young forests.
  - j. Great accomplishments made on invasive species. Terrestrial plant rule helped with this. NRCS also helped with starting CISMAs
  - k. A lot of accomplishments made, but a few we still need to address.
  - l. Climate change wasn't mentioned in 2010, and also need to address urban forests and connecting people with nature.
  - m. Process: DNR website has information. Plan should be completed in June 2020. We would like to release draft as soon as possible. A little behind already but hope draft is released in a few months, or sooner. We would love your support and comments.
  - n. Coordinating committee is open to all groups. You could send a representative from ILRC to the meetings. Also could have more than one. They meet once a year. We don't have a scheduled meeting yet. We provide at least one month notice.
  - o. Comments can be submitted via email address on webpage. You can also reach out to Chris. [cgonso@dnr.in.gov](mailto:cgonso@dnr.in.gov). or [cgonso@isda.in.gov](mailto:cgonso@isda.in.gov).
  - p. Healy: Would be hesitant to have official position via ILRC if our individual constituencies have their own opinion.
  - q. Cummins: Point well taken. Maybe councilors reach out to constituencies to find their opinion.
  - r. Gonso: Would encourage you to look for overlap between need for forestry land use guidance and what is in the plan. Easier to ask for federal funding when we can point to something specific.

- s. Cummins: Key piece is to make sure your stakeholders are aware of what is coming and to stay engaged.
  - t. Gonso: Want to make a distinction that this is a plan for all 5 million forested acres in Indiana.
8. Presentation on ILRC 2020 – Katie Nelson
- a. Mission of the Council overview
  - b. Option 1 – continue as we have been
    - i. Quarterly meetings with presentations from folks to discuss their land use concerns and priorities and then choose a direction
  - c. Option 2 – small meetings with each councilor and their constituency
    - i. Three or so full ILRC meetings where Councilor reports back on the individual meeting
    - ii. Could also present the guidance document to each group.
    - iii. So we gather ideas and share prior ones
  - d. Option 3 – no listening sessions.
    - i. Councilors get feedback from constituencies and then we make a decision at next meeting on a path forward.
  - e. Salazar: Like a mix of 2 and 3. I think we have plenty of information that we could quickly make a decision more immediately.
  - f. Tharp: In meeting the needs of the counties, is there a way in which this could be marketed somehow? Is there a place where we could have someone be accessible to go to counties and towns and make presentations on the document series?
  - g. Beck: Partner with AIM, Plan Commissions, planning associations, AIC
  - h. Salazar: We could do a land use team webinar
  - i. Tharp: What is extension’s engagement on this?
  - j. Salazar: I talk to folks weekly who are looking for this information. We’re asked to convene people to discuss these hot topic issues. Extension is on advisory and area plan commissions and each can be different.
  - k. Healy: Will take this back to IASWCD board and see what feedback they give. Could have a presentation on this in December board meeting. That would be a great way to get to the people I represent.
  - l. Salazar: Get a schedule of events that we want to submit abstracts for or event registrations. Booths and tables to present the information.
  - m. Page: Like the idea of meeting with each Councilor individually but would rather see a tighter timeline. I think we could get my constituency together
  - n. Tharp: Could we do a quarter?
  - o. Cummins: If we knew today that this was the model, we could start getting meetings set.
  - p. Beck: Mayor’s and Commissioner’s caucus in NE Indiana that meets monthly. That would be a good place to integrate into those meetings.
  - q. Nelson: We could get summaries of the town hall meetings and send those in advance of the next full meeting.
  - r. Tharp: Move that we pursue option 2 and hold those councilor meetings in the first quarter of 2020.
  - s. Page: Second.
  - t. Motion passes unanimously.
9. Audience Comments
- a. Barbara Sha Cox

- i. If I understand your plans right, there may be a cap on attendance. It should be open to the public. WE are paying for these meetings. You should not coordinate all your meetings with particular groups. There are different feelings and perspectives. We're all invested. Don't promote one little item. Some of these BZAs don't have great appointees. I think this council should be here for all the people.
- ii. If you're going to go visit with folks. Tell them the good and the bad. 245 pages of impaired waterways.

10. Eberly moves to adjourn meeting. Kovich seconds.

11. Meeting adjourns.