

IFDC Urban and Community Forestry Committee Meetings 5/4/17

Prepared by: Sravya Pamulapati, GPSI IDNR UCF

Edited by: Reinee Hildebrandt, IDNR

Attendees: Rob Sproule, Oak Park City Forester; Beth Corrigan, Morton Arboretum; Phillip Rodbell, USDA Forest Service; Regional Administrator, Drew Hart, USDA FS; Alessandra, Intern USDA FS; Sheila Johnston, USDA FS Hydrologist; Bob Benjamin, retired; Daniella Pereira, Openlands; Sravya Pamulapati, GPSI IDNR; Debbie Fluegel, Trees Forever; Stephanie Brown, Illinois Forest Association; and Jesse Felix, West Chicago Park District/ IPRA.

Rob Sproule called the meeting to order.

INTRODUCTIONS

Special Guests:

Phillip Rodbell, USDA FS;

Alessandra, Intern USDA FS;

Sheila Johnston, USDA FS Hydrologist;

MEETING MINUTES APPROVED

Rob Sproule called for an approval of the minutes.

Beth Corrigan made a motion to approve.

Daniella seconded the motion.

All committee members present at the meeting approved.

REPORT - COUNCIL ON FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT MTG.

Rob Sproule provided an update from the last Council Meeting. Final changes to the development of Illinois Forestry Action Plan were discussed. He asked for everyone to review it one more time and get comments back to him. (It is on the IDNR partnership initiatives page

with all the other documents for today's meeting.) What was discovered in the last meeting was that our draft of the urban forestry sections went through some cuts when it went to the editor. Some of it for length and some for the repetitiveness and some other issues. They gave us back that updated version and asked us to just go through it and make any changes or recommendations. Reinee, Beth and myself spent some time in March going through that revision and cleaning it up, making some changes, making some rewrites and reorganizing things. That is the copy on the website for the committee to review so that everybody had an opportunity to see that and make sure that they were on board with the changes made. There is another the next CFD meeting to bring forth any kind of final changes to our sections. There was an internal IDNR (by Paul Deizman) edit. The addendum is still included in full as an attachment and so, it's just some or more of the language through the document that was revised. Rob encourage everybody to take a look at that and the Urban and Community Forestry shows up in a number of sections throughout the document from up in the threat section. If you have any concerns let Rob know. Rob Sproule clarified for Daniella that this was the plan revision of the next five years. Daniella raised the question of actionable and tangible items being missing in the current version of the Forest Action Plan.

Philip Rodbell, USDA FS reminded us that the Action Plan is a requirement of the Farm Bill and complemented the group for integrating urban throughout the document. He reminded the group that the Forest Action Plans help identify the challenges and opportunities that would enable the State to apply for federal funds so you want to be in there because then when you apply for grants, the Forest Service will say, well then there's no opportunities and there's no challenges for urban so why are you applying. Phillip thought state had responded in a way that would enable all your subgroup recipients to apply for opportunities. Phillip

suggested to make sure that storm water related issues, wood utilization for urban wood or “work force development” opportunities are in the plan.

Daniella volunteered to look into the work force development language for the plan. There was a discussion on Threat #4 Forestry Professionals are Too Few addressing the work force development but it was discovered that #4 only focused on rural forestry professionals.

Rob mentioned that the Forestry Development Council meetings participants also discussed printing the copies of the Forestry BMP Handbook. It was announced that the state nursery will stay open and they were getting ready to do mail outs for the pollinator wildflowers.

Rob Sproule brought up his discussion at the Illinois Forestry Development Council meeting concerning legislative bills going through the legislature that are impacting urban forestry and state forestry. There was some discussion about the Council existing to provide the legislature with truthful scientific data, information or professional opinions on legislative issues before they bring them to the floor. (Not to be confused with lobbying.) Specific issues discussed were the Timber Trespass, the Neonicotinoid bill and sales taxes. That's one of the primary reasons that the council exists and it's a benefit to the legislature that they don't utilize.

URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY COMMITTEE BY-LAWS

The continued development of the bylaws was discussed. Rob took the initial draft provided by Reinee at the last meeting and continued to develop it further based on comments from the last meeting.

SECTIONS 1 NAME and SECTION 2 PURPOSE

Reinee Hildebrandt directed the group to the February meetings minutes and pointed out that the group decided to have Section One be the name, to just officially identify the name of the group. Then the Section Two would be your purpose. There was discussion on how to write the purpose

section given our relationship with the Council and how they define their purpose. Language discussed include: “Our Purpose is to serve as a committee to the Illinois Forestry Development Council Pursuant to the Law.” Or move up Section 4 1st item or all of it into the Purpose section. There was discussion on whether to include the purpose statements within our purpose statement. Rob will revise that section before the next meeting.

SECTION 3. MEMBERSHIP

Participants Discussion Rob wanted everybody to kind of take another look at this. Membership was discussed including the benefits to the committee of having a membership organization vs. a member’s based organization. Looking at membership as an organization rather than the individual and putting the expectation on the organization to provide that person and for that person accountable so that you know it's not so much that if that person leaves that the representation is gone and that interest is no longer there. Rob suggested that the members’ organizations sign an MOU that mentions they want to be an active participant, they want to support the causes of the committee and the council and they commit to having a representative who attends regularly and will participate kind of thing.

Rob Sproule asked the group to review the list and see if anyone/organization else should be added. Reinee Hildebrandt suggested adding SMA. There was a question on whether or not Chicago Wilderness was still a viable organization. Rob and/or others will check on that. Rob suggested going through the list and finding contact information then actually send a letter out from the committee and invite these organizations to sign the MOU. Then they will all basically decide whether or not they want to be member. We will send it to Chicago Wilderness and maybe they'll say yes and maybe they'll say no and then we will know who falls into this group.

There was a discussion of how to handle organizational memberships vs. individual memberships on the committee. Suggestions included:

- 1) Listing five members representing non-profit subsets gives you flexibility over time to adjust.
- 2) Using the actual Forestry Development Council language and listing specific organizations to give them some validity and clout. Those organizations would sign an MOU so they knew it was their responsibility to choose a high-quality representative. And then using suggestion #1 for at-large members.
- 3) List types of groups and provide a list that states “including but not limited to”.

The ultimate decision is up to the State Forester and The Forestry Development Council whether or not we are allowed by-laws and they can change anything dealing with the language. It was mentioned that past State Foresters did not want this sort of thing.

Quorum Daniella brought up the issue of getting a quorum for voting on issues and making sure that there is an odd number of members that would be voting. There needs to be a recognizable number of members.

Rob Sproule reiterated that this is why we need to get the names, organizations and commitments. Reinee Hildebrandt mentioned that the current version does have that list a numbers per category: EX. one member representing construction development industry, one member representing invasive species. but you need to have a specific core of people/groups identified. There are about 10 core positions on the list (#1 to #10 with the exception of #6). Rob reported 31 positions on the list. We currently get over to 12 or 15 that regularly participate.

Per the last meetings minutes Sandy Mason was going to look at the list and try to consolidate it. She was not on the call to report out.

There was a discussion on whether to be inclusive with membership or exclusive. Beth Corrigan pointed out that in the last two years, we were just trying to get people to come and participate. She suggested having an executive board.

Suggested voting membership included: the current organizations that make up the Committee, a General Assemble representative, a contractor. There was no clear consensus on membership or optimum number of members except to take off the “At Large” category from the membership list.

MOU Discussion The group was in favor of the MOU approach. They felt it was important to get a commitment and to let the participant know the time commitment and to let them know that they will be working on those larger UCF issues.

Proposed language in the by-law was to say “voting members and organizations will sign an official MOU.” With the preface that if you don’t sign the MOU you are not a voting member until you get on board. IT was suggested to have a certain date that they have to re-sign the MOU. Per Rob, the MOU would be a two-year term and then you could be reappointed. You could be for one term or undefined. Bob suggested 2 years with maybe a reappointed for one additional term. Daniella will send to Rob a copy of an MOU that she is familiar with. Rob will also send out a personal letter with a copy of MOU and then copy of the addendum basically our action plan.

Daniella questioned if after serving for two years the representative would have one year off. She raised the question of organizations with only one person and loosing that representation with the term limits. In a way, you wanted to be like you know, three groups from different universities or educational institutions or non-profits. Since this is more of a living document the committee could vote at a meeting to accept the MOU and

add them to the list. the group questioned whether we really needed to impose limits on general or organizational membership but perhaps only on the Board. Rob asked the group to consider looking for an additional two-year commitment from the organization. Bob provided the following language: “Only the committee shall serve the initial curve of two years and may be reappointed.” And if it is an actual organization they are representing then it does not apply. **Rob Sproule suggested** two different approaches. One for the 1) member organizations because organization is responsible for providing the members. They can change that person or not whatever they want. The organization need to recommit every two years of their member organization status and then 2) the individual members that aren’t associated directly with organization status can be a term of 2 years and can be reappointed.

By-Laws vs. CHARTER Discussion

Stephanie raised the question of whether the guidelines that are the committee followings for the urban committee require bylaws. It might be an more appropriate situation for the committee to have a Charter. The contents would be essentially the same as what you got here. But in terms of the legalities of it all, by-laws are often established by non-profit organizations for example but not so much by the legislatively established groups like the council. So, I just wonder if the charter would be the more appropriate term for any of these same considerations would apply.

Phillip added that by-laws are something more associated with the non-profit organizations, a charter would be something more of an agreement that the council could review and approve. When you are focused more on your purpose, the outcomes you are seeking is and is less on membership and voting. More of what your intent is and so you have a little bit more informality. The group mostly recommends policies to the council for implementation. So, I have seen many out of the 20 states in the region, there is only a handful of non-profit councils and they all have

by-laws. But majority are sort of at the grace of the state forester and I think charter encompasses what it is, that these groups have. Procedure is mostly for, it is bylaws, if you are non-profit you need those procedures in place to get your IRS designation. This group may not focus much on procedure.

Rob suggested if we change to a Charter, we can just exclude some of the more detailed items about officers and just identify the officers. Who they are? a lead and a secretary. And we could say that we want to have member organizations that sign an MOU and committed to being part of it.

Phillip suggested that the charter is that you want broad and geographic and representational membership so, that you can clearly represent the whole state and its intention that will help to meet your purpose with the council. You say if your intent is to have strong geographic and representational membership. The Vermont Council was offered as an example with a great structure and other non-profits I mean some of this region in the mid-west maybe they are moving towards to, some are statutory. Wisconsin is statutory. Iowa is just turning into a non-profit. Missouri is a non-profit. Minnesota is Shade Tree Commission. They advise and it is purely volunteer. That's a very good structure by the way. Indiana is a non-profit. Indiana actually did bring non-profits together. Maryland does have similar to Illinois has a Forestry Development Council and they have an appointed committee. Phillip will send Rob some examples.

Rob will revise the by-laws a little bit and simplifying it and will meet towards that broader focus for more inclusive membership and not so definable but still put some language in there about signing an agreement and represent for a period of time and then stuff like that. Our purpose statement can stay, probably our officers and duties section can stay the same. Our duties section would stay the same and then maybe that's the only thing that really changes, right? It's just our definability of our

membership. Rob will also attempt to revising the membership language for the next meeting.

Rob asked the group to take a look at the other sections and see if there are any other changes/recommendations. Send them to Rob. Otherwise he will probably keep most of the current language. I will go through the minutes from the last meeting and make sure that things are in line with what we are talking about.

FORESTRY SUMMIT DISCUSSION

The group discussed the concept of having a Forestry Summit.

Rob mentioned that he would like to move forward with trying to get a group of people to create some ideas to take to the FCD concerning a Forestry Summit later in the year. Daniella and Beth volunteered. He will set up a meeting to get some ideas and try to get some costs. The meeting date will be send it out to everyone so if someone else wants to attend they can.

Rob thought that the Summit represents a good opportunity if they get the Action Plan done to unveil it there and identify the items with in the Action Plan that they want to make actionable, invite people to focus on these items and get input on priorities. Per Daniella's request, Reinee Hildebrandt mentioned IDNR UCF 200 and 2010 summit events and Stephanie Brown provided a history of the CFD involvement in Summit events. Per Stephanie the history with Forestry Summits began when she was the CFD Liaison in 1999. She interacted extensively with the Urban Task Group at that time. The CFD held a Critical Issues Summit/Forum in Forestry focused on the most critical issues facing forestry in Illinois. It was really quite successful. It was a 2-day program modelled after the South American Forest Congress. Vision and interaction between different interests in the state. That was followed up in 2004 by the FDC Liaison at that time conducting a critical issues forum. Stephanie was not

involved so she could not speak to that one that was 13 years ago. In the last year or so since the Council became re-established, there has been discussion of a Summit. The idea does not go very well with the full Council so it might be best to do an Urban Summit because it is really the Urban committee that is leading by example. UCF is really showing others how it should be done. Rob thanked Stephanie for the history. There was a discussion on whether or not the Council would attend the Summit if we put one on. There was a suggestion to get them to fund it to try to encourage their involvement plus to make sure there was a discussion about the Action Plan at the event. Discussions included piggyback on a number of different events, different council members provide a mirror area of expertise rather than a single event. Rob will host the meeting.

URBAN REPORT FOR THE FDC

Rob mentioned that he is supposed to prepare a report on what the committee has been doing for the year. He asked for committee input. Recommendations included:

- 1) Action items or things that were completed last year per the work plan.
- 2) The transition with Steve to Rob as leadership
- 3) The transition between Beth and Sravya as secretary
- 4) The development of the Forestry Action Plan to include urban forestry issues
- 5) IDNR link for the Council on the UCF-Partners' page.
- 6) IDNR/USDA FS – Community Accountability Reporting System data on map to show legislators who is active in their district.

Rob Sproule requested a 3-sentence description of the CARS MAP for the annual report from Reinee Hildebrandt/Sravya Pamulipati. He will include that along with the assistance provided with the Urban Forestry

information in the Forestry Action Plan and the action items closed out on the Work Plan for last year. Rob asked for other items to put in the report in hopes to help facilitate the Council providing their report and things for Legislature.

PARTNERSHIP REPORTS:

Illinois Forestry Association -Stephanie:

IFA is having their annual meeting at the Morton Arboretum this year Sept 28-30 with the theme: “Helping Forests on the Edge.” The draft agenda includes the topics of invasive species, urban interface, and possibly a collaborative discussion about Urban Wood. Anyone interested in being involved contact Stephanie Brown to provide input. Stephanie will share this information with Sravya for posting on the IDNR UCF calendar and distribute it to the rest of the committee.

Trees Forever Report -Debbie: Trees Forever is working with small communities downstate, as part of the Forest Service Grant, “Recover, Replant, Restore”. Communities services include: tree inventories, Tree Boards/Tree Committee establishment. One day workshops are provided to meet the community’s needs. The goal is to work with twenty communities. June 19 to 23, Trees Forever partnered with IDNR and the City of Ottawa and City of Naplate, Illinois to provide Strike Team logistical assistance. The Strike Team evaluated tree risk after the Tornado. Trees Forever will now follow-up with technical assistance. Also, on May 15, Trees Forever partnered with Morton Arboretum and Department of Natural Resources on Urban Forestry work shop in Bloomington.

Openlands - Daniella: Openlands is hosting the Treekeepers course in Oak Park, starting June 1st for two evenings a week. If you know anyone interested in becoming a Treekeeper (certified arborists, staff or people just who are interested in doing this), let Daniella know.

Openlands policy people are working on the Illinois Natural Areas Stewardship Act designated to help special areas be at Illinois Nature Preserves be able to get funding to get stewards into those areas. Openlands role is to set up a grant program to have stewards and “friends of” groups start out and work in those Illinois Nature Preserves. Check out the Openlands webpage to see all the different legislative actions plus you can go and send a message to your state representatives and all your aldermen. The website has everything including the ability to create a letter for you. Openlands is also focused on federal issues such as protecting the INEM Canal National Heritage corridors, supporting the National Wildlife Refugees and Great Lakes.

Daniella also reported on their “Advocacy Light” outreach where State Reps., and the aldermen are invited to tree planting events. Out of five Saturday plantings we’ve had so far, three people had come out. Openlands then responds back to them and show them through a lot of mapping that had been done through CRTI what their canopy cover is for their ward and what it means and so then people start talking to us about, like: “Well you know, we have all this money and instead of doing, you know, so instead of increasing the budget for Forestry should we be doing preventative measures?” Yesterday Daniella ended up writing this huge email stating that pruning is essential and having a really good inventory to determine if anything that has been planted does survive. These are questions that the aldermen are raising with us. Openlands is trying to work on setting up an Advisory Council for City of Chicago focused on Forestry. There are lot of ordinances that need to be changed. The Council could show them how to protect trees and show them what they should be asking for in the City Council. Very exciting!

Morton Arboretum -Beth Corrigan: From Morton Arboretum, had over a dozen of events and supported another dozen more with the materials for Arbor Day. Beth thinks they distributed over two thousand tree tags to date to kids nationwide. Morton Arboretum continues to work on their grant based programs, managerial plans and ordinances. They touched over seventy-five communities that we are actively working with. In addition to, one of our staff members is working on developing volunteer stewardship groups in communities. So, chugging along on those. Reinee Hildebrandt requested a list of communities served for the committee to review and Beth agreed to provide one.

USDA Forest Service - Philip: Hi! This is a Philip from Forest Service and there are few things I would like to report and thank you all for having us here and continuing your work on the ground. There is some interesting news from this administration. The OMB had put out our funding levels cut at half for the remaining of the fiscal year but the current omnibus that was released this week showed us at full funding. So, Congress has restored our funds for 2017. And we have much to celebrate and we should for that. The USDA Forest Service is giving a great deal of the credit to the Sustainable Urban Forestry Coalition (SUFC) in Washington. SUFC is an organization that meets monthly and has a policy committee that does lobby on behalf of this program and others related to green infrastructure. They have been very active on the hill with Congressional visits. They had reception and invited staffers. They are working hard to be visible, work with the Urban and Community Forestry and they are active on the Farm Bill legislation that's moving forward and with tangible results. They're working hard to make sure that Urban Forestry is seen as a bipartisan benefit to the nation.

Part of the language that was in the OMB bill indicated they felt that Urban Forestry was a promotional program and that was one of the reasons for basis to cutting into the half. SUFC is working hard to identify

us not as that. Our sponsors on the Hill say, no, that this is in fact this is a technical assistance program. Through the states, we are providing technical and financial assistance on the ground. Those things need greater visibility. Upon assessing the language that is used to describe our program, that we were, in fact, we are using the word “promote”, “awareness” and “education” and we weren’t saying enough about on the ground action and workforce development and that we employ people. We improve the quality of life in cities. We put trees in the ground and we have this network of municipalities that are specifically benefitting from the work that you do every day. So the USDA FS is talking more at Congress (about thirty thousand foot level) when they want to hear about what's happening in their communities and so it was a real wakeup call for the national group and that coalition and to the Forest Service itself to describe more of what we do as tangible benefit. And it’s not about carbon sequestration or ecosystem services but really about getting trees in the ground and improving the quality of life and putting people to work. There are our economic benefits and it's not about the models of the iTree and other stuff. It's really about assessing health, identifying the threats to urban forests and quality of life of our cities and specifically about the benefits. The USDA FS has learned a lot over the last six months.

FY18 discussions are going forward and we are still in the rat pack of programs to be cut including the Legacy Program is in there. So, we do want people to be aware through this Sustainable Urban Forest Coalition, what the challenges we face going forward and the way that we communicate is very important.

We do invite our members of Congress to events on the ground that they get essence of tangible benefits to their districts on the ground. I am not sharing with you anything that's new. This is something we all know that we have to do and communicate and just reminding everyone that we are federally funded program and we have constituents, stakeholders, as well as, members of Congress to serve.

State Foresters at the national level certainly understand that their constituents like this programs and want this program. And they are member of Sustainable Urban Forest Coalition and they did sign onto the letter very specifically requesting thirty-one million for urban forestry just as it has been every year for the last five. The House members hit the \$28 million mark first and the Senate was following the President's lead and that may be the case in the out year also. I'm pretty sure I know where Durbin sits and Tammy Duckworth and others their voices have been heard. But, FY18 is something to watch out for.

Phillip also conveyed that the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative also was fully funded. In fact, it was funded fifty million more than the request. So, Great Lakes came out of three hundred million nationally which the Forest Service gets two percent, too. It's not a huge amount, but you see what that funding does. Morton Arboretum and the Openlands have availed themselves with those funding and in spite of that tiny strip of land that is in the Great Lakes, I think Illinois does better than some other states. So, kudos to the state for actively engaging.

We did receive seven million dollars in global requests for federal assistance this year of which we only have three million to support and we're in the review state right now for those grants and the fact that demand was there that means we can request more of that fifty million. EPA is already listening that there is demand for our programs and all of it is urban related support to response to the Emerald Ash Borer and to the Storm Water runoff issues that many communities are facing. All of which is supposed to be focused on phosphorous reduction into the lakes and into mitigating tree canopy loss to Emerald Ash Borer and other pests. In fact, for that program they are looking at FY19 now and looking forward beyond it and talking about expanding from EAB to the hemlock wooly adelgid and some of the other pests forest pests that we are facing. So, looking ahead and thinking there may be an opportunity through the EPA to support other priorities.

In addition to the great news story of funding, we're also working on the "Storms Over the Urban Forests" rewrite and we wish to thank you Reinee and the State of Illinois for offering to support the printing of that guide. We don't have funds for that but we are working right now in rewriting it so we have three authors that are supporting rewrite to focus in a more compelling way, to make the case for investing in mitigation planning. We discovered after twenty years and having this storms guide that communities are no more prepared for the storm than they were. So we are trying to define a very clear objective for our work now and we want communities to prepare. And that is pretty critical that they do. So, we're going to give voice to that. We want to give particularly language to communities to municipal foresters to advocate for investing in mitigation; hardening with the forest against potential storm damage; and that includes, of course, pruning and maintenance; as well as, tree planting the "Right Tree in the Right Place". And then we also want to help Urban Foresters navigate the Emergency Management System recognizing that it's a cycle not a straight line. The municipal foresters commented (either in response to storms planning but mostly in preparedness in the mitigation of storms) that setting up agreements with pruning organizations and with utility companies helps in the response to communities. So, setting up those types of agreement in advance of storms and helping our foresters to be more relevant to the Emergency Response System are addressed. And then finally offering in the third chapter, (the third and final chapter) the actual best practices for mitigating. We're also going to be creating an online interactive form when you fill out that form for mitigating, you essentially have your plan. So, the ideas of facilitate planning and make it easier for municipalities to come away from this guide, from this hand book with a very clear response and recovery - serious recovery. The word from Joplin was how valuable the community felt the landscape was. The landscape helps people recover more quickly. If they see it devastated, the community landscape is demoralizing and that it helps in the cohesion of the community to have a landscape improve

quickly. So, there's a lot of urgency around this handbook and we can hope by next summer to have a completed and printable version out. And thanks again for funding the production.

So, there is a lot of happening nationally. There's a lot of advocacy. There's a lot of production tools continuing and we hope all of you are using "iTree" effectively. We will be doing some training and "train-the-trainers" for different "iTree" program tools that are coming out. There is an "iTree tool" available online for your phone that allows you to do "iTree" design on your phone. On your lot to show what the trees are worth and to remove a tree twenty feet in one direction you might get greater ecosystem service benefits and things like that. But the powerful tool is the "iTree landscape". If you haven't checked it out, its online you can zoom-in quickly to your community and it will tell you at the community scale what your canopy cover is and what the benefits are and stormwater and carbon and, as well as, other services. But the real benefit is that you can print that out, you can identify what your canopy cover is and tell a story about it benefits and you can do that wall to wall in your state so it is a really powerful tool.

IDNR - Reinee Hildebrandt: Reinee reiterated that Philip's comment on Urban and Community Forestry programs (UCF) being viewed as a promotional programs is critical. It has even occurred at IDNR with the internal structure not acknowledging the full breath and depth of the program. Over the years, leaders have tried to define UCF by narrowing UCF it down to Tree City USA and then saying it's just a recognition program. Even in the Illinois Forest Action Plan when Tree City USA (TCU) was called a recognition and technical outreach program the later was crossed off and had to be re-entered into the document. That message needs to get out. It is through TCU that communities get Tree City News Bits, technical assistance phone calls, and coaching through the

application process. Over the past five years, IDNR was able to provide technical assistance to update all TCU community ordinances. IDNR has been able to use TCU to provide technical outreach, as well as, recognition for the fine work that the communities do.

Storms/Natural Disasters – Strike Team and state support for publishing the “Storms” documents.

Illinois Strike Team As Debbie mentioned that we are doing the Strike Team in Ottawa. We are also looking at the little town of Washburn and then we were trying to try to provide them with some additional technical assistance. And as you know that we got the grant from the Council on Forestry Development for the Famous Historic tree signs. We are able to do seven signs and we're probably going to go ahead and use some and dedicate some of the new Forest Service money to finishing up that project.

IDNR Memorial Tree Garden IDNR UCF helped the Department resolve a demand for memorial tree plantings made by the Department of Aging upon the loss of a staff member. The last tree they planted is eventually going to over shade the Famous and Historic Tidal Basin Cherry Trees and kill them because of where it was planted. Additionally, the open spaces is needed for State Fair vendors and high peak pedestrian traffic flow. Upon an email from my boss's boss, Reinee got together with the CMS Maintenance head person to present three concepts. The concept he chose was to put them all over and create a memorial forest off site from the State Fair active land. This idea as shared with my boss and his boss who came to me and said that they like that idea and they're going to go with it. Recognition for the idea was given to the urban forestry program as a whole. “This is something that we do in urban community forestry - work with tree planting and creating ideas that are compatible for people and trees.”

Other Business:

Forest Economics Brochure Daniella addressed the need for better data so that could see employment numbers where the funds are actually, where the requests are coming from and where the jobs are happening to see if most of them are urban vs. rural. Beth voiced a concern about the Forestry Development Council updating and reprinting the forestry economics brochure and the need for the committee to have some oversight since the last one did not completely include all the potential urban jobs like the municipal foresters for street working as park district associations, or private tree care companies. With both urban and rural forestry employment in the state, there is a huge employment potential that we could be reflected. Rob Sproule mentioned that Illinois is participating in that ten-state report and that is going to cover a lot of urban forestry items, as well as, bring other forestry items and then they were looking to redo that one page of pass-out kind of thing.

Guest Speaker Suggestion Reinee Hildebrandt suggested that the group might want to invite Dave Horvath with the State Nursery to attend a meeting to discuss the State Nursery operations.

ILLINOIS FOREST ACTION PLAN

Rob Sproule encouraged everyone to review the workplan for next time to see what actions we can do. Also, everyone should go to the INDR UCF website - “Partners’ Initiatives Page” and scroll down to the “Illinois Forestry Development Council” section, to look at the current list of members and make suggestions for updating it including getting Drew Hart’s e-mail and removing Todd Degner. Send corrections to Sravya Pamulapati and Rob Sproule.

Rob Sproule was going to draft that MOU and the personal letter and will start reaching out some of these organizations and at the same time I am working on the charter language and then we will spend some more time at the next meeting and going over the work plan for the remainder of the year and take a look at what you are responsible for and try to see anything to do to move those things forward.

Sravya Pamulapati: Asked the Council if they would like to have IDNR develop a Council page similar to that of the State of Vermont UCF Webpage that is linked to the IDNR UCF Urban and Community Forestry Council section of the Partnership Initiatives section. It was discussed and agreed that those who sign the MOUs should be included.

Meeting Adjourned

Rob Sproule asked for a motion to adjourn. Bob Benjamin: Made the motion. Beth Corrigan: Second it. All participants were in favor.