

**Illinois Forestry Development Council**  
**Urban and Community Forestry Committee Meeting /Conference Call**  
**January 4, 2018 10:00 AM – 11:37 PM**

**Attendees:** Rob Sproule, Reinee Hildebrandt, Debbie Fluegel, Daniella Pereira, Lydia Scott- CRTI, Paul Blome, Scott Grams, Jill Johnson, Mike Brunk, Beth Corrigan, Sandra Mason, Sean Redman, and Eric Hendrickson. **Absent:** Derek Reiking, Stephanie Brown, Tom Wilson, Steve Ludwig, Todd Degner, D Shiley, Jake Miesbauer, Bob Benjamin, Drew Hart, Jesse Felix, Brian Sullivan.

**Welcome** Rob Sproule, Chair – Rob gave a brief description of the committee functions. Our committee is a standing committee of the Forestry Development Council per our By-Laws. It serves a networking function. For urban and community forestry constituency capacity.

**Minutes from the November 2, 2017 Meeting** -Provided by Reinee Hildebrandt, IDNR Lydia Scott made a motion to approve the minutes; Scott Gram seconded. Minutes approved.

**IFDC November 9, 2017 Meeting Update** - Rob Sproule, Chair 1) There was a lot of discussion on the budget. They are trying to get the federal money out of the Capitol bill. Tom Wilson felt that the Division could continue with core programs through the end of the fiscal year. It was mentioned that the Director and powers that be were trying to get the federal funding out of the Capitol bill. 2) There was a lot discussed on the SUMMIT on June 12th and 13th. 3) By Laws from this committee were approved by the Council. 4) Two new District Foresters and 5) another edition of the Forest Action Plan was brought to Council and they decided to have university staff person conduct a final review. Charlie Warwick was available to do this. He is on his third draft and the final should be to us by the end of the week. The Action Plan ties to the Summit.

**Illinois Statewide Forestry Summit Update** - Rob Sproule The summit will be on June 12-13<sup>th</sup> as a one and a half days conference at I- HOTEL and the University of Illinois. The purpose will be to launch the Forest Action Plan is to unveil the action plan and as an attempt to build collaboration and partnerships amongst like minded groups to work on the state goals. Key note speaker the night of and the next day smaller groups to work on action plan items. This is an invitation only event. Planning Committee: Beth Corrigan and Lydia Scott. The committee has developed conference working groups and will be getting out a “save that date” postcard soon. Reinee Hildebrandt suggested sending the details and list of attendees to the committee for review. Rob will do this after the FDC meeting next week.

**Future UCFC 2018 Meeting Schedule** - Rob Sproule, Chair

March 1 Conference Calls

May 3 Conference Calls

July 19 Conference Calls

September 6 Conference Calls

November TDB – Southern location and possibly coordinate one meeting with the Forestry Development Council Group

Meetings are held 10 AM - 12 PM

Next Meeting is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Rob will set up a conference call unless someone wants to provide a location.

### **Committee By-laws and MOU Group – Rob Sproule**

The Committee has been working on By-Laws and Memorandum of Understanding. Both were approved by the Forestry Development Council. Those are the by-Laws that will guide us from this point on and have been posted on the IDNR UCFC website under Partnerships/ Illinois Forestry Development Council – Urban and Community Forestry Committee paragraph within the “Highlight Urban Forestry Committee Members” link which is the new UCFC external website developed by Sravya. The By-laws will give us some more structure when working within the Forestry Development Council and is important to help us get more work done. It also helps us meet the federal requirement for the State Urban and Community Forestry Program’s Council requirement per the USDA Forest Service thus allowing us to get federal funding for the state program. This committee acts at the Council which is one of the four requirements of the Urban and Community state program. The By- Laws formalize the committee functions and provides for two formal positions of the Chair and the Secretary (which is not filled at this point). The By-laws talk about the membership structure and refers to the MOU. All people on the call should be committed to signing the formal MOU for their organization. The MOU would be used to develop a better membership list with formally committed to the mission of the Urban and Community Forestry Committee. Bring any issues to the next committee meeting. For individuals, there is a different process identified in the By-laws. Rob will send out the word version to people and he will sign as the Chair.

### **2018 Work Plan Development Group**

Rob Sproule asked Beth Corrigan to provide Rob Sproule (for distribution) and Reinee Hildebrandt (for posting) with the most recent version of the work plan. Beth mentioned that the first two years there were some easy to hit targets and those were accomplished but got bogged down when the more detailed and time-consuming projects were to be done. Then the Forest Action Plan was priority. Mike Brunk thought that having the Plan of Action helps the committee initiate action and accomplish more. We need to dust off the old plan and see what is still viable and add to that and come up with a new plan and see what we want to accomplish for 2018 would be a good exercise. The 2016 Work Plan was continued through 2017. To was a spread sheet that we just kept moving completed items to the bottom. We will need to move recruit members to the top. Rob asked Beth to send him the document so that he can send it out to everyone. Post summit we will revisit. Reinee Hildebrandt suggested that Rob Sproule and Beth Corrigan review the document first before sending it out to the committee to make sure that they are still in tandem. Beth Corrigan and Rob Sproule agreed to update it before sending it out. We will update this after the Summit. Beth and Rob will update it before sending it out.

### **Partner Updates Group**

**IDNR – Reinee Hildebrandt** – 1) The “UCFC WEBSITE” update by Sravya Pamulipati has been posted. It has mission, by-laws, members, and MOU. It will stand as it is. 2) The new “IMPACT OF TREES” webpage by Sravya Pamulipati has been posted. This includes: a TCU parade Grand Marshall in Evanston, Debbie Jones – Openlands Volunteering; Karl Persons – Openlands; Jim Tresouthick –

Professional Forester EAB management; Horrigan's – Wood Utilizations; Debbie Trees Forever – Reforesting Hope after Storms; Sheila – OPENLANDS – Encouraging Others; Chris Mest – Youth Education Outreach and link to CRTI; 3) The TREE PROTECTION STANDARDS updated by Reinee Hildebrandt and the Standard Drawings created by IDNR were officially approved by IEPA and posted on the IASWCD Illinois Urban Manual Webpage. These are the basics of Tree Protection Standards so when working with communities please try to get them to follow these basics standards or to make their standards tighter.

**Morton Arboretum Community Trees – Beth Corrigan** – They are lining up workshops and outreach for 2018; They are working with twenty-seven communities on inventories and management plans and tree plantings through grants with money from the USDA FS.

**OPENLANDS – Daniella Pereira** Openlands will be focusing on advocacy especially with their Tree Keepers. They finished last year with 800 trees planted and have tree planters grant out now. So, they are scheduling next year's tree plantings in April. Tree Keepers course is taking in registration and will be in Washington Park starting in April. (Side Discussion: Urban Wood groups are looking for ways to do advanced training/network. Rich Christianson was recommended as a contact for the Urban Wood Network. Jill Johnson will send links to Daniella. Chicago Area Wood Turners will be provided by Beth Corrigan. The Art Institute in North Lawndale has a woodworking training. IIT has a professor interested in urban wood utilization. Daniella would like to find the network of people.)

**Trees Forever – Debbie Fluegel** Working on Recover Replant Restore program with small communities to help them recover from EAB. They are providing street tree inventories, or workshops on tree care. They are scheduling spring workshops and finishing up tree inventories. About 400 trees were planted in 8-10 small communities last year. In 2018, Trees Forever is doing a big push for advocacy for Iowa and Illinois. Debbie asked for big theme ideas for Illinois. IA has a 3% canopy increase for Iowa. They are currently thinking about: why we need inventories; why we need ordinance and how to improve those; tree protection vs. tree preservation, canopy discrepancies in under-served communities. 1) Lydia suggested Trees Forever should use the canopy goal created by the CRTI for seven counties since they also have an extensive advocacy in urban and rural neighborhoods and forest preserves. She suggested that Trees Forever align with their document and focus on Oak Ecosystems. 2) Reinee Hildebrandt suggested continued to develop the Recover Replant Restore STORM RECOVERY program including Strike Team and providing grants for communities with Storm Mitigation needs; Also, Tree City USA as the basis for engaging communities in urban and community forestry management. Plus, Tree Protection outreach; The other items mentioned by Debbie already were good; 3) Mike Brunk suggested Mike Brunk a focus on rural situations with rural electric companies and tree conflicts. There is a need to come together with the utilities and create guidelines for tree utility conflicts and focus on the state statutes plus an informational outreach; Sean Redman for ComEd is interested in working on the issue of building tree utility guidelines for more rural areas with utility conflicts and proper pruning for. The Utility Arborists Association website might already have those standards in place. Each utility would be responsible for agreeing to following those guidelines. Most small companies don't hire professional arborist and that is where most of the improper intermodal cuts are made. Educating the smaller utilities might be the issue.

**SMA – Eric Hendrickson** No report.

**USDA FS – Jill Johnson** She tries to participate once a year and will try to attend at least one meeting this year. The planning committee for the summit will be reaching out to Jill for a speaker.

**WIU – Paul Blome** He teaches Forestry classes – Urban Forestry and Tree Climbing; Rob Sproule mentioned that IAA might be able to provide training opportunities for students at the IAA Summer Conference. Rob Sproule will try to connect him with IAA program chair, Jim Semelka.

**Utilities – Sean Redman** – Thanks for invite to the group and Sean is interested in working with Mike Brunk on the Utility Standards and pruning issue and Forest Action Items.

**U of I EXTENSION – Sandy Mason** Sandy Mason is working on the six-on-line tree identification and forest health training modules and will be piloting those units in June to Master Gardeners and Master Naturalist. They have about 10 web sites on trees, urban trees and this project prompted them to look at their websites and to upgrade them. They will create them into a one stop shop for urban and community forestry and trees on the web. As it gets farther along she will have committee members review this. Sandy Mason liked the IDNR UCFC website.

**Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA) – Scott Grams** – In November, in cooperation with the CRTI and a private Landscape Contractor, they did a webinar on “Battling Buckthorn” for Community Organizations, Private Landscape Contractors, Municipalities, and Park Districts. The webinar was sold out and focused on “Alternatives for screening options for Buckthorn”; the “Dangers of Buckthorn” and the “Benefits of Eradicating Buckthorn” and “How to Manage Buckthorn”. Webinar was recorded and is on the ILCA site and U-Tube. The i-LANDSCAPE Trade show will be Jan 31st to Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at Schaumburg Convention Center with classes approved through ISA. Ed Gilman will be a presenter. There is a field staff skills training 2-day class and course on March 15th to 16th at College of Lake County (in both English and Spanish) on “Proper Tree Planting” and “Proper Tree Pruning”.

**Chicago Regional Trees Initiative – Lydia Scott** They will be providing woody invasive workshops on Feb 21<sup>st</sup> in Lake County and Feb 28<sup>th</sup> in Cook County workshops in cooperation with ILCA. Reporting for Trisha, Morton Arboretum, the Dept. of Ag and Dr. Fredrick Miller will provide EAB workshops on Feb. 21st at Carbondale Civic Center, February 22 at the Metro East Parks and Recreation Department in Collinsville, on February 23rd in Altamont and February 28<sup>th</sup> in Macomb. Cost is \$10. The Link is on the Morton Arboretum website and the U OF I website. The Oak Pests and Diseases Workshop is January 30<sup>th</sup> at the Morton Arboretum. Oak Eco systems mapping has been completed and they will be working with private landowners to encourage them to do more work on their private lands.

**Other Business Group** Sravya has graduated and has moved on. We need a new secretary. Reinee will do this month’s meeting minutes to give the group time to find someone.

**Next Meeting** – March 3<sup>rd</sup>; Reinee Hildebrandt will post the meeting minutes before next meeting and Rob will send out the MOU and Summit information prior to the next meeting.

**Adjourn** - Motion to adjourn Lydia Scott and Mike Brunk seconded. Adjourned 11:18 PM