

IDAHO TREE FARM PROGRAM

Idaho Tree Farm Committee Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2014

Idaho Dept. of Lands - Coeur d'Alene Office

1. Call to Order

ITFC Chair Doug Bradetich called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Those present were:

Steve Funk, ITFC Vice-Chair

Steve Cuvala, ITFC Treasurer

Andy Eckberg, ITFC District 1 Chair

John Lillehaug, ITFC District 3 Chair

Kirk David, ITFC Tree Farmer

Madeline David, ITFC Tree Farmer

Janet Funk, ITFC Tree Farmer

Ray Getchius, ITFC Tree Farmer

Steve Bloedel, ITFC Forestry Consultant Representative

Gina Davis, ITFC Forest Stewardship Program Representative

Frank Gariglio, USDA-NRCS Representative

Rob Keefe, University of Idaho, College of Natural Resources Representative

2. Antitrust Statement

Chair Bradetich reviewed the policy statement on compliance with anti-trust laws.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the January 16, 2014 meeting of the ITFC were amended to include Vice Chair Steve Funk among those present. John Lillehaug moved and Gina Davis seconded to accept the minutes as amended. The motion passed.

4. 2014 Treasurer's Report / Budget Review

a. Treasurer Steve Cuvala reviewed the 2014 ITFP finances and the status of ATFS grant funding to the Program. 2014 Program Revenue to date is \$5,882.57; 2014 Program Expenses to date are \$4,404.19. The remaining 2013 Educational Grant for hosting district socials has a balance of \$662.66 which will be used for the social/field day event in McCall in May. Current available (non-grant) Program Funding is \$6,408.97. Frank Gariglio moved and Andy Eckberg seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion passed. *(Note: following the meeting Treasurer Cuvala amended the Treasurer's report to reflect an additional \$400 in base funding [to \$2732.40] making 2014 Program Revenue to date \$6282.57. The corrected available non-grant funding is \$6808.97.)*

b. Chair Bradetich reviewed the 2014 budget to date. Revenue and expenses are within expectations and a little bit to the positive. At this time, ITFP is able and will make the final \$500 payment to the Funks for the NOTFOY sign.

c. Chair Bradetich asked the Financial Review Subcommittee to conduct its review of the 2013 financial records and to report its findings at the July ITFC meeting.

5. Review of 2014 National Leadership Conference (NLC)

Chair Bradetich reviewed the information presented at the NLC in Savannah, GA in February. A summary of that report is attached to the minutes. Janet Funk reported that a presented analysis of carbon sequestration issues concluded that at this time carbon sequestration credits are probably not practical for landowners with acreage under 10,000 acres.

6. Strategic Plan Updates

a. **Communications Subcommittee** – Madeline David, Chair: ITFC discussed the Idaho tri-fold brochure draft and decided that a single panel card describing the activities and benefits of the ITFP to be placed inside the ATFS brochure would be more effective. Madeline will produce a draft and will ask ATFS if it is acceptable to re-label the ATFS postcard to be returned to the ITFC instead. It was the consensus of the ITFC that the new national brochure, while colorful, does not portray the concise Tree Farm purpose and message of previous versions. The Subcommittee will relay this feedback to ATFS. ITFP will begin use of Constant Contact with the upcoming newsletter.

b. **Inspector Training and Recognition Subcommittee** – Kirk David, Chair:

1. Chair David distributed updated copies of the draft employer-focused inspector recruitment letter. Gina Davis, Frank Gariglio, and Rob Keefe will work with Kirk to strengthen the statement on certified wood, include an “enhance your resume” statement, and cover the issue of student inspectors.

2. John Lillehaug and Robert Barkley would like to schedule an inspector training session in a more southern area (Moscow? McCall?). If 5 or more attendees can be gathered in a designated location, a facilitated training will be provided.

3. The inspector training in March certified 3 new inspectors and recertified 3 inspectors.

4. Frank Gariglio reported that NRCS will not permit its employees to be TF inspectors on agency time.

c. **Certification Subcommittee** - Steve Funk, Chair: Chair Funk will call a meeting of the subcommittee, which presently consists of Steve Bloedel, Andy Ekberg, Doug Bradetich, and David Brummer. He asked for the participation of a Private Forestry Specialist, and Gina Davis will ask for a volunteer. Chair Funk believes that ITFP should opt “in” for certification in response to the ATFS State Choice request. ITFP newsletter articles will continue to explain certification and how it benefits landowners.

7. Review of 2014 Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference & Exposition: The Conference had a record attendance of 228. 88 evaluations were returned, the tally of which will be sent to speakers and conference steering committee members soon.

a. The Idaho Tree Farm Program Annual Awards meeting was well attended by more than 72 people.

b. A personalized cruiser’s vest was given to Clark Christiansen, IOTFIOY, Idaho Tree Farm T-shirts to all inspectors present who completed at least one inspection, and an engraved Buck knife to 3 “high achiever” (5 or more inspections during the year) inspectors (Kyllo, Cuvala, Christiansen).

c. Ed Bush and his son were awarded IOTFLOY.

d. The Fitchett family was awarded IOTFOY and presented with a recognition sign crafted by the Funk/Sells family.

e. The Committee discussed IOTFOY signs for past winners since 2011 and future winners. This year’s sign (with volunteer craftsmanship and donated materials) cost \$410. The retail value is \$900. Some economy may be achieved by ordering several signs at one time. Steve Funk will nail down costs and price breaks so that the Committee can decide how many signs to purchase and how to fund them.

8. Review of recent Webinars:

a. Timber Taxation – Chair Bradetich highly recommended this webinar.

b. Advocacy –ATFS increasingly expects all State Committee members and Tree Farmers to participate in advocacy at all levels. An excellent suggestion of this webinar was to invite national, state and local legislators, representatives or their aides to Tree Farm activities, including, in the case of ITFP, the fall field tour at Fitchett’s Tree Farm.

9. Preparation for 2015 Audit: The audit preparation will start in January 2015 when ATFS and ITFC representatives meet to choose Tree Farms to be visited during the audit. The audit by Price

Waterhouse Coopers will take place in May or June, giving ample time to prepare and to make sure landowners' forest management plans are available. Chair Bradetich is working with Mike Burns to fix bad or missing information in the national database regarding ID Tree Farms and will request help from individual inspectors for corrections.

10. 2014 Required/Optional Inspections: There are 12 required inspections for 2014 and 26 optional (6 year) inspections. Unfinished optional inspections from 2013 need to be rolled over to 2014 and assigned to inspectors as well. Kirk David reiterated the Committee's decision to recruit veteran inspectors to mentor new inspectors in their first few outings. Are the District Chairs arranging for such pairing of veteran/new inspectors? There was renewed discussion regarding the 6 year optional inspection cycle used by AFTS vs. the 5 year cycle used by IDL for Stewardship plans. To help align the cycles, inspectors should update the ATFS inspection when performing the Stewardship update. In addition, Kylie can request an ATFS 5 year and older re-inspection list to help inspectors align the inspection cycles.

11. Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council: ITFC ILRCC Representative Janet Funk reported that the next meeting will be June 3-5 in McCall. Two of Idaho's Competitive Grant submissions from last year have been funded and a third is partially funded. She asked that the ITFC continue to consider good competitive grant project ideas for submission. Frank Gariglio commented that as an enhancement, NRCS adds ranking points for landowner cost-share (EQIP, etc.) applications located in and participating in an active cooperative funding area in its consideration of project funding.

12. DC Fly-in: A mini-Fly-In will be held in conjunction with the ATFS Woodlands Committee meeting which Steve Funk will attend in May. Steve asked ITFC for funding for one night's lodging for the Fly-In. Kirk David moved and Steve Bloedel seconded to fund one night's lodging for the Funks at the DC Fly-in. The motion passed. The Committee suggested several issues to present to legislators: "Thank you's" for the Farm Bill, Clean Water Act (navigable waters) concerns, Camp taxation proposal concerns, emergency FEMA-type funding for fighting forest fires. The suggestion was made to try to partner with Idaho Forest Products Commission to come up with an Idaho forestry related pin that could be left in legislators' offices for other visitors throughout the year. Presently, pins are Idaho potatoes.

13. "One plan" document: Gina Davis and Frank Gariglio are working on a modification to the signature page of the "one plan" document that will make clear that, by signing, the landowner is authorizing either IDL or NRCS or both to come on their property only for the purposes in the plan and then only if the landowner wants the services of that agency.

14. Announcements

a. Rob Keefe announced a field day on the UI Experimental Forest this fall – date to be established (probably 8/30/14) – for students and landowners.

b. ITFC members should begin thinking about candidates for IOTFOY, IOTFIOY, IOTFLOY for 2015.

c. May 7 & 8: Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively (TELE) workshop in Spokane.

d. May 8: Idaho State Forestry Contest at the Delay Farm, Careywood. Volunteers are needed. Contact Karen Robinson for details.

e. May 15: Coffee Social/Landowner Field Day in McCall – Chair Bradetich will attend; other Committee members are invited to attend. ITFP will host the beginning session (donuts, coffee), and Doug will present an overview of the ITFP.

f. June 4: Latah County FFA career development fair which has a forestry component (cruising, compass and pacing, scaling, Tree ID, etc.) for the 120 high school students attending. Contact Rob Keefe for information.

g. June 21: ID/WA Forest Owners Field Day near Blanchard. ITFC will put up a display. Registration brochure will be forthcoming.

h. July 17-19: ATFS National Convention, Pittsburgh, PA. Janet Funk and Betty Munis have been asked to present a “showcasing your land” session. Madeline David will co-present an Aldo Leopold land ethics session.

i. July 23-24: 6th grade resource tour in Benewah County – John Lillehaug moved and Janet Funk seconded an ITFP donation of \$100 to support this tour. The motion was approved.

j. Rob Keefe announced that the University of Idaho and IDL will be setting up two demonstration and training plots for the new FPA Shade rule: one at the UI Experimental Forest in Latah County and one on the UI McGovern Forest in Kootenai County.

15. The Committee reiterated the importance of Program Administrator Kylie Dupont using the admin@idahotreefarm.org email address for Idaho Tree Farm Program business.

Next meeting: July 24th, 2014 at the IDL Coeur d’Alene office

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 AM

Recap of motions:

1. Minutes of January 16, 2014 meeting were approved.
2. The Treasurer’s report was accepted.
3. Reimbursement of one night’s lodging for the Funk’s at the DC Fly-in was approved.
4. A \$100 donation to the Benewah 6th Grade Resource Tour was approved.

Action items:

1. The Financial Review Subcommittee will review the 2013 financial records prior to July 24.
2. M. David will redraft the ITFP specific brochure insert, contact ATFS about relabeling the brochure mail-in postcard and transmit the ITFC’s concern regarding the ATFS brochure to ATFS.
3. M. David and D. Bradetich will set up a Constant Contact account.
4. K. David, G. Davis, F. Gariglio, and R. Keefe will work on re-wording the Inspector employer letter.
5. S. Funk will call a meeting of the Certification Subcommittee.
6. G. Davis will ask for a volunteer PFS to serve on the Certification Subcommittee.
7. S. Funk will get price break estimates for obtaining multiple Tree Farmer of the Year signs
8. Local, state, and national legislators/representatives or their aides will be invited to the Fall Field Tour – **a person needs to be assigned to take on this task.**
9. District Chairs will assign required and optional re-inspections to inspectors.
10. Kylie Dupont will check on uncompleted 2013 optional re-inspections and add them to the 2014 optional re-inspection list.
11. Veteran inspectors will be paired with new inspectors for mentoring – **who will be coordinating this?**