

Illinois Forestry Association Plan of Work 2008

Objective 1: Membership promotion statewide

(Membership Committee responsible)

Goal 1: Achieve a membership goal of two hundred new members by end of 2008 to reach total of 800.

Actions:

1. Re-establish state membership committee chairperson with one member from each region.
2. Continue to assist IDNR with FDA certification and mailing of IFA membership information.
3. Continue to sponsor or co-sponsor workshops (at least 2 per region) where membership information is dispersed.
4. Initiate member "rewards" program for each new member enrolled.
5. Work with Public Relations committee to initiate statewide media awareness release via radio/newspapers/journals.

Goal 2: State membership committee develops, by the annual meeting, a strategic 5 year membership plan that includes:

- Goals
- Activities
- Contacts
- Methods

Goal 3: Membership lists are updated quarterly and provided to Board Members, Advisors, and Committee Chairs.

Actions:

1. Statewide lists will be emailed to show pertinent membership information in alphabetical sequence.
2. Regional lists will be by county within each region showing only name, address and email.

Objective 2: Business plan developed

(J.B. Gates, Chair - Finance Committee responsible)

Goal 1:

[Budget, Business contacts, Grants]

Objective 3: Public relations plan carried out

(Betty Joubert, Chair - Public Relations Committee responsible)

Goal 1: Current information about , community, urban, and traditional forestry issues in Illinois is disseminated.

Actions:

1. Members kept informed of key issues through publication of a quarterly newsletter.
2. Website is maintained to provide current information.
3. Monthly emails will be sent to members by the association president and/or regional directors to keep members informed.
4. Assist other committee chairs or directors with appropriate news releases.
5. Help president get articles published in Farm Week, Agri-News and Farm Journal.

Goal 2: Publicize IFA activities with all other affiliated groups and organizations (coordinated with Membership Committee).

Actions:

1. Attend meetings and conferences of forestry organizations to inform and promote membership.
2. Issue news releases to all our partners about IFA activities, such as newsletters.
3. Develop and keep current a Power Point presentation for IFA contact use at meetings of forestry groups.
4. Invite groups to the IFA Annual Meeting.

Objective 4: Key community, and traditional forestry issues identified and addressed state-wide.

(xxxx xxxx, Chair - Technical Assistance and Legislative Committees responsible)

Goal 1: Achieve full staffing of all IDNR Forester positions in established districts.

Actions:

1. Meet with IDNR leadership to determine intentions and priorities
2. Build working coalition with all other support groups and associations
3. Develop mutual plan of action.
4. Initiate political contacts.
5. Identify IFA members who will serve on legislative committee.
6. Develop a letter-writing and legislative contact campaign for the IFA membership.
7. Hire a lobbyist to support our legislative goals.
8. Inform Governor's Office of IFA and Illinois forestry needs.

Goal 2: Pursue issue of forest land taxation rate change to address concerns of members

Actions:

1. Develop a list of issues and concerns of IFA members
2. Provide essential information to members so they can choose between a forest management plan and a conservation management plan.

Goal 3: Assure retention and proper use of 4% harvest fee funds.

Actions:

1. Build coalition of support for issue
2. Develop action plan to achieve goal (coalition group)
3. Carry out action plan

Goal 4: Secure new or enhance existing forestry assistance programs that result in one hundred (100) members receiving cost share for tree planting, forest stand improvement, thinning, or pruning in line with forest management plans.

Actions:

1. Establish technical assistance committee with sub-committees in each region to determine priority needs and concerns throughout state.
2. Committee develops plan that includes actions to achieve goal. Plan would include:
 - Building support group
 - Making local, state, federal contacts to discuss existing programs
 - Propose new programs
 - Increase range of practices
 - Gain political support
 - Prepare grants
 - Set up field days
 - Complete other actions as identified
3. Hold at least one (1) forestry field day that addresses members needs in each region
 4. Pursue the development of other forestry and conservation fund sources such as dedicated conservation tax similar to the conservation tax in Missouri.
 5. Provide all members current information about NRCS's EQIP and IDNR's FDA programs.

Goal 5: Initiate statewide erosion in woodland study to work toward state and/or federal cost share funding.

Actions:

1. Set up working committee that include all interest groups and units of government (local, state, federal)
2. Conduct field reviews of forestland erosion in all four (4) regions with review team set up by #1 action.
3. Prepare preliminary report of findings, recommendations or suggestions (written)

4. Submit report to all groups involved to allow review and comment to team.
5. Propose future actions.

Goal 6: Position paper on Dixon Springs Experiment Station is completed.

Actions:

1. Prepare draft.
2. Review draft internally.
3. Share draft with University and potential support groups.
4. Prepare essential fact sheets and support information for legislative action.

Objective 5: Association structure and by-laws analyzed and concept of urban, community, and rural forestry is fully integrated into official documents

(Committees assigned below are responsible)

Goal 1: Members from the regions offer suggestions to the Board of Directors by the Annual Meeting concerning association structure.

Actions:

1. Each region establishes a method to collect data to support recommended changes
2. Data collected is used to support divisions within current region or combinations of groups of counties in adjoining region(s).
3. Regional committees report their recommendations at annual meeting.

Goal 2: By-laws Committee is established to make recommendations on amendments and/or additions/deletions at annual meeting.

Actions:

1. President selects chair and members from each of current regions are selected by chair.
2. Chairperson holds meetings as needed before the annual meeting to develop recommendations
3. Recommendations are presented for vote at the annual meeting per by-laws

Objective 6: Successful Annual Meeting and elections carried out

(Program and Nominating Committees responsible)

Goal 1: Annual Meeting carried out Fall 2008

Actions:

1. Region 3 directors and others as needed plan the program
2. Program committee develops all details (time, place, agenda, speakers, etc) for Annual Meeting by August, 2008.
3. Program committee involves other standing or ad hoc committees to assist (publicity, membership, nominating, awards, by-laws, etc)

4. Officers are ex-officio members who act as needed on details for Annual Meeting

Goal 2: Election of Board of Directors and Officers shall be held as specified in Article IV of the IFA by-laws.

Actions:

1. President sets up a nominating committee, state-wide chair if needed. Chair selects one person from each region who will be chair of the regional nominating committees
2. Each committee will meet (face-to-face, telephonically, or electronically) as needed before the Annual Meeting to list, solicit, and select candidates for election
3. State nominating committee must compile ballot and mail at least 30 days prior to Annual Meeting
4. Each region should elect two (2) directors prior to Annual Meeting as needed
5. Nominating committee will tabulate ballots.

Goal 3: Successful leadership training sessions held to strengthen IFA.

Actions:

1. Individuals identified who will attend each of two (2) sessions.
 2. Two training sessions held.
 3. Individuals select choice of IFA leadership roles.

Objective 7: Strengthen Urban and Community Forest Input

(xxx xxx, Chair - Urban Task Group responsibility)

Goal 1: Contacts made with appropriate local, state and federal agency personnel that result in IFA co-sponsoring urban and community forestry workshops in northeast Illinois and one other region.

Actions:

1. Make necessary contacts to set up workshop(s).
2. Committee develops details of time, place, and content.
3. IFA Board of Directors assists as necessary (budget, grants, etc.)
4. Workshop(s) held.

Goal 2: Encourage a stable dedicated focus of urban and community forestry funding for Tree USA, the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program, TREES COUNT!, Inner City Initiatives Program, and community service contracts.

Goal 3: Promote tree inventories and management plans in communities as a vehicle for forest health and citizen safety.

Goal 4: Develop and encourage adoption of model ordinances (i.e. tree protection/preservation, ravine overlay districts, watersheds, forest fragmentation)

Goal 5: Develop informational packet that addresses at least five (5) common urban and community forestry issues and release findings.

Actions

1. Develop list of urban forestry issues via each regional technical assistance committee.
2. Via membership rank issues.
3. Develop fact sheets that fully address (at least five (5)).
4. Acquire grant(s) or sponsors to print.
5. Provide packets to each region for distribution.

Goal 6: Set-up and hold a meeting with key community and urban forestry stakeholders to identify key issues

Goal 7: Establish IDNR community and urban forestry positions in targeted areas of the state simultaneously with traditional forestry positions.

Actions:

1. Meet with IDNR leadership to determine intentions and priorities
2. Build working coalition with all other support groups and associations including green industry organizations
3. Develop mutual plan of action
4. Initiate political contacts
5. Establish an IFA Urban Forest Task Group to recommend urban activities and address objective items