**Proposal: 2018 Illinois Forestry Summit -** *TREE*vitalizing Illinois

Illinois has many resources and participants in forestry and urban forestry. To build on the recent publication of “2017 Illinois Forest Action Plan”, a summit or meeting would allow for all stakeholders across Illinois to join and discuss implementation strategies and barriers to state objectives, financial programs, and implementation strategies. Individual contributions of partners across the state can be maximized with the development of a cohesive state mission and goal. Increased collaboration will assist with the development of much needed public awareness campaigns to generate discussion and buy-in statewide.

**Audience:** Partner and interested organizations who impact and have influence on forestry initiatives in Illinois.

**Format options:**

* One and a half day conference to facilitate sharing of ideas and brainstorming future objectives for rural to urban forestry programs for Illinois. Roundtable discussions and facilitated sessions to develop statewide mission, goal, and implementation strategy. Facilitated sessions on how to maximize current financial resources and collaborative opportunities for grant applications.
* Survey statewide groups ahead of meeting: state action plan goals. Who is doing what? Mission alignment, who uses action plan and why?
* “paget” technology top do live surveying in place
* Multiple meetings at a smaller scale by region, followed by monthly webinars for updates
* Half day/evening meet & greet to introduce statewide plans and goals
* whole day program where each group does a short presentation introducing what they are doing, their goals and then how they connect to State Action Plan

**Topics:** Launch (new) State Forest Action Plan

* Implementation plan and timeline

Collaborations and partnerships

Oak ecosystems and their decline in the state

Rural to urban interface

Education and engagement of private property owners

Forest Health Monitoring: Invasive pests and diseases

Youth engagement

Entry level professional training and engagement

State funding

**Location:** Central Illinois: Springfield, Champaign-Urbana, Bloomington-Normal

**Timing:** June 2018 (Week of 18th, mid-week)

**Budget:** (attached) planning costs, survey development and tracking, promotion and registration, site, catering, AV, handouts,

**Objectives:** Facilitate open communication between all forestry partners, increase state funding, identify additional funding opportunities, develop outreach plan to raise awareness, build collaboration, and forge new partnerships. Strengthen the positions of the Urban Forestry Committee and Illinois Forestry Development Council to advocate for the Illinois forest

**Suggested Invitees (in no order):**

Forestry Development Council

UF Committee of FDC

Illinois DNR – *list sections!*

Illinois Department of Agriculture

The Morton Arboretum

Chicago Wilderness

US Forest Service

Illinois Arborist Association

Chicago Region Trees Initiative

University of Illinois Ext. Forestry, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners

Illinois Forestry Association

Trees Forever

Openlands

Illinois Urban Forestry Committee

Illinois Walnut Growers

Midwest Invasive Plant Network

Southern Illinois University

Western Illinois University

University of Illinois

Illinois Wood Utilization Team

Watershed groups

IL Chapter of the Society of American Foresters

International Society of Arboriculture

IL Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Turkey Federation

Fishing groups

Camping/outdoor enthusiasts

Audubon

Paddler organizations

NRCS, Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts

The Nature Conservancy

Sierra Club

Speakers

State Senator Berickman

Wayne Rosenthal – DNR Director

-Tom Wilson: Description of the IFAP and Goals

Dr. Gary Rall

Ivan Doesher

USFS Representative – to discuss the role of the state plan within the larger picture

* Maybe look at urban and stewardship
* Jill Johnson or …

Program

Evening

Welcome Reception: Attending organizations provide short presentation that runs during the reception to familiarize everyone with attendees.

Sit down dinner with Presentations: State of Forestry across the Nation and Illinois

-Possible Survey of ideas from Audience Release of the Illinois Forestry Action Plan

-Possible Survey of ideas from Audience

Description of next day program to include small group breakout sessions

Day

Breakfast: Presentation on Illinois Forestry Action Plan Goals and Priorities

Possible short presentations by represented organizations and how they relate to Illinois Forestry Issues

Breakout Sessions Description and Process

Breakout Session 1 Multiple Topics

Break

Breakout Session 2 Multiple Topics

Breakout Session 3 Multiple Topics

Lunch Open Lunch – No Presentation

Breakout Session 4 Multiple Topics

Closing Remarks and Organization Commitments

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2018 Illinois Forestry Summit - Working Budget** | | | |
| **Facilities** | **Budget/ Est. Cost** | **Actual Cost** | **Notes** |
| ancillary costs, e.g. linens etc. |  |  |  |
| Room Rental |  |  |  |
| AV & wi-fi |  |  |  |
| AM & PM refreshments |  |  | snack & beverage |
| dinner |  |  |  |
| breakfast |  |  |  |
| lunch |  |  |  |
| dinner |  |  |  |
| **Speakers** |  |  |  |
| mileage |  |  |  |
| mileage |  |  |  |
| mileage |  |  |  |
| mileage |  |  |  |
| airfare |  |  |  |
| airfare |  |  |  |
| room & board |  |  |  |
| room & board |  |  |  |
| room & board |  |  |  |
| honorarium |  |  |  |
| honorarium |  |  |  |
| honorarium |  |  |  |
| **Materials** |  |  |  |
| printing |  |  | Event program |
| purchased materials |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | brochures? banners? |
|  |  |  | Staples: folders, name badges, |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Actual Expenses subtotal** |  |  |  |
| **Total Estimated Cost** |  |  |  |
| **Registration Fee** |  |  |  |
| **Sponsorships:** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |