



MINUTES

TENNESSEE FORESTRY COMMISSION [DRAFT] MEETING MINUTES

1/7/2020

Tennessee Forestry Commission meeting was held in the TDF Bruer Building Oak Training Room in Nashville, TN, January 7, 2020.

Participants:

Forestry Commission Members: Johnny Heard, Chairman; Tom Midyett, Vice Chairman; John Charles Wilson, Secretary; Alex Richman, Bob Qualman, Mike Witt, Sharon Jean-Philippe

Forestry Commission Ex-Officio Members:

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation:

Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA): Brian Chandler, Forest Management Program Leader

Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA): Samantha Wilson, Budget Coordinator

Tennessee Department of Agriculture - Division of Forestry (TDF): David Arnold, State Forester; David Todd, Assistant State Forester; Heather Slayton, Assistant State Forester; Jason Rickman, Equipment Coordinator; Claire Evans, Accountant, Brian Hughett, Forest Stewardship Program Specialist and Phil Morrissey, State Forest Unit Leader

Tennessee Forestry Association (TFA): Candace Dinwiddie, Executive Director

Chairman Johnny Heard welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed new Commission member Sharon Jean-Philippe. The roll was called at 9:00 a.m.



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Approval of the Minutes of the September 4, 2019 meeting

- David Arnold presented draft of previous minutes.
- John Charles Wilson recommended that revenue from timber sales be attached to the minutes. After discussion total timber sales revenue will be attached at end of each Fiscal year in the September minutes.

John Charles Wilson motioned to approve minutes as presented with the total timber sales revenue be added to the September minutes in the future. Mike Witt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Review of FY2021 budget

Heather Slayton presented the Division's budget for SFY2020. David Arnold and Samantha Wilson provided supporting comments and helped answer questions.

Handout:

- Year to Date Expenditures and Revenue

Program Updates

- Vehicles and Equipment Jason Rickman – Equipment Coordinator

Jason provided updates on purchase of transports and dozers, and on vehicles to upgrade weight capacity. Samantha Wilson provided additional supporting information.

- State Forest timber sales and SFI contract Phil Morrissey, State Forest Unit Leader

Phil Morrissey provided an update on this past year's timber sales activity and FY2020 projections. FY2020 revenue target is \$3.2 million and projection is \$2.8 million. Acres to harvest are on track. David Todd and Johnny Heard provided info regarding SFI certification.

Handout:

- 2020 Estimates using FY19 Timber Sale actuals



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Program Updates continued

- Forestry Vacancy update Heather Slayton – Assistant State Forester

Heather discussed Mercer study regarding salary for Foresters and stated that there has not been a lot of success in attracting employees for some Area Forester positions. Johnny Heard provided input of wanting to see quality employees being hired. Sharon Jean-Philippe provided input of State government competing with private sector and suggested offering internships to students.

Handout:

- Vacancy Status Report

Discussion of Forest Commission Report to Legislature

David Arnold provided a draft copy of the Forestry Commission Report to review.

Handout:

- Forestry Commission Annual Report (DRAFT)

Wind Event October 26, 2019: What is/can the Division do to help landowners?

David Arnold kicked off information regarding TN Landowners presentation. Bob Qualman provided personal story regarding his tree farm and damage done from wind event. Brian Hughett demonstrated GIS information of Bob Qualman's tree farm and how information from GIS is used to show landowner what to do.

John Charles Wilson strongly encouraged the State Forester to contact the director of FSA to see if any programs are available to help forest landowners that have timber damaged by storms.

2020 Forest Action Plan review

Heather Slayton provided a summary of the Division's 2020 Forest Action plan. Summary included threats facing Tennessee's forests and actions to deal with those threats over the next 10 years.



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Program Updates continued

- Fire David Todd – Assistant State Forester

David discussed training of personnel during the months of February/March. In support of FiResponse internet connectivity is expected to be updated for all Districts by the end of March. Tracking devices will on fire suppression vehicles and equipment.

- Health and Sustainability Heather Slayton – Assistant State Forester

There will be a second signup for TAEP landowner assistance. Forestry water quality specialist is working with TDEC to improve the relationship. The BMP manual is being reprinted. A national Firewood Conference has been planned for June 10, 2020 – June 11, 2020 in Lebanon

- Reforestation Heather Slayton – Assistant State Forester

The Nursery collected 13 pallets of Tulip Poplar seed. All coolers are running and ready. A new seed sorter has been purchased. They are also developing green partnership initiatives to encourage companies and organization to contribute to the Division's reforestation efforts through seed and tree sponsorships. The Nursery will be offering 1500 hardwood seedlings to Sevier County as a part of the nursery's Green Initiative program.

- Outreach Tim Phelps

The Division is developing a partnership with TFA and Teri Frye. A new initiative new initiative (Learn, Plan and Act) is being developed to build awareness of landowners and encourage them to more actively manage their forests. The Division will be working with landowners in distressed counties.

Information request

John Charles Wilson – One-page summary of Forest Legacy program

Tom Midyett – Touch base with FSA for potential assistance to forest landowners that have storm damaged timber

Future Meeting Dates



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- April 7, 2020 – Approve Nursery seedling pricing and appoint sub-committee to nominate Commission officers (first Tuesday in April).
- June 10, 2020 - Approve Commission officers and field trip to observe IMT training – overnight stay (Second Wednesday in June).
- September 2, 2020- Approve Division budget (first Wednesday in September). *Note: Johnny Heard recommended moving the September date in those years it conflicts with Labor Day weekend. The next September meeting does not conflict with Labor Day 2020 (9/7/20).*
- January 12, 2021 – Discuss budget, timber sales (second Tuesday in January)

Tom Midyett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Qualman seconded motion. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 2:23PM CST.