



MINUTES

TENNESSEE FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

6/9/2021

Tennessee Forestry Commission meeting was held at the Ellington Agricultural Center in the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry Headquarters Office.

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

Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA): Tom Womack, Deputy Commissioner.

Tennessee Department of Agriculture - Division of Forestry (TDF): David Arnold, State Forester; Heather Slayton, Assistant State Forester; Tim R. Phelps, Communications and Outreach Unit Leader; Dyshea Brown, Executive Administrative Assistant; Rachel Greene, Philip Morrissey, State Forest Unit Leader (attended remotely via WebEx);

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

Silviculture: Jeff Wright (attended remotely via WebEx).

Chairman Johnny Heard welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

Recognition of Commission member and former Chairman Bob Qualman's last meeting

Approval of Minutes of the April 6 , 2021 meeting

John Charles Wilson motioned to approve minutes as presented. Bob Qualman seconded the motion. All Commission members voted yes to approve: Johnny Heard, Tom Midyett, Mike Witt, John Charles Wilson, Bob Qualman, Sharon Jean-Philippe and Alex Richman. The motion passed.



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Approval of Commission Officers for 2021 -2022 term

Bob Qualman motioned to approve Johnny Heard, Chairman; Tom Midyett, Vice-Chair and John Charles Wilson, Secretary as recommended. Sharon Jean-Philippe seconded the motion. All Commission members voted yes to approve: Johnny Heard, Tom Midyett, Mike Witt, John Charles Wilson, Bob Qualman, Sharon Jean-Philippe and Alex Richman. The motion passed.

Wildside video featuring the nursery

Heather Slayton

- Video highlighted riparian issues that affect water quality with wildlife management showcasing the nursery.

Research changing the name of the East TN Nursery to TN State Nursery

John Charles Wilson motioned to research changing the name of the nursery. Tom Midyett seconded the motion. All Commission members voted yes to approve: Johnny Heard, Tom Midyett, Mike Witt, John Charles Wilson, Bob Qualman, Sharon Jean-Philippe and Alex Richman. The motion passed.

Vacancy update

Heather Slayton

- Status of current position vacancies was provided. Current vacancies are at 100 across all position classifications. These vacancies include positions being held for budget reduction needs. Success in promoting a Forestry Technician to a Forestry Program Specialist/ Assistant District Forester in the Cumberland District.

SilviaTerra's carbon program

Jeff Wright

- Information provided about carbon markets and opportunities that exist for private forest landowners.

Status of timber quality in Tennessee

Bob Qualman
Rachel Greene

- Presentation on how tree grades have changed from year to year and comparison of changes between softwood and hardwood



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Why are lumber prices so high?

Neil Owens

- Demand for lumber and building products created a price increase. COVID-19 related issues have added to the problem. There is a slowdown at the mills production and an increase of pine trees per market conditions.

Tom Midyett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Charles Wilson seconded the motion. Commission members voted yes to approve: Johnny Heard, John Charles Wilson, Mike Witt, Bob Qualman, Sharon Jean-Philippe and Alex Richman. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 1:40PM CST

Future Meeting Dates

- September 7, 2021 - Approve Division Budget (first Tuesday in September at Nursery).
- January 10, 2022 – Discuss budget and timber sales (second Tuesday in January)
- April 5, 2022 – Approve Nursing seedling pricing/production and appoint sub-committee to nominate Commission officers (first Tuesday in April).
- June 7, 2022 – (second Tuesday in June).