



MINUTES

TENNESSEE FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

1/11/2022

Tennessee Forestry Commission meeting was held in the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, Bruer Building Oak Training Room in Nashville, TN, January 11, 2022

Participants:

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

Forestry Commission Ex-Officio Members:

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

Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA): Charles Hatcher, Commissioner

Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA): Tom Womack, Deputy Commissioner; Shannon Klonowski, Assistant Commissioner; Samantha Wilson, Budget Administrative Coordinator; (attended remotely via TEAMS)

Tennessee Department of Agriculture - Division of Forestry (TDF): David Arnold, State Forester; Heather Slayton, Assistant State Forester (attended remotely via TEAMS); Phil Morrissey, State Forest Unit Leader; Wade Waters, Assistant State Forester (attended remotely via TEAMS); Dyshea Brown, Executive Administrative Assistant (attended remotely via TEAMS)

Tennessee Forestry Association: Candace Dinwiddie, Executive Director; Wayne Anthony, Board President (attended remotely via TEAMS)

Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of Property Assessments: John Thomas, GIS Specialist

Chairman Johnny Heard welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. CDT

Approval of the Minutes of the September 9, 2021 meeting

John Charles Wilson motioned to approve minutes as presented. Mike Witt seconded the motion.



MINUTES

The motion passed.

Review FY2022 and FY2023 budget proposal

Heather Slayton

- Total expenditures for 2022 to date are higher than this time last year partly due to:
 - \$2.4M Legacy project (Skinner Mt)
 - State services higher due to newer, more expensive equipment
- Overtime and travel expenditures exceeded budget due to out of state deployments, but these amounts will be reimbursed.
- Due to time competition between programs and COVID, grant expenditures are lower year over year.
- Expenditures for 2022 were 47% of budgeted amount.
- The FY2023 budget proposal – operational includes:
 - \$9.5M for expansion request
 - \$500K for forestry maintenance
 - -\$98K for reduction items (target \$217K)
- The FY2023 budget proposal – capital
 - FY22-23 improvements \$9M
 - FY22-23 maintenance \$4.7M
 - Request additional \$2M each fiscal year from FY23-26 as a placeholder

Tennessee Population Demographics

John Thomas

- Presentation - Tennessee's Population Shift: An overview for Tennessee Forestry.
- Key topics – demographics, population change, changing demographics and future projections.

Vacancy report

Heather Slayton

- The division has a 12% vacancy rate. Currently have 48 total vacant positions. Position that has the most vacancies are FA2 positions.

Review timber sales – FY2021 closeout & FY2022 projections

Phil Morrissey

- FY2021 timber sales brought \$3.49M. The revenue target was \$3.2M.
- FY2022 projections are that acreage is comparable to last year, but volumes appear to be down making it difficult to reach the target revenue. The timber salvage at Natchez Trace will contribute to revenue.



MINUTES

Committee report assigned to meet with USDA Farm Service Director

David Arnold

- Prior to the Commission meeting State Forester David Arnold and Commission member John Charles Wilson met with FSA staff to express continuing needs to better inform respective agency staff and forest landowners about FSA's forestry-based programs. Plans were made to engage the new Executive Director once they were in place.
- Primary goals are to strengthen the relationship with FSA, understand FSA programs and be in position to receive funds from FSA when available for Forest industries.

Future Meeting Dates

- April 5, 2022 – Approve Nursery seedling pricing/production and appoint sub-committee to nominate Commission officers (first Tuesday in April).
- June 8, 2022 – Approval of Commission officers (second Wednesday in June).
- September 7, 2022 - Approve Division Budget (first Wednesday in September).
- January 10, 2023 – Discuss budget, timber sales (second Tuesday in January).

Johnny Heard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Charles Wilson seconded the motion. The Meeting was adjourned at 2:15PM CDT.