



MINUTES

TENNESSEE FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

8/24/2022

Tennessee Forestry Commission meeting was held in the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, Bruer Building Oak Training Room in Nashville, TN, August 24, 2022

Participants:

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

Forestry Commission Ex-Officio Members:

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

Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA): Jeff Aikin, Deputy Commissioner (remote)

Tennessee Department of Agriculture – Division of Business Development: Andy Holt, Assistant Commissioner; David Neumann, Forest Business Consultant (remote).

Tennessee Department of Agriculture - Division of Forestry (TDF): David Arnold, State Forester; Heather Slayton, Assistant State Forester; Wade Waters, Assistant State Forester; Tim Phelps, Communications and Outreach Unit Leader; Dyshea Brown, Executive Administrative Assistant.

Tennessee Forestry Association: Candace Dinwiddie, Executive Director

Tennessee Tree Advisory Committee: Kevin Key

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

Approval of the Minutes of the June 8, 2022 meeting

John Charles Wilson motioned to approve minutes as presented. Sharon Jean-Philippe seconded the motion. The motion passed.



MINUTES

Review FY2022, FY2023 and approval of FY2024 budget

Heather Slayton

- Division of Forestry budget review and approval is for FY 24 which covers July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.
- **Fiscal year 2022** (previous) – Total budget: \$34,382,810.00, Total expenditures: \$32,122,133.00
- Majority of FY22 expenditures went to salaries and benefits – 59%.
- **Fiscal year 2023** (current) – Total budget: \$35,475,800.00,
- Capital Maintenance Projects (current) – Total: \$15,910,000.00
FY23 (Submitted) - \$5,000,000.00
- Capital Improvements (starting) - \$3,990,000.00
FY23 (Submitted) - \$8,960,000.00
- **Fiscal year 2024 Proposed budget savings (pending Commissioner’s approval)**
- Target savings: \$227,000.00 – Revenue swap: \$150,000.00 – Operational Savings: \$77,000.00
- Forestry Expansions request grant total: \$3,834,100.00
- **Division vacancies** 40 FTE to 36 FTE; 14% to 11% FTE vacancy drop.

Approval of the FY2023 budget

John Charles motioned to approve budget as presented. Bill Legg seconded the motion. All Commission members voted yes to approve. The motion passed.

Review meeting dates

Tom Midyett

- The Commission will meet September 7th to discuss the Division’s fire programs. Tentatively scheduled January 2023 meeting moved from January 10th to January 11th based on confirmation of legislative guests.

Department of Agriculture’s Division of Business Development and relevance to Forest Industry development

Andy Holt/David Neumann

- The top crop being produced in Tennessee is trees.
- Business Development pursues companies that can partner with Department of Agriculture utilizing wood products within the forest industry.
- 75% of wood is retained within the state of Tennessee and 25% is shipped out.
- Soybeans, corn cattle/calves are top commodities in Tennessee when agriculture and forestry are included.
- Fifty-three percent of state is forested.



MINUTES

- Business Development opportunities help identify and promote agriculture and forestry business.

Future Meeting Dates

- September 07, 2022 – Special called meeting to discuss the Division’s Wildland Fire program.
- January 2023 meeting (TBD contingent on moving from January 10th to 11th) – Discuss budget, timber sales.
- April 4, 2023 – Approve Nursery seedling pricing/production and appoint sub-committee to nominate Commission officers (first Tuesday in April).
- June 2023 meeting (TBD contingent on engaging students at FFA Forestry Camp at Fall Creek Falls) – Approval of Commission officers.
- August/September 2023 (TBD contingent on F&A budget cycle) - Approval of Division’s budget.

Bill Legg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sharon Jean-Philippe seconded the motion. The Meeting was adjourned at 2:00PM CDT.