



# MINUTES

## TENNESSEE FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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4/6/2021

**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 (attended remotely via WebEx), Bob Qualman, Mike Witt, Sharon Jean-Philippe

### Forestry Commission Ex-Officio Members:

**Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA):** Brian Chandler, Forest Management Program Leader (attended remotely via WebEx)

**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).

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

**Tennessee Forestry Association (TFA):** Candace Dinwiddie, Executive Director (attended remotely via WebEx).

**Tennessee Urban Forestry Council (TUFC):** Ashley Kite-Rowland (attended remotely via WebEx).

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

### Roll Call

***Tom Midyett motioned to acknowledge having a quorum of members with one member participating remotely. John Charles Wilson seconded the motion. All Commission members***



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**voted yes to approve: Johnny Heard, Tom Midyett, John Charles Wilson, Mike Witt, Bob Qualman, Sharon Jean-Philippe and Alex Richman (remotely). The motion passed. Meeting can be conducted.**

## Appointment of sub-committee to nominate new officers

**Johnny Heard selected the following names to be on the nominating committee: Tom Midyett, John Charles Wilson and Alex Richman. Tom Midyett, John Charles Wilson and Alex Richman accepted.**

## Approval of the Minutes of the September 12, 2021 meeting

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

## Seedling Quantity and pricing recommendations

Gina Sowders

- Most seedling production amounts will remain the same and no species are planned for elimination. Species recommended for decreased production include loblolly 1.5 generation and shortleaf pine. White pine and Virginia pine seedlings will be labelled as "elite" instead of "Christmas".
- Pine seedling prices will remain the same to remain competitive with other nurseries. Price will change for hardwood based on order quantities of 25 to offset the cost of additional bags needed. FedEx shipping will increase by \$1 to cover increased cost.
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- **John Charles Wilson motioned to approve seedling quantities and pricing as recommended. Bob Qualman seconded the motion. All Commission members voted yes to approve: Johnny Heard, Tom Midyett, John Charles Wilson, Bob Qualman, Sharon Jean-Philippe and Alex Richman (remotely). The motion passed.**

## Vacancy report

Heather Slayton

- Status of current position vacancies was provided. Current vacancies are at 95 across all position classifications. These vacancies include 73 positions being held for budget reduction need which leaves a total of 24 actual vacancies. Minimum education qualifications have been expanded for the Forester Series.

## Budget process review and summary

David Arnold



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Heather Slayton

- FY2022 budget savings of \$1,635,100.00 and increases of \$9,737,200.00 for the division were provided in detail. The budget strategy was discussed in detail with Tennessee Forestry Commission members. The division has started the planning cycle for FY2023.

## **Status of carbon feasibility study and direction of national carbon policy** Heather Slayton

- Phase II of the Department's carbon feasibility study focusing on state forest properties is complete. A recommendation for the Commissioner of agriculture on pursuit of carbon credit trading opportunities is under development. Information was presented on national carbon policy as viewed by the national Association of State Foresters.

## **State Lands Group**

David Arnold

- The newly formed State lands Group current members are Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and Department of Agriculture. This Group was created for more collaborative planning and sharing of resources in the management of state lands. The Executive Committee conducted their first meeting. Initial projects have been identified for continued planning and development.

## **Restore Ellington Project site**

David Arnold  
Nathan Hoover  
Ashley Kite-Rowland

- Ashley Kite-Rowland discussed how Tennessee Urban Forestry Council is partnering with Division of Forestry, specifically the Forest Health and Sustainability Unit to help clear invasive species in preparation for planting oak seedlings. This project will restore capacity for oak regeneration at Ellington Agricultural Center.

## **Chairman Heard recommended that the Commission meet in different locations besides Nashville. He will touch base with Commission members for location suggestions.**

***At 2:08 PM CST Bob Qualman motioned to adjourn the meeting. John Charles Wilson seconded the motion. All Commission members voted yes to approve: Johnny Heard, Tom Midyett, John Charles Wilson, Mike Witt, Bob Qualman, Sharon Jean-Philippe and Alex Richman (remotely). The motion passed. Meeting can be conducted.***

## **Future Meeting Dates**



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- June 9, 2021 - Approve Commission officers (second Wednesday in June).
- September 7, 2021 - Approve Division Budget (first Wednesday in September).
- 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).