



# MINUTES

## TENNESSEE FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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6/8/2022

**Tennessee Forestry Commission meeting was held in the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, Bruer Building Oak Training Room in Nashville, TN, June 08, 2022**

### Participants:

**Forestry Commission Members:** Johnny Heard, Chairman; Tom Midyett, Vice Chairman; John Charles Wilson (remote), 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):** Jeff Akin, Deputy Commissioner; Shannon Klonski, Assistant Commissioner; Samantha Wilson, Budget Coordinator

**Tennessee Department of Agriculture - Division of Forestry (TDF):** Heather Slayton, Assistant State Forester; Rachel Greene, Forest Data and Analysis Unit Leader; Robert Elliott, Forest Health and Sustainability Unit Leader; Dyshea Brown, Executive Administrative Assistant.

**Tennessee Forestry Association:** Candace Dinwiddie, Executive Director

**Farm Service Agency (FSA):** John Litz, Executive Director of TN; Greer Gill, Public Affairs/Outreach Coordinator; Christina Boles, Agriculture Program Specialist

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

### Farm Service Agency

John Litz

- Foster a relationship with Forestry and Farm Service Agency.
- Encourage landowners to serve on County Committees and be a voice.
- Loan Services offered thru FSA: Emergency, Direct and Guaranteed



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## Approval of the Minutes of the April 5, 2022 meeting

***Tom Midyett motioned to approve minutes as presented. Bill Legg seconded the motion. The motion passed.***

### **Approval of Commission Officers**

Johnny Heard

- Bill Legg, Mike Witt and John Charles Wilson served on nominating sub-committee.
- The following individuals were nominated for the Commission Officer positions: Tom Midyett, Chairman; John Charles Wilson, Vice-Chairman; Sharon Jean Philippe, Secretary.

***Sharon Jean-Philippe motioned to accept the nomination of slated officers as presented. Alex Richman seconded the motion. The motion passed.***

***Voting members: Johnny Heard, Bill Legg, Mike Witt and Alex Richman approved the one-year appointment of nominated officers. The motion carries. Nominated officers abstained from voting.***

### **Vacancy update**

Heather Slayton

- The division has a 14% FTE vacancy rate which is down from 15%. Currently 76 total vacant positions which include 28 FA1s (seasonal firefighters) from 59 total vacancies.
- The vacancy percentage has increased from April due to FA1s being separated since last report. The vacancy percentage for all positions increased from 15% to 19%.
- Positions experiencing the most vacancies are FA2s. The majority of those vacancies reside in West TN district for FA2s.
- Aware that pay is an issue but also reviewing our recruiting efforts.

### **Timber Sales update**

Heather Slayton

- Andy McBride new State Forest Unit Leader.
- Timber Sales - target \$3.2 million, currently \$2.67 million, pending: 3 sales at Chickasaw SF. Currently, sales are \$1.8 million in hardwood and \$850k in pine.
- Timber Sales will be approximately \$150K short of target.
- Salvage operation sales at Natchez Trace SF.
- FY23 - \$335k allocated for operational plan to reset state forest inventory.



## **Forest Industry support update**

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Rachel Greene/ Candace  
Dinwiddie/ Heather Slayton

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Forest Industry Supply chain tour, October 17, 2022 – October 21, 2022. The actual supply chain tour will be October 20, 2022.
- Next fall a Forest Industry Career Camp will be conducted to highlight different careers with Forest Industries.
- Forestry Camp to attract students that are interested or garner interest in a field in Forestry. Foster a relationship with school guidance counselors.
- Workforce Development funded for 3<sup>rd</sup> year.
- TFA has acquired 501(c)(3) status.
- Department of Agriculture provided TFA with a grant to provide safety training and safety equipment for loggers.
- Opinion leader's meeting is conducted annually to bring together leaders of forest industry and discuss how the forest industry can be supported. The meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2022.

## **Approval to change September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting date to August 24<sup>th</sup>**

***Tom Midyett motioned to approve changing the September meeting to August. Bill Legg seconded the motion. The motion passed.***

## **Presentation of plaque to Johnny Heard for his 10 years of dedicated service as Tennessee Forestry Commission Chair and member.**

## **Future Meeting Dates**

- August 24, 2022 - Approve Division Budget (fourth Wednesday in September).
- January 10, 2023 – Discuss budget, timber sales (second Tuesday in January).
- April 4, 2023 – Approve Nursery seedling pricing/production and appoint sub-committee to nominate Commission officers (first Tuesday in April).
- June 14, 2023 – Approval of Commission officers (second Wednesday in June).

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