

LOUISIANA FORESTRY COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
JUNE 11, 2019
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Louisiana Forestry Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Poole at 10:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Patricia Dayberry

Members Present:

Chairman Scott Poole, Gradon Clemons, Wayne Hagan, Michael Hudson, Bill Jenkins, and Dr. Allen Rutherford

LDAF staff present: Wade Dubea, Amy McInnis, Walter Daigre, Patricia Dayberry, Damian Johnson, Blake Phillips, Don Smith and Roy St. Pierre

Guests Present: Shaun Tanger, George Tiley, Buck Vandersteen and Alicia Wheeler

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Dr. Allen Rutherford made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 3, 2018; Mike Hudson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

Alicia Wheeler, an Assistant Attorney General with the Department of Justice's office was the hearing officer at the adjudicatory hearing. The hearing covered Case No. 18-000125 with Mr. Matthew Labee. The violation was a loader log charge. Mr. Labee pled no contest to the charges. The \$500.00 penalty was assessed with \$250.00 suspended. The remaining balance of \$250.00 is to be paid in full within sixty (60) days.

MOTION: Scott Poole made a motion to accept the plea by Mr. Labee; Bill Jenkins seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MOTION: Wayne Hagan made a motion to accept the penalty as stated; Gradon Clemons seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The adjudicatory hearing was adjourned.

BUDGET

Wade Dubea discussed the budget situation. We are right on target on budget this year. The interagency transfer of \$250,000 from the Fire Marshal's office did not come thru this year and the restoration of budget funds of \$360,000 in a supplemental bill from the legislature did not come either. So adjustments were made during the year to handle those losses to the budget. The FPP funds were discussed and an updated bar graph

has been requested for the next meeting. The protection money is being used to keep the airplanes going and doing repairs on equipment. Scott mentioned that he has heard the Commissioner announced that the bonds used to buy the dozers and Mack trucks are completely paid off. Wade confirmed that it is and that we are trying to set up a rotation to get some new equipment into the fleet. The protection money is being used to keep the airplanes going and doing repairs on equipment. We would like to have funds set aside to purchase this equipment from our budget, but using a bond may be a safer option to get new equipment to replace the worn out ones.

DIVISION REPORTS

Division reports were reviewed and discussed. It was requested that the charge letters be forwarded to the commissioners ahead of time on the next adjudicatory hearing. New enforcement officer, Blake Phillips, was introduced to the commission. The airplane inspections were discussed regarding the FAA rules. An after action review was done on the response to a 300 acre fire in St. Tammany parish on Weyerhauser land. The crew that responded did an excellent job. It was a good “training exercise” for the new employees who had never been on a fire that large before. There was much discussion on equipment and personnel to operate the equipment. Company land being adjacent to private land was discussed also.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

The E signature rule change was discussed in a forum with a group that had mill representation. It was a question and answer session on the provisions in the law to use electronic signature wherever a signature is required. The LFA meeting will be used to set up rules as to what information needs to be captured with an electronic signature system. Then the mills can implement the system. They want a broader discussion at the LFA meeting before bringing the rules to the commission to be voted on for implementation.

Wade, Buck and Shawn attended the tax assessors association committee meeting to discuss the use value tax applied to the timber acres. The rates are adjusted every four years. The Forestry interests were agreeable with the rate increases. The proposal will be going before the tax commission for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Buck Vandersteen commented on the use value tax and the military no-fly zone. There was some controversy about the loggers who were weighed by the State Police not weighing the same as they weigh at the mills. Discussion followed and it is the Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures Division certifies scales for commerce and State Police certify the scales for the roads, it is two different systems. Buck commented that the Teachers Tour was going on currently and that they had 12 teachers this year. Buck gave a reminder that the Louisiana Forestry Association convention will be August 27-29 this year.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Gradon Clemons made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Allen Rutherford seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.