

Forestry Board and Advisory Meeting
Livingston Parish Courthouse
January 18, 2007

Present: Gerald Whitehead, David Hoover, Merle Shannon, Bob Mills, Steve Horvath, Skeets Patterson, Jane Bickford, Charles Kemp, Kenny Sharpe

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

Minutes: approved as presented.

Membership: Merle Shannon

Have not sent out billing for 2007 dues but will do that the following week with the Annual meeting notice and newsletter.

There were 75 members who paid dues in 2006.

It was noted that we still need to print the Livingston Forestry Brochure and get copies in the Tourism Bureau for distribution. We will ask Monica Harrison, who chaired the committee, to follow up on the printing.

Old Business : 24 members went on the **Fall Tour to Tembec Paper Mill** in St. Francisville. The participants got to tour the plant and considered the trip very informative and hope to be able to continue yearly tours to see the marketing opportunities available to them. The group enjoyed a lunch at D'Johns Restaurant after the tour.

The group discussed the **Teachers Forestry Tour** and feels that it is a worthwhile investment of funds to have a teacher be able to understand forestry and forest products and be able to help educate the parish students by incorporating the material into his/her teaching plan.

The group requested that our 2006 participant, Yvette Davidson, give a report at the Annual Meeting in March. Steve Horvath will invite her to the meeting.

The consensus was that we would continue to sponsor another participant for 2007. Kenny Sharpe was asked to put a note in the newsletter to seek applications from the membership.

There are still some caps and mugs left to be used as promotional items to help attract new members, to promote forestry and to use as gifts for speakers.

New Business:

The **Annual Meeting** will be held in the spring. Members agreed to March 15, 2007 as their first choice and March 13 as the second.

The places that were discussed to host the meeting included : Forrest Groove, Kevin's, Mike's Restaurant, LaFleur's, Live Oak Plantation and Lakeside.

It was decided to look into Mike's in Livingston to see if it was large enough to accommodate our group. Gerald and Kenny volunteered to go and check that out. If it was too small the second choice was LaFleur's where we could eat off their buffet on a Thursday for \$13.22 per person including drink, tax and tip.

Educational program suggestions included Marketing: Where are we and where are we going? Dr. Mills suggested Eric Gee as a speaker on that subject.

It also was decided that we wanted to get Buck Vandersteen from LFA to update us on the Cypress Logging Issue and other legislative issues. We also want to have a report from our Forestry Teacher Tour participant. Gerald Whitehead will bring the membership up to date on a recent attempt by the Parish Council to up the permit fees to loggers and log trucks.

The group discussed future programming needs and decided that they liked both tours and field days. It was noted that tours have to be held on Weekdays so that the plants are functional and have supervisory staff to conduct the tours. Field days are very good also but more vulnerable to weather conditions and more trouble to work out all the logistics of parking, bathrooms, and food.

Realizing that the forestry industry is ever evolving, participants are eager to keep an eye on markets, factors that affect markets –such as housing starts, and new emerging issues that will affect the industry both positively and negatively. There is a desire to stay abreast of tax changes that relate to forestry and legislation that affects property rights.

Merle Shannon brought a request from Keep Livingston Beautiful Committee for the Forestry Association to partner with them and help sponsor safety vest and litter grabbers for those teams that sign up to keep a portion of the roads litter free.

Board members felt that litter was a big black eye to the parish and state. The members felt that some of the membership of the organization would benefit by having litter picked up on their property front.

On a motion from Horvath and 2nd from Hoover the board agreed to donate \$100 toward the purchase of Safety vest and litter grabbers for the Keep Livingston Beautiful Committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm