

Forestry Advisory Meeting Minutes
January 08, 2009
6:30 pm

Present: Merle Shannon, Jim King, Steve Horvath, Bob Mills, Henry Childres, Charles Kemp, Ralph Willie, Jane Bickford, Kenny Sharpe

Call to order: 6:30 pm

Minutes were approved as presented

Old Business:

The group discussed the Fall Tour to Bob Jones Idlewilde Experiment Station. Saw the Oat Preference trials for white-tailed deer, a timber sale on large timber, a spacing study on loblolly pines, and a Gustav salvage cut. All agreed that the tour was educational and enjoyable. The tour concluded with a luncheon at Ryan's in Zachary.

New Business:

Date for the Annual Meeting were discussed and March 19th was the first choice. Second choice would be March 12th or 22nd.

Places for the meeting were discussed and cost. The group chose to try to arrange the meeting at Bass Pro and if not available then try Forest Groove. Kenny Sharpe and Ms Shannon were left with the authority to make the final decision.

Educational Program possibilities were discussed. There was the thought that carbon credits were becoming more of a reality and that we should get Buck Vandersteen to discuss the topic as a non bias party. It was also decided that we would like to get the new State Forester, Wade Dubea to come give us an update on the issues facing the Louisiana Forest Industry.

Sponsorship would be solicited for the meeting but it was noted that the forest industry was less healthy this year and that funding may be a problem.

Fall programming was discussed. The group wants to try to go down to the cypress swamp area and see the cypress forest in Lake Maurepas and what impacts the issues of cypress mulch have had on the area. Henry Childres was asked to look into making the necessary arrangements for a fall of 2009.

Other forestry educational needs were discussed. The group indicated a need for education in the area of fire prevention to building and homes including fire proof landscaping techniques to lessen the threat of property loss in wildfires. Also interested in invasive species and feral hogs.

The group voted to sponsor another Livingston Parish teacher to participate in Project Learning Tree. It is one of the best ways to get the correct information to the students about the sustainability of timber.

Ms. Shannon appointed a nominating committee of Charles Kemp and Ralph Willie to come up with a slate of officers and board members prior to the annual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.