

Forestry Advisory Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2010  
6:30 pm

Present: Merle Shannon, Jim King, Lennie Wales, Steve Horvath, Bob Mills, John Curtis, Charles Kemp, Ralph Willie, Kenneth Sharpe

**Call to order:** 6:30 pm

**Minutes** were approved as presented

**Old Business:**

The group discussed the Fall Tour that had to be cancelled to the Turtle Cove at Manchac. The group felt that we should not put the tour off but reschedule it for mid to early April. It was also agreed that the association would make a donation to Turtle Cove on behalf of the touring group at the rate of \$10/ member up to \$300. The board decided to do this instead of buying lunches and suggested the lunch should be Dutch treat.

**New Business:**

**Spring Annual Meeting** was discussed and dates for the meeting were set for either March 19<sup>th</sup> was the first choice. Second choice would be March 11<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> .

**Places for the meeting** were discussed and cost. The group chose to try to go the Hungarian Cultural Building in Albany; this will give us a venue in the eastern part of the parish. Cost of the building would be \$80 and the meal will cost \$10/ head without drinks and a 50 person minimum.

**Educational Program** possibilities were discussed. The group felt that the most pressing issues for the forest industry related to the economy and prices of timber. It was agreed that we should get Dr. Mike Dunn, LSU AgCenter, Forest Economist to speak on the Forest Industry situation and projections for the future. It was also decided that we would like to get Buck Vandersteen, LFA Executive Director, to come and give us an update on the issues facing the Louisiana Forest Industry.

**Funding-** there was discussion about charging people \$5.00 for the meal but the group decided that the association could afford the meeting and would try to solicit support to the industry to help pay for the meeting.

**Fall programming** was discussed. The group considered touring a mitigation bank, wood pellet facility, one of the other timber mills. Also open to a field day that looks at cultural and management practices. The committee asked Sharpe to plan the tour with the incoming president.

**Other forestry educational needs** were discussed. There is an interest in FSA cost shares for bio mass fuel wood. There is an interest in bio mass and fuel wood as a potential

market as well as wood pellets. There are also concerns over invasive species and feral hogs destroying the value of timber and timberlands.

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.

Jim King appointed a nominating committee of Merle Shannon and Lennie Wales to come up with a slate of officers and board members prior to the annual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.