

**MINUTES
ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION
JULY 22, 2010**

PRESIDING – Don Heath, Chairman

SECRETARY - Linda Casey, State Forester

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT – Don Heath, Johnny McReynolds, Melisa Love, Jett Freeman, Ken Real, and Randy Gilmore.

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION PERSONNEL PRESENT - Linda Casey, Patrick Glass, Tom Conway, Dan Lassetter, Craig Hill and Regina Miller.

GUESTS – Steve Guy.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Chairman Don Heath called this regular meeting of the Alabama Forestry Commission to order at 10:00 a.m. on July 22, 2010 in the Forestry Commission's State Office Executive Conference Room located at 513 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36104.

ROLL CALL – Regina Miller called roll. All Commissioners were present. Miller announced that a quorum was present.

Miller announced that the meeting had been properly advertised.

MINUTES OF THE MAY 25, 2010 MEETING – Ken Real made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2010 meeting. Randy Gilmore seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

LITTLE RIVER STATE FOREST (PARK) - Danny Billingsley and Danny McKinley of Iron Men Outdoor Ministries, Inc. expressed their desire to manage the park section of Little River State Forest. The non-denominational, faith based non-profit organization already holds events throughout the state to help special needs children and see the park as a venue to hold many events there.

Following discussion, Commissioner Jett Freeman made a motion for the Commission to continue discussions with the group and for State Forester Linda Casey to proceed with a contract and present to the Contract Review Committee. Johnny McReynolds seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Linda noted that she would send the draft contract to Commissioners for their feedback.

LAYOFFS AND REORGANIZATION - Linda Casey reviewed estimated revenue and operating costs for FY10 and FY 11. 2010 Revenue projections, without carryover, are estimated to be \$1,890,000 less than projected 2011 operating costs (does not include any capital improvements or purchase of vehicles or fire equipment.)

Additionally, the projected 79 personnel reductions should result in salary and fringe benefit savings of \$3,793,446.

MILLER NURSERY AND OLD DALE COUNTY OFFICE PROPERTY – Tom Conway informed Commissioners that bids were solicited for an 80-acre tract and a 41-acre tract that are part of the miller Nursery property. One bid of \$328,000 was received for the 80-acre tract. The minimum bid for the 80-acre tract was \$326,000. The Forestry Commission accepted this bid. A deed is being prepared the transaction is expected to be completed within the next two to three weeks.

No bids were received on the 41-acre tract. Conway stated that under state law, a negotiated sale may take place when no bids are received on property that has been advertised. The minimum price is the amount that was advertised as the minimum bid. He reported that an individual has contacted the Commission with an offer to purchase the property for the amount advertised as the minimum bid of \$93,000. At this point, details are being worked out regarding his ability to gain access to the property. The Commission is working with the individual Conway stated that no action needed to be taken.

He stated that the Mayor of Ozark has indicated that the city plans to make an offer of \$35,000 for the old Dale County Office Property. The property has been appraised at a value of \$35,000 to \$38,000. Since the sale is to a government entity, a direct sale can be made without going through the state bid law. With Linda Casey's recommendation to sell this property to the City of Ozark if a formal offer is made, Commissioner Randy Gilmore made a motion to sell the property to the City of Ozark. Melissa Love seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

OVERVIEW OF NORTHWEST REGION – Regional Forester Dan Lassetter, reviewed his educational and work experience and then discussed the NW Region's Contingency Plan for FY11. Plans are to reduce regional personnel by 8 employees (2 employees have separated) which should result in a \$650,000 reduction in the region's budget.

LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE – Law Enforcement Chief, Craig Hill, informed Commissioners of the unit's activities from October, 2009 through July, 2010. During this period, 298 investigations were conducted including 84 fires, 140 thefts, and 74 miscellaneous cases. The investigations resulted in 119 arrests and 27 warnings.

STATE FORESTER'S REPORT – Linda Casey asked for Commission approval to sell Baldwin State Forest that had not been previously approved by Commissioners. Johnny McReynolds made a motion to approve the sale of Baldwin State Forest. The motion was seconded by Ken Real and passed by unanimous vote.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING – Commissioners scheduled a special meeting of the Commission at 10:00 a.m. on October 14, 2010 at the state office.

ADJOURNMENT – Ken Real made a motion to dismiss the meeting at 1:08 p.m. Johnny McReynolds seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.