

**MINUTES
ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION
JANUARY 23, 2009**

PRESIDING – Melisa Love, Vice Chairman

SECRETARY - Linda Casey, State Forester

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

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION PERSONNEL PRESENT - Linda Casey, Bill Baisden, Tom Conway Jerry Dwyer and Regina Miller.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Vice Chairman Melisa Smith called this regular meeting of the Alabama Forestry Commission to order at 10:00 a.m. on January 23, 2009 in the Forestry Commission's Executive Conference Room located at 513 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36104.

ROLL CALL - Commissioners Melisa Love, Don Heath, Jett Freeman, Ken Real and Johnny McReynolds were present. Randy Gilmore and Jerry Smith were absent. MOTION NO. 919: Don Heath made a motion to excuse Randy Gilmore who was ill and Jerry Smith who could not attend due to a dental procedure. Kenneth Real seconded the motion and the motion carried.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2008 MEETING - MOTION NO. 920: Don Heath made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2008 meeting. Johnny McReynolds seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Regina Miller announced that the meeting was properly advertised.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – Nominating Committee Chairman, Kenneth Real presented the Committee's report and made the following motion. MOTION NO. 921: Kenneth Real nominated Melisa Love as Chairman and Don Heath as Vice Chairman. Jett Freeman seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

From this point, Melisa Love continued the meeting as Chairman.

GRANTS – Jerry Dwyer presented an update on current grants between the AFC and other entities.

STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT – Bill Baisden explained that plans are progressing with a web-based survey planned to identify critical natural resource needs in the state. The AFC will publicize and encourage people to participate in the survey. State partners will actually write the assessment which will be a technical document.

LEGISLATION – An increase in compensation for Commissioners was mentioned; however, Commissioners stated they did not want to pursue an increase at this time due to the weak economic situation. MOTION NO. 922: Don Heath made a motion to table legislation for an increase in Commissioners compensation. Ken Real seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

FERRELL PROPERTY – Tom Conway informed Commissioners that a fire tower on the Ferrell family property in DeKalb County has not been used by the Commission for communication purposes in the past two years. The deed contains a reversionary clause whereby the property reverts to the heirs of the

original owners if the fire tower is no longer used for that purpose and does not expect to be used in the future. It was recommended that the property be reverted as stated in the deed. The AFC will first check on selling the tower for its scrap value. MOTION NO. 923: Don Heath made a motion to revert the property to the heirs of the original property owners by quit claim deed. Melisa seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

BUDGET – Linda reported that she presented the AFC's budget request for FY 2010 to the Joint Legislative Finance Committee on January 15, 2009. She told Commissioners the Governor had ordered state agencies to reduce their budgets by 10%. Linda stated that AFC funds in 2009 and in 2010 have been reduced more than 10%.

PERSONNEL AND TRAINING – Bill Baisden reported that the state has issued a hiring freeze but there is an exception in hiring for hot counties and dispatch positions within the AFC.

Linda stated that there are no plans for employee reductions. If, in the future reductions are necessary, reductions through attrition not layoffs will be carried out.

Bill stated that the Leadership Team had just completed training and mentioned that other training is being developed including on-line training.

CAPITAL ASSETTS – Bill Baisden explained that half of the Hauss Nursery property has been planted in Longleaf and the other half is being used as a silvopasture demonstration site. The AFC is working with NRCS and Auburn University on these projects.

The AFC has been exploring the possibility of projects using the Stauffer Nursery property.

The AFC is also considering the future usage of the Thorsby Seed Orchard property.

STATE FORESTER'S REPORT - With items from the State Forester's report discussed throughout the meeting, Linda reported on meetings she has attended.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING – MOTION NO. 924: – Jerry Smith made a motion to meet Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the AFC Executive Conference Room. Don Heath seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED – MOTION NO. 925: Ken Real made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Don Heath seconded the motion and the motion carried.