

**Official Proceedings of the  
EASTERN RED CEDAR REGISTRY BOARD  
June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**

The Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board (ERCRB) convened a regularly scheduled meeting on June 3, 2011 in the laboratory conference room at the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry Agriculture building in Oklahoma City at 10:00 a.m.

Board members present:

Perry McDonald  
Pat Clark  
Steve Glasgow  
Gary Bledsoe  
Dr. Craig McKinley

George Geissler – Commissioner of  
Agriculture Designee  
Mike Thompson - DEQ Designee

Board members absent:

Elmer Maddox – Property Owner  
Bob Hamilton – Nature Conservancy  
Dr. Salim Hiziroglu  
Bob Thompson – Corporation Commission

Chuck Battles – Okla Forestry Assoc.

Auxillary members present:

Jay Pruitt, Nature Conservatory  
(conference call)

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It was determined that member attendance was insufficient for a quorum. Therefore, no official action can be voted on and can only be open for discussion.

**1. Acknowledge Guests**

James Capers introduced himself to the group. He is the owner of a company based in Pauls Valley, OK that provides sales and services of both Roothog and Limbhog equipment. Angela Williams, USDA-NRCS, was also introduced to the group. She had been asked to serve as an auxiliary board member.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Copies of the April 29<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were distributed for review and discussion. (hand-out 1)

**3. Chairman's Update**

In the absence of the Chairman, Perry McDonald and Gary Bledsoe led some general discussions with those members in attendance.

- a. The discussion continued concerning attendance by designated members of the Board. Questions arose about the ability of non-participating members being dismissed from service to the Advisory Board. Currently those positions are identified in the language of the bill. However, clarification was provided for 'keeping the spirit of the intent of the original bill' while the state legislature is not in session.

- b. Group discussions continued on communication tools to support the ERCAB. Currently, the primary mode of communication is email. Some future meeting dates were established at the April meeting to provide attendee's opportunities to block those dates on their calendars for attendance. The next two meeting dates are August 8<sup>th</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup>. Comments included the development and distribution of agendas prior to the meetings. Distribution of meeting minutes was also discussed to keep non-participating members informed.
- c. George Geissler gave a brief update on the status of the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Forestry' website. He indicated the registry numbers continue to grow. The goal is still to post the list of ERAB members and their contact information, meeting dates, agenda's and minutes.

#### **4. Committee Reports**

##### **a. Legislative Committee**

- I. An update on the status of HB 1486 was provided. Governor Fallin vetoed the bill stating the creation of the Oklahoma Woody Biomass Energy Initiative Council' was a duplicate council of the ERCAB. (hand-out 2)
- II. Senator Justice did include language on one of his bills for the revival of the ERC license plate. The license plate requires a minimum of 100 pre-orders to get the license plates in your local tag office. (hand-out 3)
- III. The state income tax form for 2011 will also include a designated tax donation line for ERCAB.
- IV. Discussion included if either Representative Morrissette or ODAFF could develop and release information on the license plate through a press release or some other form of outreach? These ideas will be followed up by the appropriate agency and/or representative.
- V. SB 1714 was discussed. This bill provided direction to state government on purchasing preferences through central services for certain products including manufacturers with Eastern Redcedar products such as cedar mulch, etc. when accepting bids for wooden products. An important segment of this bill is in order for manufacturers to be eligible they must be registered.

#### **5. Old Business**

- a. The group entertained discussion on the need to follow-up with Central Services on their rules concerning implementation of SB 1714. Randy Ross was unavailable for response.
- b. At the previous meeting, ODEQ had been requested to provide feedback on regulatory rules and regulations on the burning of biomass for energy production. They need to be contacted prior to the next meeting for an update.

#### **6. New Business**

- a. Information concerning market opportunities through local governments and the Communities Action Agencies was distributed. \$18 million in block grants have been awarded for the HUD program, known as HOME investment partnerships for the purchase of wood and landscaping products and other building materials for low income housing. This measure encourages the use of state grown and manufactured wood products and landscaping materials. The HOME program builds low income housing throughout the OKC metro, Norman, Lawton and Tulsa/Tulsa county service area. (hand-out 4)
- b. With concerns mounting over the attendance and participation by the designated ERCAB members, several members agreed to serve on a small task group to begin to draft some policies and procedures for the ERCAB. These will be made available by the August meeting for consideration of adoption.

**7. Next Meeting**

a. Date: August 5, 2011      Time: 10:00 a.m.      Location: Laboratory Conference Room  
Oklahoma Department of  
Agriculture, Food, and Forestry

b. Items for next month's agenda include: ERCAB policy & procedures, DEQ report, Committee updates and auxiliary membership.

**8. Adjournment**

a. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.