

MINUTES

EASTERN REDCEDAR REGISTRY BOARD

Friday, May 17, 2013
10:00 a.m.

CPS Conference Room
Agriculture Building
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

The Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board met in regular session at 10:00 a.m., May 17, 2013, in the Consumer Protection Services Conference Room of the Agriculture Building, 2800 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Written notice of this meeting was filed with the Secretary of State and posted on the Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry website. A notice was posted on the door of the Agriculture Building 24 hours prior to the meeting setting forth the date, time, place, and agenda for the meeting.

Members Present: Gary Bledsoe, Chairman
Bruce Brown, Vice-Chairman
Jim Reese
Elmer Maddux
Steven Glasgow
Dr. Salim Hiziroglu
(Bob Thompson) Joel Rodriguez
Mike Thralls

Members Absent: Steve Thompson
Paul Todd

Mr. Bledsoe called the meeting to order and a quorum was declared.

Joel Rodriguez was welcomed to the meeting. He is a regulatory analyst with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission working on renewable energies.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Reese moved, Elmer Maddux seconded, to approve the minutes as presented of the March 8, 2013, meeting of the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board.

Those voting Aye: Gary Bledsoe, Bruce Brown, Jim Reese, Elmer Maddux, , Steven Glasgow, Dr. Hiziroglu, Joel Rodriguez, Mike Thralls. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Mike Thralls, Paul Todd, Steve Thompson. The motion passed.

Presentations

Representative Morrissette stated that Representative DeWitt, along with the Senate and House, appropriated \$3,000,000.00 for emergency drought assistance and the bill would be going to the Governor as part of the overall budget for the state. This will entail working with the local conservation commissions and it is his understanding that part of this money will be used for elimination of the ERC in some parts of the state.

Several weeks ago he was contacted by Blue Skye Biomass, a group out of Colorado, who has come up with the most significant enterprise that he has heard over the past 6-7 years. The group wants to meet with the Port of Catoosa to discuss using the inland water way to export wood pellets. They want to put a compressive plant for wood pellets to produce 550,000 tons a year. Europe and Asia are very interested in biomass renewable energy, but they are devoid of wood products. The group understands after meeting with Secretary Reese and Representative Morrissette that most of the feedstock is in Payne County and west of I-35.

Reports

Mr. Reese reported that he had heard from DEQ yesterday that there is a new bioenergy project in Ada. USDA Rural Development is giving a \$300,000.00 matching grant that will convert sweet sorghum into methane gas to generate electricity. Gary Bledsoe stated that the ERC tree could work in the same capacity to produce methane gas.

ERC Updates

George Geissler reminded everyone about the Eastern Red Cedar Workshop: Turning Trash into Treasure for landowners that will be held on May 18th in Stillwater. There are currently 45 people signed up for the conference and we have received a few additional inquiries about the conference today. Paul Todd handed out brochures on the workshop.

The Forestry Division is also working with Cole County Economic Development to transfer over some facilities in order to set up an ERC incubator area so they can establish ERC businesses in that area of the state. They have a couple of organizations with ideas and they want to be able to provide facilities to them and have them all in one location. This project is still in the very early stages of planning.

Marketing

Bruce Brown reported on a recent program at Ft. Reno regarding a series of agriculture efforts, from seeds, crops and cattle among other things. Dr. McKinley and Bruce Brown both attended the program. He also stated that he has had a number of questions from the public about possible ERC projects.

Some of the questions that still have to be answered with each of the projects that have been presented have to do with the costs associated with the process. At this point, it is his opinion that the ERC industry does not compete well on a cost per ton with other species in the forest that allow normal logging practices.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, August 16, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPS Conference Room at the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Brown moved, Mr. Thralls seconded, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

President, Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board

Executive Secretary