

# MINUTES

## EASTERN REDCEDAR REGISTRY BOARD

Friday, March 8, 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., March 8, 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  
Trent Campbell  
Mike Thralls  
Paul Todd

Members Absent: Steve Thompson

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

Larry Lawyer and Ken Windle were welcomed to the meeting.

### Approval of the Minutes

Paul Todd moved, Elmer Maddux seconded, to approve the minutes as presented of the January 18, 2013, meeting of the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board.

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

### Presentations

Prescribed Fire: Mike Thralls reported that Darryl Dominick and the Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association have been working to try to get a better organization and structure for burn

associations in order to encourage more prescribed burning as well as hopefully providing liability insurance for the burn associations.

The Noble Foundation, OSU and the Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association will announce on April 1, 2013, at the Conservation Day at the Capitol an agreement that essentially says that the Noble Foundation will provide administrative support for the Burn Association, as well as meeting and office space. It also states that the Noble Foundation supports the efforts of the Burn Association to become financially sustainable, provide financial services and will provide bookkeeping for the association. They will also support efforts to provide low cost liability insurance and they have a company that underwrites all of their insurance that will look seriously at developing an insurance program. The insurance would be available to prescribed burn associations that are conducting the prescribed fire.

Recent Development and Upcoming Utilization Activities: George Geissler, State Forester, reported that right now Forestry Services has approximately 23,000 acres scheduled for burning this spring. The area ranges from Eastern Oklahoma to properties just south of Oklahoma City.

The first Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data was received last week and Forestry Services is in the process of evaluating that information. We are hoping to describe a picture of Eastern redcedar and all of the forests in Oklahoma within the next few months.

Mr. Geissler handed out information regarding *the Red to Gold, Turning Trash to Treasure Landowner Workshop* that will be held on May 18, 2013, in Stillwater. This workshop will demonstrate harvesting and utilization.

### Reports

Mr. Brown asked Gary Bledsoe to give a report on the contact he had had from the Department of Commerce who had been contacted by Cool Planet out of California. This company has built plants in California that provide environmentally friendly electricity through the use of burning different types of wood. They are looking for a facility in a 4-5 state area to start a similar project. This would be a commercial-type facility that would be a prototype for future plants; they were looking for a certain amount of tonnage and a certain price point. Ideally, they were looking to find a facility like Weyerhaeuser that they could build against and utilize their waste. Basically because of the price point, they are not going to locate in Oklahoma. They would like to come back to Oklahoma in the future for another facility.

Mr. Brown was also in contact with Cool Planet and the parameters they were seeking were between 370-500 tons of ground material per day. He feels that the volume is easily attainable and he assured Cool Planet of that. However, as the ERC Advisory Board has discussed in the past, there continues to be concern about the efficiency of harvesting as compared to other tree species. The cost of harvesting the ERC, per ton, is higher than harvesting other species and the price point becomes difficult.

Education & Research Committees

Dr. Hiziroglu handed out copies of the published study of *Production of Ethanol from the ERC* by Karthikeyan Ramachandriya, Department of Biosystem Engineering, Oklahoma State University.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 17, 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. Todd moved, Mr. Thralls seconded, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:28 p.m.

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President, Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board

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Executive Secretary