

**URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2012**

**Present:** Danny Bagwell, John Baird, Jim Chatfield, Joyce Reier, Kevin Thompson, and Drew Todd

The meeting began at 10:05 AM with the introduction of the Committee's newest member, Jim Chatfield. Jim will assume the Educational Chair formerly held by Adriana Quinones. Jim is Associate Professor with the Ohio State University and an Extension Specialist out of OSU Wooster Extension Center. Jim, welcome to the group.

Under Chief's Comments, Drew shared that the somewhat contentious Columbia Gas line clearing at Mohican-Memorial State Forest was progressing without incident. Division personnel are onsite during all tree felling work. Another sometimes "heated" issue for the Division is prescribed burning at Shawnee State Forest. When done, these spring and fall events help maintain healthy forests by reducing the buildup of dead, woody materials that fuel more wildfires and threaten homes and other structures. Even more telling, the absence of fire allows invasive plants to flourish and fosters the decline of the mighty oak as Ohio's dominant tree species. Oak trees are the keystone species of the forest ecosystem within Ohio. And when deer, squirrel, wild turkey and other forest wildlife are at a loss for acorns – an important food source – their populations suffer.

Drew informed the committee that Regional Urban Forester Ann Bonner was on disability leave due to a severely broken leg, and Lola Lewis was taking family leave.

Drew was able to relate the results of the OSU Industrial Design effort, jointly funded by Davey Tree Expert Company and ODNR. The OSU students provided 19 different products that could be made from urban trees. Once the individual designs have been transferred, Drew will share them with the Western Lake Erie Basin EAB Utilization & Marketing group. This was a good project not only for Davey and ODNR, but also for the students' portfolios.

The latest ALB news including the number of trees surveyed and removed, the tornado effect on the regulated area, and the use of horses in the harvesting process was reviewed.

Drew also updated the group on the Division's Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Thousand Canker Disease, Sudden Oak Death, and bark beetle surveys.

During the removal and placement of dredge material, as part of the City of Toledo's Phytoremediation grant, phragmites was inadvertently spread. This was "caught" by an onsite visit from the Forest Service and Ohio Regional Urban Forester. The city and contractor are working to correct this issue.

Other Urban Forestry grants are on the continuum of either being closed out or just commencing:

Western Lake Erie Basin EAB Round 1  
- \$440,403 for ash removal and canopy restoration

Western Lake Erie Basin EAB Round 2  
- \$304,776 for ash removal and canopy restoration

Western Lake Erie Basin EAB Round 2  
- \$320,000 for residential ash removal through WSOS

Toledo Phytoremediation - \$500,000

Ohio River Basin - \$500,000

Project Clean Lake - \$450,000

Pest & Disease Revolving Fund -  
\$300,000

Tree City USA statistics have yet to be finalized, but they look something like this:

- 237 Ohio TCUSA Communities
- \$39,781,236.96 total Forestry Expenditures
- Trees Planted - 27,905 (Seedlings Planted 31,632)
- Trees Removed – 31,090
- Trees Pruned – 92,542
- Adult Volunteer Hours – 43,105 (Youth Volunteer Hours – 10,416)

Under Open Comments, John Baird mentioned that federal transportation funds have yet to be approved.

Joyce Reier stated that this will be the City of Sidney's 23<sup>rd</sup> Tree City USA Award.

Jim Chatfield spoke proudly about Ohio State University's first Tree Campus USA recognition.

Kevin Thompson stated that the latest concern for nursery growers was Boxwood Blight, which is now found in nine states. ODA is inspecting and certifying nurseries as "boxwood blight free" upon request. The industry's concern is with the larger "box" stores that sell boxwood. The fungus also affects pachysandra. [Editor's Note: Ohio Department of Agriculture officials said it was discovered at a Lake County wholesale nursery run by Herman Losely & Sons. The company's general manager said in a state-issued news release that all known infected plants have been destroyed.] Kevin also mentioned the nursery stock survey website is progressing. The target launch date is sometime this fall. Kevin also shared that CENTS is moving up a week starting in 2013.

Danny Bagwell stated that the Ohio Tree Care Conference will be held in Dayton next year. He also said that for his utility, Pioneer Electric, EAB affected ash trees are becoming a bigger and bigger issue. In fact, the Utility Arborist Association will be conducting an EAB Summit this summer.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at noon. The next meeting was scheduled for the Ohio Division of Forestry conference room on **Friday, June 8, 2012.**

Respectfully submitted,

***Drew Todd***