

URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2009

Present: Mike Ahern, Danny Bagwell, Pablo Jourdan, Joyce Reier, and Drew Todd

The meeting began at 10:05 AM as Drew Todd shared with the group that Gay Williams was no longer a member of the Advisory Committee. The group unanimously agreed that an invitation of membership be extended to the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association to replace Gay. [Editor's Note: An invitation has been extended to ONLA]

Drew updated the group on the three-year Invasive Plant grant the Division of Forestry is engaged in. Demonstration sites and Weed of the Month factsheets have recently been included within the Urban Forestry component of this effort. <http://www.ohiodnr.com/default/tabid/21391/Default.aspx>

The Urban Tree Canopy grant was also reviewed. Because of the delay in approval and the suffering economy a few communities have dropped out of this partnership. Drew said that other communities will be contacted and offered the chance to participate. Mike Ahern suggested that one of the Lake Erie MPOs (municipal planning organization) be engaged in this effort.

Drew shared that between FY 2008 and FY 2011, the Division of Forestry's operating budget will be reduced by 36%.

As part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (a.k.a. economic stimulus) the ODNR Division of Forestry has proudly launched the Ohio Woodland Jobs Corps. This two year

stimulus-backed program will create 132 green jobs, provide funds for college and technical education, remove invasive species, and help improve the health of Ohio's forests. Dan Balsler, the Division's Forest Health Administrator, will coordinate this initiative along with his statewide forest health duties.

To ensure the continued viability of the Forest Health Program, Lisa Bowers has agreed to be Dan's assistant for the next two years. While Lisa completes this two-year forest health assignment, her urban forestry duties will be shared among the other regional urban foresters. <http://ohiodnr.com/tabid/21902/default.aspx>

As this point, Drew described the elements of the Western Lake Erie Basin EAB effort. This is a congressionally directed project to help private forest landowners, municipalities, and homeowners address the impact of emerald ash borer in northwest Ohio. A joint announcement of the program should be made within the next two weeks. [Editor's Note: Drew and other DOF staff met with WSOS to discuss the "micro-loan" portion of this effort that would allow low-income homeowners to get hazardous ash trees removed from their properties. It was decided to rollout this program in the cities of Fremont and Port Clinton.]

During the Open Forum portion of the meeting Danny Bagwell shared that while a few of the investor-owned

utilities are increasing their right-of-way tree pruning and removal efforts, Pioneer Electric was increasing their 'right tree right place' tree planting efforts.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM. The next meeting was scheduled for the Columbus Forestry office on **Friday, December 11, 2009.**

Respectfully submitted,

Drew Todd