

**URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
MINUTES  
MEETING OF JUNE 20, 2008

**Present:** Mike Ahern, John Baird, Pablo Jourdan, Joyce Reier, Drew Todd, Ellen Walker, and Gay Williams

**Guest:** Dave Lytle

The meeting began at 10:00 AM with introductions and a review of the Committee's function by Drew Todd. Drew recognized Joyce Reier, the Committee's newest member. Joyce is the City Forester representative from Sidney, Ohio.

Chief Dave Lytle discussed the Forest Inventory and Analysis Five-Year Report with the group. Unlike previous Forest Service reports that were conducted once every 10 years, today one-fifth of the state is surveyed every year. Dave stated that two items in the report caught his attention. First, it indicated that the area of forest land in Ohio may be peaking, and second, most forest land in Ohio is in close proximity to a road – "only about a fourth of the forest land is more than 0.25 miles from a road." According to Dave, urbanization and fragmentation is a major concern, as is the division's ability to address the needs of forest landowners with 2 to 10 acres.

John Baird inquired about the possibility of a volunteer "lessening your carbon footprint" check off system with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles as a way to fund the Greening Ohio Program.

Drew discussed the current status of the federal Urban and Community Forestry budget. President Bush's budget called for a national reduction in spending from \$30 million to \$5 million. While several

groups voiced opposition to this, the reality is that nothing is going to happen until a new president is elected.

On the other hand, Ohio's state budget forced a reduction in the Division of Forestry's bottom line of \$1.36 million. Through the cancellation of some approved projects, plus an adjustment in the way the Division captures its true timber sale administration costs, there will be no layoffs. However, the combined impact of the federal and state budgets will affect the Division's Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) efforts. The three-year federal EAB grant the Division received expires on June 30, 2008, and will not be renewed. Therefore, the three EAB foresters funded through this grant will not be retained.

This means that the EAB Urban Forester will no longer be available to assist Ohio communities with their ash inventories, EAB management plans, or other related issues. The existing regional urban foresters will pick up the slack.

Drew briefed the group on potential EAB funds through Representative Marcy Kaptur's office and a possible All State Insurance EAB initiative.

Drew also shared that a pilot project in northwest Ohio for shade tree commissioners will be implemented this year. To address the rapid turnover of

tree commission members, as well as increase our efficiency, the Urban Forestry Program is creating a Tree Commission Academy. This will be a 16 to 20 week course spread over a two year period to train new and novice members of local tree commissions. The four sets of progressive classes (freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior) are intended to provide tree commission member with the knowledge, skills, and tools to make them effective partners in the management of their urban forest resources.

During Open Forum, Ellen Walker mentioned MORPC's Summit on Sustainability & the Environment (September 11-13), as well as MORPC's aim to reflect the objectives and ideals of both its members and the greater community for an even stronger 12-county central Ohio region, including a stronger GIS capacity.

Expanding on John Baird's Bureau of Motor Vehicle comment, Mike Ahern said that he would check on a possible carbon credit initiative where reductions are based on that particular activity.

Joyce Reier mentioned that an adult EAB-like insect was discovered close to Sydney, Ohio. They are currently waiting on a positive identification. [Editor's Update: The insect in question, turned out to be a Six-spotted Tiger Beetle.]

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at noon. The next meeting was scheduled for the Columbus Forestry office on **Friday, September 19, 2008.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Drew Todd*