

URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MEETING OF JANUARY 4, 2008

Present: Mike Ahern, John Baird, Bill Stalter, and Drew Todd
Guest: Gay Williams

With Chief Lytle and Assistant Chief Ware interviewing candidates for the vacating Service Forestry/Nursery Program Administration position, Drew Todd opened the meeting at 10:00 am by discussing the certification for Ohio's state forests, Columbia Gas transmission well clearing work at Mohican State Forest, and the Division's Seedling Sales Program.

Smokey Bear pocket and ODNR desk calendars were provided to all in attendance.

For his last meeting, chairman du jour Bill Stalter introduced Gay Williams, his replacement to the committee and ONLA. Gay joined ONLA on December 3, 2007, and will work with Bill prior to his retirement on February 29, 2008.

Gay comes to ONLA with over 20 years of business and management experience, including expertise in the areas of finance, human resources, training and organizational development and business process improvement. Over twelve years of her career was spent at FedEx Logistics (formerly Roadway Logistics) in Hudson, Ohio.

Her subsequent experience includes more than six years in association management where she has served a diverse group of industries through her work as meetings manager for the American Chemical Society-Rubber Division in Akron, OH; as the director of

education and events at the Arizona Multi-housing Association in Phoenix, AZ; and, most recently, as training manager for the Northwest Public Power Association, based in Vancouver, WA. Gay, welcome to the committee.

Drew provided a brief year-end report on Urban Forestry program accomplishments, which included over 2,600 total assists, 227 communities assisted, over 6,600 seat hours of training provided, and the certification of 248 Tree City USA communities. In addition, over 20 ash inventories were conducted with Ohio communities.

Ohio's most significant urban forestry partner is the USDA Forest Service. In response to the combined impacts of increasing pressures on our nation's forest and decreasing funds, the Forest Service is implementing a "Redesign" of their state and private forestry programs, which includes state urban forestry programs. According to Drew, the Redesign encourages states to focus on three national themes (conserve working forest landscapes, protect forest from harm, and enhance public benefits from trees and forests). To accomplish this, the forest service is holding back 15% from each state's normal allocation funds for use in competitive grants. By January 15, 2008, Ohio will submit in-state and multi-state proposals to address invasive plants, EAB, and private forest landowner assistance, as part of this new direction. Bill Stalter mentioned that

ONLA has had discussion with ODA Director Boggs on an invasive plant protocol, and this might be an opportunity or component for the Division's in-state invasive plant application.

Drew asked the committee for their feedback on potential Urban Forestry initiatives for 2008, these included setting canopy goals for Ohio communities, holding tree planting workshops for city and regional planners, conducting a tree commission university (Bill suggested a nursery component), and working with the Wayne National Forest to reach small SW OH communities. Most of the discussion centered on a carbon-offset idea offered by Cincinnati's city forester. He suggested that a voluntary system be set up so that every time someone registered a car, they have the option of donating \$30 to a tree-planting fund administered by ODNR. John Baird and others felt a dollar or two check off donation option at the time of license plate renewal seemed more reasonable. John suggested that this could work into our Green Ohio initiative.

Drew gave a brief EAB update. Approximately, 90% of the detection trees have been examined with no new finds since those discovered in Fairfield, Portage, and Union Counties. The Ohio Department of Agriculture will continue EAB monitoring in 2008, but purple traps will replace detection trees. Research indicates that these traps (each side is approximately 2 feet wide by 1 foot high) are just as effective as the labor-intensive detection trees. The purple color attracts the beetles and glue on the outside of the trap will catch

them. According to Tom Harrison, "they will be a bear to install in trees".

During Open Comments, Bill discussed the upcoming CENTS and Short Course, as well as providing everyone with ONLA *Celebrating A Century of Service* pins.

Mike Ahern shared that OEPA's IT section, as part of the fiber network, was trying to backup data. This will enhance GIS resources and allow for sharing of information such as groundwater data.

As a small gesture of appreciation, Drew presented Bill Stalter a Division of Forestry polo shirt to wear as he strolls the sun kissed beaches along the Outer Banks. Not only is Bill a charter member of the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee, but also he was instrumental in changing a climate of distrust, suspicion, and cynicism between the Division of Forestry and ONLA. Thanks to Bill's efforts, our two organizations now operate within an atmosphere of professional respect. Bill, enjoy your retirement.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at noon. The next meeting was scheduled for the Columbus Forestry office on **Friday, March 21, 2008.**

Respectfully submitted,

Drew Todd