

Minutes

August 4, 2014

N. C. Board of Agriculture

Casey M. Armstrong	Kirk Mathis
Maurice K. Berry, Jr.	Mark Peters
Doug Boyd	Bert Pitt
Tommy Burleson	Robert Sutter
John William Carter, III	Jeffrey Turner
William Johnston	

Steve Troxler, Chairman

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Call to Order

Proposed NC Forest Service Management Plan Fees

Adjourn

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The Board of Agriculture held an emergency conference call on August 4, 2014. Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. and asked Chrissy Waggett to read the Ethics Reminder. The following Board members participated via conference call: Casey Armstrong, Maurice Berry, Doug Boyd, Tommy Burleson, Billy Carter, Kirk Mathis, Mark Peters, Bob Sutter, and Jeff Turner.



Commissioner Troxler asked Scott Bissette, Assistant Commissioner for the N.C. Forest Service, to present the proposed NC Forest Service Management Plan fees. Mr. Bissette reminded the Board that this issue was brought up at the July 9th meeting when the General Assembly was still in session. The recent budget bill, which was finally passed the week before, requires the NC Forest Service to implement management plan fees that will help offset a reduction in the budget of \$761,750.

The proposed plan includes a base charge of \$45.00 plus an additional add-on per acre of \$2.00 or \$3.00, depending on the plan. There will be no fees associated with "Rehabilitation" or "Urban" Plans. If the N.C. Forest Service wrote the original "Regeneration" Plan, there will also be no fee. The Board needs to adopt the initial plan so that they can go ahead and implement the fees. At this point in the budget year, they will already be 2 to 3 months behind by the time they can implement the fee. The language in the budget did give the Board some leniency on rulemaking. Rules will need to be promulgated and adopted by 2016.

Bob Sutter made the MOTION, seconded by Kirk Mathis, to approve the proposed N.C. Forest Service Management Plan Fees as presented.

A question was raised about invoicing methods and outreach to the industry. Mr. Bissette discussed that they will need 71% participation (using past years' plans) to get what they need. He also noted that they will have FAQs, webinars, and a game plan to roll out the structure to the industry.

After this discussion, a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.



There was no further business to discuss. A MOTION was made by Jeff Turner to adjourn. The motion, seconded by Kirk Mathis, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Recorded and Prepared by:
Christina L. Waggett

Adopted by the Board this 8th day
of October, 2014.



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner of Agriculture
Chairman



Tina Hlabse
Secretary