

# MINUTES

## EASTERN REDCEDAR REGISTRY BOARD

Friday, January 15, 2016  
10:00a.m.

Conference Room 301  
Agriculture Building  
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

The Eastern Redcedar Registry Board met in regular session at 10:00 a.m., January 15, 2016 in Conference Room 301 of the Agriculture Building, 2800 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Written notice of this meeting was filed with the Secretary of State and posted on the Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry website. A notice was posted on the door of the Agriculture Building 24 hours prior to the meeting setting forth the date, time, place and agenda for the meeting.

Members Present: Paul Todd  
Trey Lam  
Jim Reese  
Gary Bledsoe  
Larry Lago (Designee for Bob Thompson)  
Steven Glasgow  
Michael Sharp  
Dr. Craig McKinley  
Dr. Steven Hallgren

Members Absent: Elmer Maddux  
Scott Thompson

Mr. Todd called the meeting to order and a quorum was declared.

Mr. Todd welcomed Mr. Ken Windle, Willard Tillman, Woody Colbert, and Richard Newton to the meeting.

Mr. Todd welcomed new members: Michael Sharp, Dr. Craig McKinley, and Dr. Steven Hallgren to the meeting.

Mr. Michael Sharp, owner/operator of More Than Wood Sawmill. The company has been in business for over three years, and it continues to grow.

Dr. Steven Hallgren, a professor at Oklahoma State University, teaches Forest Ecology and Fire Ecology Management. Seventy-five percent of his time is spent on research, ten percent spent on administrative role with the undergraduate students of Fulbright Program, and fifteen percent on teaching.

One of the big issues for Oklahoma and many parts of the country is fire suppression. Over the last 50-70 years, much of the natural forest has been lost. We have lost that knowledge and are trying to regain it through research. Dr. Hallgren is mainly interested in working with the effects what happens after and during a forest fire and how it changes a community. There is a lot to learn by comparing those areas that have and have not burned.

Mr. Reese moved, Mr. Lam seconded, to approve the minutes as presented of the March 13, 2015, meeting of the Eastern Redcedar Registry Board.

Those voting Aye: Paul Todd, Trey Lam, Jim Reese, Gary Bledsoe, Steven Glasgow, Michael Sharp, Craig McKinley, and Steven Hallgren. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Elmer Maddux and Scott Thompson. The motion passed.

### **Presentations**

Mr. Michael Sharp started More Than Wood Sawmill more than three years ago. He started out with little Norwood Lumbermate 2000 and has upgraded to the Cook MP32. His wife's favorite thing to use is a Logosol Ph-260, a four-sided planer/moulders.

On the harvesting side, they try to stay within an hour drive from home. The landowner never pays a fee for timber to be harvested on their land. Sharp's company does a decent amount of clean up afterwards and leaves the land looking better than before.

On the milling side; customers will bring logs in, place their order, and trees are milled to their specs. The goal is to provide a place to bring logs for milling, drying, and finishing.

Mr. Richard Newton and his son, Aaron Newton, are from Marengo, Indiana. They have a cedar harvesting operation in Stillwater, Oklahoma. They are, by far, the largest producers of cedar mulch in the state of Oklahoma. They started grinding cedar about 10-years ago and are always looking for more places to get cedar.

Richard and Aaron are in the process of buying a business here in Oklahoma City. They will be bagging their own mulch and establishing a distribution system. They will have the Stillwater grinding operation and a manufacturing plant in Oklahoma City.

He wants to know why the universities and state buildings are not using cedar mulch, since it's a good way to get rid of cedar trees in Oklahoma. The more cedar mulch used, the bigger the demand. In Oklahoma, the trees are free.

Mr. Woody Tillman, with the Black Historical Society for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, has received a grant from the Natural Resource Conservation to go out and talk and educate about eastern redcedar.

Over the years, the organization has worked with small disadvantaged farmers based upon their challenges, issues, and concerns.

Socially disadvantaged is a USDA term for smaller farmers. The small operators who have been challenged, and to a certain extent not had the basic opportunities that everyone else has had due to some challenges, will receive benefits from the USDA. The organization tries to have meetings and conferences on eastern redcedar.

## **Reports**

Marketing – Assigned Michael Sharp

Education – Assigned Dr. Craig McKinley

Research – Assigned Dr. Steven Hallgren

Prescribed Fire & Statewide Insurance – Gary Bledsoe

Mr. Reese moved, Dr. Hallgren seconded, to approve the 2016 ERC Registry Board meeting dates.

Those voting Aye: Paul Todd, Trey Lam, Jim Reese, Gary Bledsoe, Steven Glasgow, Michael Sharp, Craig McKinley, and Steven Hallgren. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Elmer Maddux and Scott Thompson. The motion passed.

Mr. Paul Todd discussed the tour of the OSU Helmerich Research Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma regarding the continuous cedar oil research project. The Board met with Terri Ventress who gave the tour of the two different rooms and explained what was happening with the project. The second room had the 3-D display on a screen.

Mr. Todd distributed talking points with his concerns about the project to all the members. He stated there wasn't anything that matched up with the drawings, pressures, and temperatures as originally proposed.

According to Mr. Todd, Mr. Win Adam said it's up to the researcher to decide what role they will take on this project. Mr. Todd sent Mr. Adams a text requesting a report for the Board, since they approved the fund for the research.

In the text message, Mr. Adams indicated that "they have nearly completed the mechanical apparatus. The last part received today and the mechanical is experiencing some complexity and difficulties. As soon as the apparatus is completed, we will run to define the upper and lower limits of our five experience factors. The experiment will take two days and the design experiment will take two to three days to run the entire sample. I have no expectation of analysis completion at this time. Remember all the work is being completed with students and they are doing a great job. We are running later than originally planned, but are nearly finished considering we have moved during this time period and have dealt with personnel changes. I'm optimistic we can finish this project, including a chemical analysis and final report, within two months."

Dr. Hallgren asked who did the drawings. Mr. Todd said it was Mr. Adams, an application engineer from OSU.

Mr. Todd said the original proposal was for a process that required no steam. Now, all of the sudden, steam seems to be the driving force. The result in no way resembles what was originally submitted. The contract cost the Board \$7,000.

Mr. Reese was impressed with the presentation and felt far more was received than was expected on the project. Mr. Reese suggested giving them two months. Let them provide information on the research and then complain that it does not match the prototype for which we asked. Additional research may then be requested.

**New Business**

The next ERC Registry Board meeting will be held on Friday, July 15, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room 301 at the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Reese moved, Dr. Hallgren seconded, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

  
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Chairman, Eastern Redcedar Registry Board

  
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Executive Secretary