

Tyler County Forest Landowner Association General Meeting Summary

<http://tcforest.org/>

At the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association meeting at 9:30 AM, Saturday, April 29, 2017. Thirty-eight individuals braved the heavy rains to attend the meeting.

Business Meeting called to order by President, Elizabeth Parker.

- Minutes from last meeting read and approved.
- Treasurer report presented. No discussion.
- Website report by Sarah Reinemeyer. She asked about an interest in a Facebook page. Only 5 people indicated interest.
- One new member signed up.

Jeff Parker introduced the speakers.

Tyler County Chief Appraiser, David Luther, explained the 2016 timberland tax valuations for which you probably received your bill this month. One of the factors in the timberland tax valuation is the five-year average stumpage price for sawtimber and pulpwood. While the stumpages prices for 2016 were lower than the prices for 2015, the five-year average for 2016 is higher than the five-year average for 2015 because of the unusually low prices recorded in 2011-- which are now outside the five-year range. This “increase” in stumpage prices along with other factors in the formula effect higher timberland valuations for most landowners. Estimated taxes per acre in Tyler County are as follows.

	2016	2017	Change	% Change
Pine, Soil Type 1	\$10.44	\$11.20	\$.76	7.3%
Pine, Soil Type 2	6.54	7.09	.55	8.4%
Pine, Soil Type 3	5.16	5.60	.44	8.6%
Pine, Soil Type 4	4.87	5.03	.16	3.2%
Mixed, Soil Type 1	6.94	7.12	.18	2.6%
Mixed, Soil Type 2	4.42	4.48	.05	1.2%
Mixed, Soil Type 3	2.64	2.64	-	0%
Mixed, Soil Type 4	1.78	1.68	(.10)	-5.9%
Hardwood, Soil Type 1	2.72	3.19	.47	17.3%
Hardwood, Soil Type 2	1.15	1.26	.10	9.1%
Hardwood, Soil Type 3	.65	.73	.08	12.0%
Hardwood, Soil Type 4	.13	.13	-	0%

Brady Riche, Woodflow Manager for RoyOMartin Lumber company described the new Oriented Strand Board (OSB) Facility near Corrigan which will begin operation later this year, providing new jobs for the area and a new market for trees. Sadly, I cannot find my notes. I remember him stressing the type of wood they wanted. Several people asked, so he made a point of stressing it. Only, I cannot remember. Seemed it was chipped wood and something else, but not saw timber. I looked on his website, but they say what they produce and not what they need. This plan will only produce the OSB wood sheets. They anticipate opening in the fall of 2017. They are hiring now. He mostly talked about how the wood would flow through the plant as he ran a video on the screen.

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Jeff Cravey, Genetic Investment Advisor for International Forest Company, explained the advantages of container seedlings and improved tree genetics. Choice of seedling genetic level can increase per acre revenue from 32% to 55%. The high survival potential of container seedlings permits lowering of the initial tree/acre planted. Capitalizing on all opportunities by making the right seedling choice can increase revenues by 68%. Late summer or early fall planting could result in an additional 8-10% increase in yields. He explained the polination process they use. He explained how they use the container process for starting seedlings and the advantages to production vs the bare root process. He felt the container process gave them more control and was easier to cultivate and harvest.

Master Bee Keeper, Scott Martin, highlighted opportunities for landowners. Mr. Martin requested that you call a bee keeper to handle your bee problem rather than calling an exterminator. The reasons sited were the potential damage that can be caused when the cone starts to deteriorate. When the bees are immediately killed the cone remains. When the cone breaks down, the honey will start running down from the cone and damage your walls if that is where the bees had built. Also the bees will come back. A bee keepers process is to remove the cone into a bee keepers box. Leave it to the bees will start going to the new location. Then in about a week, they can carry the bees away safely and leave no cone to cause future problems. Also Bee keepers are always looking for places to place there bee boxes as the bees only gather for a short distance from their home hive. A place for box needs to be: accessible in wet weather; with a source of water withing $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile; away from neighbors; with a variety of vegetation; in open ares; such as right of ways, pastures, tree lines, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm by President Elizabeth Parker