

REAL CHRISTMAS TREE BOARD
BOARD MEETING
October 7, 2025

Via Video Conference

Welcome and Roll Call: Chairman Chuck Berry called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Eastern time.

Board Members in Attendance: Chuck Berry, Jan Hupp, Jane Neubauer, Chris Aldrich, Charles Fowler, Derek Ahl, Mike Jones, Kari Puffer, Ryan Tyce, and JoLynn Stroda

Board Members not in Attendance: Renee Beutell and Gary Thomas

USDA Representative in Attendance: George Webster

Staff in Attendance: Marsha Gray and Jenny Tomaszewski

Guest in Attendance: Jeff De Lyser

Agenda

It was **MOVED** by Chris Aldrich and **SECONDED** by JoLynn Stroda to approve the agenda as presented.
MOTION APPROVED.

Chairman's Report – Chuck Berry reported.

- Berry shared that Marsha Gray had sent an email to the Board, Promotion Committee, and Industry Relations Committee, requesting the Board to share the REAL photo sweepstakes on their company or personal social channels. The more it is shared, the more it will likely help get a wide variety of photos and experiences.
- Berry announced that Jane Neubauer, Charles Fowler, and Chuck Berry will be reaching out to a few Board members to make recommendations for Executive Committee positions for 2026.

Presentation of 2024-25 FY Audit:

- Jeff De Lyser, with Propp, Christensen, Caniglia, LLP, reviewed the audit prepared by their firm for the Christmas Tree Promotion Board's 2024-25 fiscal year. The audit provided a clean opinion with no issues or corrective actions to report.

It was **MOVED** by Charles Fowler and **SECONDED** by Derek Ahl to approve the 2024-25 audit report as presented. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Following the presentation, Jeff De Lyser left the meeting.

New Business - There were no new business items to come before the board.

For the Good of the Order/ Announcement:

- Marsha Gray shared on the Government Shutdown - AMS continues to work even through the shutdown, as they are funded by commodity dollars and not tax dollars. Gray stated that the Board had to provide an advancement in user fees to AMS. George Webster shared that the day-to-day reviews are still being approved and are in progress; all matters in upper management are currently on hold.
- Virtual Farm Tours – JoLynn Stroda shared that two farm tours have been scheduled, on November 4th at BTN in Oregon, and on November 12th at Barr Evergreens in North Carolina. Shiftology is currently creating social media posts for the upcoming tours. Marsha Gray encouraged the Board to share the social post on their social channels once they are available.
- Marsha Gray shared that the last RCTB Webinars hosted by MSU are posted on the RCTB Resources

page. Gray will email the Board the webinar user report following the meeting.

- Jane Neubauer encouraged Board members to share REAL photo sweepstakes on their social channels.
- Chuck Berry thanked Derek Ahl and Charles Fowler for all their many years of service and commitment to the Real Christmas Tree Board.

Meeting Schedule:

Next Meeting - The RCTB's next meeting will be held on January 15, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Eastern.

Adjourn:

It was **MOVED** by Chris Aldrich and **SECONDED** by Derek Ahl to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Chairman Chuck Berry adjourned the meeting at 11:30 p.m. Eastern.

Respectfully Submitted,
JoLynn Stroda
Secretary