

*~Final~*  
Committee for Family Forestlands  
Minutes  
December 4, 2006

A meeting of the Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) was held in the Sunpass room at ODF's Salem compound. Chair Ron Cease called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM.

*Committee members present:*

Ron Cease	Peter Hayes
Mike Cloughesy	Bill Arsenault
Gary Springer	Vivane Simon-Brown (by phone)

*Committee members absent:*

Fritz Ellett	Ned Livingston
Greg Miller	

*Staff present:*

Julie Welp, ODF	Bob Young, ODF
Bernie Bochsler, ODF	

*Guests:*

Lanny Quackenbush, ODF	Rex Storm, AOL
Mike Cafferata, ODF	Dan Shults, ODF
Mike Gaudern, OSWA	Jennifer Weikel, ODF
Sandy Middleton, ODF	Chris Jarmer, OFIC

**Agenda Items:**

1. Review Agenda
2. Approve Minutes from October 17, 2006
3. Discussion of Election Results
4. Latest Board of Forestry Actions
5. Measure 37 Claims
6. Phipps Nursery/Seed Trust Update
7. Northern Spotted Owl
8. Follow Up on Past Actions
9. Private Forests Program Budget Updates
10. Communications Plan
11. Miscellaneous
12. Determination of Next Meeting and Adjournment

**Approve minutes from October 17, 2006**

The minutes were approved.

**Review of November Election**

Ron Cease had written a personal letter to the Governor urging more funding for the Department and other natural resource agencies; he handed out the positive response he received from Michael Carrier from the Governor's office. The group then went on to discuss various other issues that were decided in the November election and the changes in both the house and senate and what the

impact those changes might have on forestry issues. There was also some discussion on what impact the April symposium might have on this legislative session.

### **Latest Board of Forestry Actions**

Bob Young updated the committee on the November Board meeting. The Board approved the stewardship agreement consent agenda item. They also accepted the recommendations of the Department to reappointment several standing regional committee members whose terms were expiring, plus the nomination of Dana Kjos to fill the vacancy on the SW Oregon Regional Committee.

Mike Cafferata explained that the Board also approved the time extension requested for the Oregon Plan Voluntary Measures. The committee asked for an update in a future meeting from Jo Morgan on the Oregon Plan and how much do the voluntary measures work. The Department also asked the Board to reiterate the need for shared responsibility among various agencies regarding landslides and public safety. The second part of the landslide issue addressed the intermediate risk category. Initially, the rules called for the harvesting of a high risk area in two stages: harvest half of it one year, then the other half in 10 years. However, rather than cutting the risk in half, it actually doubles the amount of time that whole area is at risk. In regards to the Special Resource Site issue, the Department recommended the second choice (the choice recommended by our committee in a letter to the Board and the director of the Department), applying the FPFO to special resource sites and working with ODFW to discuss what has been done regarding special resource sites. Mike added that Jennifer Weikel had been hired to fill the fish and wildlife specialist position.

The Board asked the Department to develop a work plan for invasive species. A part of that topic deals with an emergency funding mechanism. There is one in place for the fire program, for bad fire years. The Department would like to create something similar to combat invasive species, such as Sudden Oak Death.

### **Phipps Nursery**

Dan Shults updated the committee on the nursery issue. The appraisal of the property and buildings on November 1 valued the property at \$2,230,000. Dan went on to outline the official process to dispose of State property. It's expected to take many months, possibly over a year to finalize any deal.

### **Measure 37**

Sandy Middleton provided the group with the latest information on Measure 37 claims. The Department has responded to approximately 30 claims. One of them was for something that happened long ago and so it wasn't valid. The rest were mainly for dividing and developing. There have not been any claims where notifications were filed, so there wasn't any way for us to determine if there was anything restrictive that might cost the landowner money. There are still many unanswered questions regarding the transferability of waivers, whether state agencies have the authority to waive statutes in land use issues, whether the State has to grant a waiver to make local waivers effective. The Department of Justice should be ruling on these issues fairly soon. Measure 37 claims have increased staff workload.

### **Spotted Owl**

Mike Cafferata presented the committee with an update on the spotted owl issue. A committee focusing on this issue has been formed with representatives from many agencies, state and federal,

from Oregon, Washington, and California. Mike represents Oregon and ODF. A concern now is barred owls and their impact on the spotted owls, particularly if they start cross-breeding. Mike wanted input from private woodlands owners. Some people may consider the barred owl as invasive, while others believe the migration of these owls into spotted owl territory is natural. Also, the possible need for the federal government to enter private lands to control the owls was discussed. The committee appreciated the information they received and the potential opportunity to comment on the spotted owl committee's draft report, when it's available.

### **Seedlings**

Lanny brought the committee up to date on the latest developments on the seedlings issue. The clearinghouse idea hasn't been developed yet. If there are proceeds from the sale of Phipps Nursery, possibly that money could be used as a funding source to cover contracting with private nurseries to provide certain seedlings that aren't widely available. Using federal money, the Department has participated in tree improvement co-ops on behalf of non-industrial private nurseries. That is their buy-in to access these improved seeds. There are a lot of companies that have participated in the co-op and invested a lot of money in it, and there are those who haven't. The concern is making the improved seed they've invested in available to anyone. ODF has attempted to ensure that nurseries agree that when they buy that seed, they sell it to the intended user, the non-industrial. This improved seed should be offered to industrial owners only if it is surplus. There have been instances when companies participating in tree-improvement have not had access to the improved seed they helped develop because it has been sold to a non-participating company that did not pay into tree-development. This is an issue the Department has been struggling with. At this point, the agency has no way to enforce this.

### **CFF Symposium**

Vivianne joined the group by phone. Almost all speakers have been confirmed; we have not heard from Rick Sohn or Russ Hoeflich. We'll need to get a new welcomer since Paige Fischer is pregnant and is due at the same time as the symposium. A suggested replacement is Anna Starker. We are just about ready to start the PR and get the web pages up and running. Mike Gaudern stated that there are two dates locked in for meetings for small woodlands groups; one is January 26 for the Coos/Curry Coastal meeting, the other is December 14 in Tillamook. Information on the symposium can be distributed at the Coos/Curry meeting, but the Tillamook group is deciding the fate of their chapter at their meeting, so the symposium isn't a high priority there at the moment. The OSWA website now contains information for exhibitors.

Mike Cloughesy remarked that symposium attendees might need to sign up on two sites: on the OSWA site to attend the OSWA meeting and the symposium website to attend the symposium. This will help keep the funds separate and clear from the onset. There will be cross-referencing links on each site to the other. OFRI will also have links on their site. The flier goes out the beginning of January. Mailing lists need to be forwarded to OSU Extension as they will be doing the actual mailing of the fliers.

Mike Gaudern filled the committee in on the fund-raising activities. The fund-raising letters were sent out last week. There are seven exhibitors signed up out of a total of 30 spots.

### **Budget**

Bernie updated the committee on the agency's budget situation. Three POPs (program option packages) for Private Forests are moving forward. These are to restore four seasonal monitoring positions, hire three riparian specialists, and fill 9 FTEs in various positions. Discussion turned to

moving the Stewardship Agreement concept forward. The agreement isn't very popular because there are few real incentives involved. Because of this, there is little interest in moving the topic forward.

### **Communications Plan**

Arlene was not present, but wanted the committee to approve the timeline for the plan and the strategy. It was suggested that a tracking method for effectiveness of the various communication methods be added to the strategy. Approval of the CFF communication plan was postponed until the next meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

Potential dates for the next meeting of the full committee are January 22 or 23. These are the two best dates for Ilene Waldorf to attend so we can hold the tree dedication ceremony for her.

The next symposium meeting is December 11.