

*~Final~*  
Committee for Family Forestlands  
Minutes  
February 20, 2007

A meeting of the Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) was held in the Clatsop 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
Bill Arsenault	Mike Cloughesy, by phone
Gary Springer	Vivane Simon-Brown, by phone

*Committee members absent:*

Greg Miller	Fritz Ellett
Ned Livingston	

*Staff present:*

Arlene Whalen ODF	Peter Daugherty, ODF
Bernie Bochsler, ODF	Ted Lorensen, ODF
Julie Welp, ODF	

*Guests:*

Mike Gaudern, OSWA	Tom Nygren
Chris Jarmer, OFIC	Rex Storm, AOL

**Agenda Items:**

1. Review Agenda
2. Symposium Update
3. Update Legislative Issues
4. Community Forestry Initiative
5. Forest Trust Update
6. Communication Plan
7. Board of Forestry Issues
8. Other Business

**Approve minutes from December 4, 2006 and January 22, 2007**

The minutes from both December 4, 2006, and January 22, 2007, were approved with changes.

**Update Legislative Issues**

Peter Daugherty updated the committee on the various bills Private Forests has presented to the legislature. They're doing as well as can be expected, although there have been a few snags. Defenders of Wildlife and OSWA have some concerns about the language in the forest trust bill. There will be a hearing on February 22 for the stewardship agreements bill. There is a possibility that some funding for that may be available through OWEB. Also, there is still an issue with the possible public disclosure aspect. We are working with the Attorney General's office to avoid this. A possible incentive for having a stewardship agreement is a hold harmless clause. This means that a landowner with a stewardship agreement would not be held to more onerous laws that may come along. That would apply only to State laws as the State has no authority to grant such an exemption to federal laws. The landowner, though, could work with the federal government to

seek an exemption. Peter Hayes felt that describing the stewardship agreement as having no incentives is inaccurate. It's more accurate to say that the incentives involved were inadequate to encourage people to participate. Peter Hayes also suggested that at some point the committee might issue a position statement on stewardship agreements. This would be more for committee use to get everyone in the group on the same page.

The forest legacy bill would extend the legacy program to all lands in the state. It's currently limited more to the urban growth boundaries. Peter Daugherty doesn't think there will be a lot of opposition to this bill.

The seed orchard bill would establish statutory authority independent of Phipps Nursery. There was a slight snag with the bill. The seed orchard has been funded with an annual charge on the seedlings. This prevents the Department from doing any long term investment in tree improvement. An idea is to add a surcharge to the seeds and that can be invested in long-term, second generation tree improvement. The legislature didn't like the word "surcharge" so that may need to be changed.

### **Symposium Update**

Viviane Simon-Brown and Mike Cloughesy joined the symposium discussion by phone. Peter Daugherty has agreed to act as moderator for General Session III. The first of the round tables is Friday, February 23, in Central Point. At the time of this meeting, only one person had signed up to attend. The group discussed whether or not round tables with this few attendees should be canceled. It was decided that if less than 5 people sign up, we'd cancel the workshop, but have a forester at the site just in case there are any walk-ins. We can contact these people at a later time and make a note of their comments and concerns. There was more discussion on the possible reasons behind the unexpectedly low turnout.

The group then went on to discuss the possibility of extension and stewardship foresters attending the symposium for free. Instead, ODF will cover the fees for stewardship foresters and there is a scholarship application available on the symposium website, if necessary.

Mike Gaudern updated the group on how the fund-raising is going. At this point, we seem to be doing relatively well with the money coming in. A lot of people have been successful in soliciting funds from various organizations. Right now, it doesn't appear that OFRI will need to provide any extra funds.

### **Community Forests Initiative**

Peter Daugherty gave a presentation on community forests. We are moving urban and community forestry out of the Private Forests Program. As a separate program, it should stand out more and garner more resources than it currently does. Peter went on to explain that many millions of acres of forestland across the country are being converted to development. In Oregon, most of that change has occurred in the Willamette Valley and the Portland area. The first big crisis or challenge in forestry in Oregon was fire. We responded by developing a fire program. The next crisis was reforestation, so we created laws and regulations to address that issue. Environmental awareness followed in the 1970s and '80s, thus we developed the Forest Practices Act. Currently, the issue we're dealing with is fragmentation of the forest landscape. As forestland ownerships change, there is a greater possibility of the land being converted for non-forestry uses. The forestry community needs to decide how to respond to this issue. The more the land is fragmented, the greater potential for conflicts there will be since forestlands are important

providers of clean water, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration. We'll start to see more problems with loss of quality habitat, invasive species, and infrastructure conflicts. Measure 37 will increase the possibility of land fragmentation so we need to be careful with future development on forestlands as it can have such an effect on a lifestyle level and also on the state's economy.

### **Forest Resource Trust Update**

Jim Cathcart updated the group on HB2293, which improves the forest resource trust that was passed in statute in 1993. The main purpose of that statute was to provide financial and technical assistance to non-industrial private forestland owners so the lands are managed to their full potential in commercial timber, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and carbon. HB2293 will broaden the program development under this statute. We want the trust to have a cost-share delivery mechanism at its disposal. The bill would give the Board of Forestry flexibility to generalize the scope of the trust beyond stand establishment. The Board would also have the flexibility to expand eligibility for trust funds beyond the non-industrial private forestlands. The scope would not expand to include State lands. The bill also addresses environmental service markets. As these markets develop, the State Forester would have the ability to aggregate these environmental service values and bring them to market based on the lands enrolled in the trust. Along with this, the bill discusses what roles the Department and the Board have to develop and test these environmental services markets. There is no budget attached to this bill.

### **Communication Plan**

Arlene explained the changes she had made to the communication plan. The new version reflects the adjusted timeline. Also, the CFF webpage should be moved to the Department's home page to make it more accessible. Gary brought up the key messages section of the communication plan. It should be made clear that there are differences between the CFF and OSWA. Two examples are that the committee represents all of the state and all of the woodland owners. Also, survival of the CFF is not based on membership.

### **Board of Forestry Issues**

The group went on to discuss its connection to the Board. There will soon be four new members on the Board who know little about the Committee for Family Forestlands, so what do we need to do to educate them? Peter Daugherty suggested a two-page executive summary of the committee outlining the group's history, current issues, the upcoming symposium, etc. We might be able to use parts of the committee's upcoming annual report.

### **Forest Service Budget**

Bernie quickly explained part of the US Forest Service budget that was handed out earlier. The numbers are misleading. It's important to compare FY '06 to FY '08, rather than '07. This actually shows a 33% cut at the federal level. Private Forests is approximately 30% federally funded and if those cuts are made at the federal level, we could end up losing 15% of the agency budget.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting of the full CFF will be March 14 on the Salem compound.

Minutes compiled by Julie Welp.