

**Committee for Family Forestlands  
Minutes  
June 18, 2007**

A meeting of the Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) was held in the Santiam Room at ODF's Salem compound. Chair Ron Cease called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

*Committee members present:*

Ron Cease	Peter Hayes
Gary Springer	Vivane Simon-Brown, by phone
Mike Cloughesy	

*Committee members absent:*

Greg Miller	Fritz Ellett
Ned Livingston	Bill Arsenault

*Staff present:*

Bernie Bochsler	Julie Welp
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**Agenda Items:**

1. Review Agenda
2. Approve Minutes
3. Issue Scan
4. Final Report from CFF Symposium
5. CFF Annual Report
6. Fire Situation Update
7. Review of Committee Bylaws
8. Budget Update

**Approve minutes from May 24, 2007**

The minutes from May 24, 2007, meeting were postponed until the next meeting.

**Issue Scan**

Bill Arsenault will represent the Committee for the Issue Scan. It was noted that the Issue Scan seems to cover more older issues. The committee would like to introduce new issues, such as: global warming, increasing drought conditions, ecosystem services, carbon markets, and how to keep private lands profitable. We've gone just about as far as we can with regulations; we need to look at incentives. What can the Board, the department, and the State of Oregon do to encourage landowners? Gary was concerned about using the Issue Scan to add new ideas into the mix when we have decreasing resources and increasing needs that still haven't been addressed. Peter H agreed. Ron noticed two issues at the recent Symposium: landowners are not interested in global warming and they think that politically, everything is going smoothly enough. He commented that the Board needs to be more proactive in prioritizing what needs to be done. Bernie stated that the Board needs to drop issues that are too old, or no longer relevant.

Bernie explained the Issue Scan process. Completion of the first phase will be August 15. The issues need to be submitted by July 31.

The group continued to discuss existing resources and existing needs and what's around the corner: ecosystems service, fire and drought, eastside landowner survivability, etc. Is it practical for them to develop? How much can this committee do at the federal level? This seemed to be a big concern at the Symposium; it's a very big issue on the eastside of the state. Bernie suggested maybe we can go around the feds since the federal process is so slow. Also, the environmental community needs to work more with the feds. Slowly, environmental groups and landowners are realizing that both sides are working for the same thing.

Peter H commented that the Issue Scan needs to refocus on aspects of what's already there and the Board and department need to listen, understand, and respond to fellow Oregonians and landowners as to what's happening on the land. Lands are doing worse because we are taking more from them than they can provide.

Ron suggested any Issue Scan comments be sent to him and Peter Daugherty, and they will pass them up the line. Gary reminded the committee that we need to tie the Issue Scan topics into what we learned at the Symposium, since we promised that we would. Mike pointed out that the five main concerns are listed in the Symposium report.

### **Symposium**

We need to send the sponsors thank you letters signed by both Ron and Steve Hobbs, and include a final copy of the report of the Symposium. Any changes to the report need to be sent to Mike by June 25. The group discussed how the report should be organized and what should be included. Mike gave Ron kudos for his contributions to the committee.

Mike reported on the Symposium budget. We did not go in the hole as there were fewer expenses than expected, partly because not a lot of people took advantage of the scholarships. OFRI will create its own special report so Mike Feinstein will start interviewing CFF members, symposium participants, etc. in early July for feedback.

So where do we go from here? Where are the Board and department in regards to the 10 main topics that came out of the symposium? There may be a public perception that follow-up on these topics will come quickly. The committee needs to list what the committee can do and pass on what we can't. Those issues can be included in the Issue Scan. The committee should create an action plan of what needs to be done by whom and by a certain date. The committee's work over the next year can be dedicated to these issues. The committee needs to communicate this to the Board and how we suggest they be handled.

Viviane reminded the committee of the SAF meeting in Portland at the end of October. There will be a presentation of the Symposium at this meeting from 10:00 to 10:30. Ron, Gary, and Viviane will work on creating a presentation. Mike remarked that someone from the CFF will need to attend OFRI's Oregon Forest Futures conference in November to represent viewpoints of family forestland owners, how to deal with the changing ownership of forestlands in Oregon, and stream rule concepts 3 and 4 from the FPAC report.

A special thank you should be sent to Gail Wells for all her excellent hard work at the symposium.

Ron reminded the committee of the memorial for Arlene Whalen on June 22. The committee should think of our own tribute for her efforts and contributions to the committee's work.

### **Annual Report**

The committee moved to discussing the CFF Annual Report to the Board of Forestry. Much of the report will be about the Symposium. The report should be a 2-way conduit between the Board and the landowners about ongoing concerns.

Other issues include filling Arlene's position; it's important for the committee to have a PR person. More involvement from committee members is also encouraged. Bernie updated the committee on the status of the nursery. Apparently, State Parks is interested and possibly the tribe from the Canyonville area as well. The river frontage will probably be the big selling point.

### **Budget**

Bernie filled the committee in on the budget. Three POPs passed through the legislative subcommittee: eastern Oregon effectiveness monitoring, 2 FTEs and 2 PTs. POP 155 bio-energy development, 1 position. POP 152 restore essential budget levels in Private Forests, approximately, 7 positions, 1 ripstream specialist, 2 GIS and 5 NRS2 positions. There were never 5 positions in the original request so this was unexpected. This now goes to the full committee, where it will likely pass.

### **Fire Update**

Bob Young from the Protection from Fire program updated the committee on the current fire status. There has been some early significant activity in the central Oregon area. There have been 176 fires already, the 10-year average is 128 fires, so it will probably be an average year, which for Oregon can be fairly significant. The severity of fire seasons has gradually increased over the past 15 years, compared to 30 years ago. The cost to private landowners will go up. Some of our contract crews have been sent to fight fires in Florida and Georgia. They may be more in demand as the southwest US heats up. Many states don't have their own contract crews and ours are well trained. We've also received additional severity funds so we can lease more air tankers, planes, and helicopters.

### **Committee By-laws**

The committee discussed possible new members since there several current members are nearing the end of their terms. It might be a good idea for these people to help find their replacements. Some suggestions are Phil Kiesling, Bob Kentigh, Janet McClennon, Gail Achterman, Dave Schmidt, and George Brown. The committee would like to include more gender and generational diversity. Other suggestions include an industrial representative to provide some connections to markets, or maybe a mill owner who is not a landowner. We might need an out-of-the-box thinker from the conservation community. Another possibility is someone who teaches forestry or is involved in a forestry club to draw more young people. There is a "nature deficit disorder" in that there is a generational disconnect to the land.

However, it would be difficult for a teacher to attend the committee meetings. Possibly, we could arrange something that would allow high school seniors attend meetings as part of the curriculum.

The committee talked about perhaps holding an annual lunch meeting (in addition to the meetings held throughout the year), a lively engaging meeting to involve those members not attending the regular meetings or to find new ideas and discuss the state of the forests.

Also, we need to find better ways to communicate to legislators between sessions the importance of natural resources. Ted Lorenson spoke about the Governor's budget, which did not include \$5.7 million for things outside the budget. This was an excuse to shift more fire costs to landowners. This was never made public. ODF budget items can be reimbursed by FEMA if a fire is declared a disaster. We also got funding for a three-quarter position for Sudden Oak Death.

**Next meeting**

Tentatively, either July 16 or 17.