

~Final~
Committee for Family Forestlands
Minutes
October 30, 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 9:02 AM.

Committee members present:

Ron Cease	Mike Cloughesy
Gary Springer	Greg Miller
Bill Arsenault	Ned Livingston

Committee members absent:

Peter Hayes	Fritz Ellett
Viviane Simon-Brown	

Staff present:

Peter Daugherty	Julie Welp
Dan Postrel	Sara Lipow
Mike Cafferata	Kajsa Wing

Agenda Items:

1. Review Agenda
2. Search for New Committee Members
3. Budget Update
4. Seedling Issues
5. OFRI Special Report
6. Issue Scan
7. SAF National Convention Update
8. Symposium Priority Issues
9. Other Business

Approve minutes from June and July meetings

The minutes from the September 10, 2007, meetings were approved with changes.

Search for New Committee Members

Janet McClennon and Gail Achterman declined to serve on the committee. They are both very busy. Brent Davies is uncertain what her role on the committee would be, how valuable her input would be. She is unable to serve on the committee at this time, but perhaps sometime in the future, she would be available. Rick Brown doesn't think he can do it, but Peter D hasn't heard back from him, yet. Peter will formally invite Sarah Deumling, from Zena Timber, as an environmental representative. Ryan Temple, with Sustainable Northwest, might be a good choice, especially as an eastside representative. Dr. Shinn, from PSU, is a possibility for the public citizen-at-large. Ron C talked to Fritz Ellett.

Apparently, there was some initial miscommunication when Fritz started with the committee as to the attendance expectations and who he'd be representing. He would be a valuable asset to the committee as an active member. Peter will call him and discuss it. Tom Nygren was suggested as landowner-at-large, if Fritz is unable to continue on the committee. It might be more difficult to fill the chair position, if it's combined with a public-at-large spot. This topic should be discussed at the next meeting.

Budget

The Riparian Specialist positions will not be funded again this biennium. Peter D explained the commitments the program has in salaries to maintain the current staffing, and what funds are available to pay for it. Over the past several years, the department has experienced cuts to our general fund. Service Forestry, before the Private Forests Program merge, rather than eliminating positions when the state budget cuts came, began saving federal dollars from previous grants. This money can't be held too long, so it's being used now to fund some positions. There is a \$3 million deficit, or 6.8% of salaries, in this biennium. We have received some funding and if it's used to fill the current hole in the budget and not for new hires, the gap drops to \$327,000, which can be made up. We are fine for the current biennium, but for the next biennium, it's more uncertain. Ron said that the department needs to get the stakeholder community to advocate more at the budget level. Legislators need to understand the department and its importance so they will provide the funding we need to be effective and provide good service. The department needs to be more political than it has been. We have to work effectively with the legislative process to receive adequate funding. It was suggested that the department take the co-chairs of the Ways and Means Committee on a field trip so they have a better understanding of forestry issues and needs.

Seedling Update

Kajsa Wing updated the committee on the seedling issue. She talked to every nursery that grows speculative seedlings for Oregon to see if they have increased their seedling supply, due to the closure of Phipps. She interviewed many stewardship foresters, OSU extension foresters, contractors, and OSWA representatives to get a feel for what is happening across the state. There are no problems with the seedling supply in northwest and northeast Oregon. There are some potential shortages in central Oregon and southern Oregon, but ongoing communication among stewardship foresters, landowners, and nurseries should ease the problems. There are few or no speculative seedlings available for Jackson and Josephine counties. The department may need to step in. Douglas County will likely experience a moderate shortage in seedlings. Coos and Curry counties may also experience a few problems, and the situation should be monitored.

Kajsa detailed the options available. One is to do nothing, or just monitor the situation, which is not recommended for all areas. Another option is local seedling source guides to those who file notifications and might need to reforest. OFRI has offered to pay for the brochures. Another alternative is to formalize seedling responsibility for stewardship foresters. This is not recommended statewide, as it's only needed in select areas. Another possibility is contract seedlings in southwest Oregon. A revolving fund would provide conservative numbers of seedlings for certain areas; however, there are no funds available for this alternative. A statewide clearinghouse or contract is not recommended and it's not necessary statewide. Ron suggested sending a letter to the Board supporting certain

recommendations, and the revolving fund. The issue needs to be included on CFF's next meeting agenda. A letter should be sent to Lanny Quackenbush, supervisor to Kajsa and Sara, praising their work and efforts on this project. They did a good job with their research and putting everything together, and presenting it to the committee.

Issue Scan

The Board allows stakeholders to offer comments and concerns about the Board's direction. Dan Postrel provided the committee with the Board's current workplan. The highest ranked issue is ownership change, followed by Board workload. Climate is also a concern. The group discussed the various issues on the list.

OFRI Report

The committee discussed the upcoming OFRI report on Oregon's Family Forestlands. Gary thought it was pretty inspirational, but a little rough. There is too much emphasis on restoration forestry and not enough on the need to improve the environment for all forestry to reduce conversion pressure. It should talk more about the symposium, and include the CFF. The group suggested other changes. The report is due to be sent to OFRI members, and a separate mailing will be done to the symposium attendees, with a cover letter drafted by Peter. A good job was done on the report. It should be put on ODF's website or have a link to the OFRI site.

SAF Convention

Ron, Gary, and Vivian Simon-Brown gave a short panel Powerpoint presentation at SAF's annual convention in Portland. The presentation was mainly focused on the family forestlands symposium. The conference had good attendance and, overall, the presentation was well-received.

Symposium Priority Issues

The next CFF meeting should include discussion on solutions to forestland conversions. Peter said the forest legacy program has been expanded outside the urban growth boundary. Greg described how development rights can be transferred. Peter explained that he wants an analysis of need done on the legacy program to determine what areas should be included in the legacy program and how they will be decided. The BPA is buying conservation easements on forestlands. Peter wants to find out how much restriction Bonneville will require, and will they accept the FPA as a baseline that they are providing habitat as long as the land is not developed. Peter wants to know what role the department will play in all this. Mike Cloughesy asked if stewardship foresters could serve the point of contact for questions from landowners. The committee also discussed the lack of extension foresters. Agenda items at another meeting should include uncompensated services, or ecosystem services, and 'specified resource site' protection in the FPA.

Next Meeting

November 28, 2007