

~Final~
Committee for Family Forestlands
Minutes
September 10, 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	Peter Hayes
Gary Springer	Greg Miller
Bill Arsenault	Ned Livingston

Committee members absent:

Viviane Simon-Brown	Fritz Ellett
Mike Cloughessy	

Staff present:

Peter Daugherty	Julie Welp
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Agenda Items:

1. Review Agenda
2. Search for New Committee Members
3. OFRI Special Report on Family Forestlands
4. Symposium Priority Issues
5. CFF Work Plan
6. Other Business

Approve minutes from June and July meetings

The minutes from the June 18, 2007, and July 16, 2007, meetings were approved.

Annual Report Presentation to the Board of Forestry

Ron told the group about his presentation of the committee's Annual Report to the Board. Ron believes that the Board would like the committee to recommend what we think are the most important issues to be discussed. The Board has a large workload and the CFF can help them prioritize and move things along. Peter H mentioned his suggestion from a previous meeting to hold an annual lunch meeting for the committee and other representatives from various forestry-related organizations. This would help provide a forum for some give-and-take on a variety of topics. Another suggestion was to invite concerned parties to those meetings that include particular topics of interest. The group reviewed the Family Forestland Policy and Issues Timeline and crossed off those items that are completed or finished.

New Committee Members

Several seats on the committee need to be filled, due to terms expiring or resignations: Ron Cease, Viviane Simon-Brown, Greg Miller, and Peter Hayes. Peter Hayes has been nominated to join the Board of Forestry. Greg Miller is willing to continue serving, but understands if we need to replace him, since his schedule doesn't always allow him to be as active as the committee needs. The committee is fine with him staying as long as he is able to participate and attend the meetings. If he cannot attend, then he will send someone in his place. Ron Cease agreed to call Fritz Ellett about his participation. Some names that were suggested as the new Chair were Janet McLennon and Gail Achterman. Brent Davies and Rick Brown were suggested as representatives. More seats will be coming open early next year. Viviane believes that there is a more appropriate person from OSU, one who works with family forestland owners, who should be included on the committee. She played a tremendous role in the success of the symposium, but feels that she doesn't have the knowledge or credentials to continue with the committee. John Bliss might be a good replacement. We plan to present the recommended names for appointment to the Board at its November meeting.

Charter Revisions

Peter D handed out the revisions to the committee charter and explained the changes. The group made more suggestions. The group also talked about possibly adding a new position, some type of public land manager, either federal or county, and making the position ex-officio. A federal representative could be especially helpful for eastern Oregon. Peter H also suggested a consulting forester. Rick Barnes was suggested. The group agreed to add a fifth ex-officio spot. The group discussed whether or not we should add something to the charter regarding federal representation. Greg and Peter H suggested clarifying language, "Improving federal forest neighbor relationships with family forestland owners to help maintain and build viable forest economies." Ron recommended that the committee have a vice chair. Gary suggested changing the minimum number of acres to be considered family forestland owners to ten acres, rather than two. The group agreed.

OFRI

Peter D explained that OFRI is doing a special report on family forestlands. The CFF will be able to review a draft and provide review and input. Peter H had a few questions about the OFRI report and how it will be written and assembled.

Seedling Update

Peter D updated the committee on the seedling issue. The biggest challenge after the closure of Phipps Nursery will be the availability of minor species, and the availability of seedlings in Jackson and Josephine counties. Weyerhaeuser has agreed to plant speculative seedlings this year, until private nurseries are able to provide them to southwest Oregon. If no one steps up the following year, the State might look into filling the gap. There are many concerns around that. One is if there are any funds available from the sale of Phipps. Another concern is should the State pick up the risk for private nurseries in terms of possibly preventing the expansion of nurseries in the area and are we going to interfere with the market provision of nursery seedlings? The possibility of the State acting as a clearinghouse was also discussed. The nursery still has not been sold; no other State agency is interested.

The group turned the discussion to riparian budget issues. State funds have been cut and it appears the funding for the riparian specialists is a potentially dead issue. There is a possibility for reorganizing staff and positions and creating the riparian positions from that. For whatever reason, the State is not willing to provide funds for forestry assistance. The group went on to discuss agency funding problems. Peter D then questioned that if we are going to be restricted on the amount of assistance we can provide, where should we direct that effort most effectively? The committee should be helpful in providing guidance on this.

Symposium Discussion

The committee turned the discussion to the outcome of the Family Forestland Symposium and what topics we need to concentrate on. Ron commented that we need to develop a work plan focusing on the top ten issues. We can then recommend them to the Executive Committee who then will pass them onto the Board. The top priority is compensation for ecosystem services and other societal benefits. This is being pushed as a solution to incentives. The second priority is to solve the conflict of values, reach out to the wider community, and build on common ground. The third challenge is to take advantage of opportunities presented by global climate change. The next priority is to improve the delivery of stewardship information to family forestland owners. The fifth most important challenge is to expand markets for locally harvested forest products. Ned thought these could be narrowed down to economics, forest health, land use, and climate. We need to concentrate on those issues that we are able to do. There are some things that we will not be able to affect.

Next Meeting

October 30, 2007