

~Final~
Committee for Family Forestlands
Minutes
April 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 9:08 AM.

Committee members present:

Ron Cease	Peter Hayes
Ned Livingston	Mike Cloughesy
Gary Springer	Vivane Simon-Brown

Committee members absent:

Greg Miller	Fritz Ellett
Bill Arsenault	

Staff present:

Peter Daugherty, ODF	Bernie Bochsler, ODF
Clark Seely, ODF	Ted Lorensen, ODF
Julie Welp	

Guests:

Mike Gaudern, OSWA	Joe Holmberg, OSU
Tom Nygren	

Agenda Items:

1. Review Agenda
2. Approve Minutes
3. Symposium Update
4. Budget Issues
5. Symposium Roundtables
6. Urban and Community Forests Initiative
7. Other Business

Approve minutes from March 14, 2007

The minutes from March 14, 2007, meeting were approved with changes.

Symposium

The last minute details of the upcoming symposium were discussed. These included parking issues, where the reception should be held, low registration numbers and late registrations, volunteers to give directions, etc. Viviane went through each stage of the symposium. The group also discussed the importance of the attendees to understand we are interested in their views and concerns. This symposium was compared to a similar symposium several years ago. Things that we learned from that symposium should be applied to this one so the give and take of information during the sessions will be relevant. The content of the individual sessions was talked about. We need to be sure to not make promises that we can't deliver. At the fourth session, on Saturday, a white pager will be presented to the

attendees summarizing the issues that the attendees thought were the most important. An overview of the entire symposium will be mailed out about 3 weeks after the symposium. It will also be announced that another symposium will be held in about 3-5 years. The attendees will know that the department understands how important family forestlands are and the efforts to maintain them will be ongoing.

Viviane told the group that a white paper summarizing the roundtable discussions will be mailed out the following week to those registered for the symposium.

Peter Hayes commented that we need to emphasize that this is about more than keeping people on the land. We need to go beyond that. There are four important parts to this. 1.) Keep landowners on the land, 2.) Help them to not go broke, 3.) Don't degrade the land, and 4.) Have positive prospects.

Fund-raising has brought in about \$10,000, which is \$6000 short of the target. Monies can be taken from other areas to make up the difference, if necessary. A special thank you goes out to Jim James for his fund-raising efforts.

Vivian announced that an abstract on the symposium was submitted to the SAF to present at their fall meeting, and SAF has accepted it. The conference will be held October 23-27, in Portland, at the Convention Center. We plan to do a panel discussion.

Budget Issues

Clark Seely, Assistant State Forester, updated the committee on the various budget issues the department is facing now, and how they have been affected by budget issues in previous biennia. The agency is now trying to rebuild from all the budget cuts we've experienced over the years. The restoration policy package for Private Forests is approximately \$1.7 million; \$1.2 is general funds dollars. There is a reduction in funds at the federal level. We are still trying to restore 13 positions that have been lost over the years. There will be a legislative work session coming up; Clark thinks that the work session will produce a recommended budget that will likely not include the top two priority policy packages. This will leave the department worse off than where it is now because of the loss of federal funds. Gary Springer commented that the department is beyond the point of being able to operate with less and less funds and requiring more work and more hours from employees. The group discussed this, but there are no easy answers.

Ron Cease asked how urban forestry relates to family-owned forestlands. Ted Lorensen explained that urban forestry is the traditional trees along city streets. Community forests are more wild and urban interface, rural residential small family forestland developing areas, normally lots of 5 to 10 acres or more. These owners tend to have less knowledge of forestry issues and less experience with the environment, and are holding the land for non-traditional reasons. It will be challenging to get them to make decisions that are consistent with the Forestry Program for Oregon.

Other Business

Mike Gaudern spent some time in Washington DC to support the farm bill. One of the biggest forestry concerns is the loss of private forestlands across the country, approximately 1.5 million acres per year. Much of this is in the southern and eastern areas of the country.

This concern is shared by groups of all interests. Forestry issues, though, are not being addressed in the farm bill. He discussed some of the complexities of this nationwide issue and the difficulties in resolving the problem.

Ron brought up the CFF annual report. This report of the group's accomplishments over the previous year is presented to the Board of Forestry, usually in early summer. The agenda for the June BOF meeting is already set, with items needing to be turned in by May 10. It's possible that a summary of the symposium could be added to the consent agenda. We may not be able to make a complete presentation to the Board, though, until September. The issue scan is coming up shortly and the symposium could be added to that along with an action plan.

Gary discussed improving the process for committee members to testify before the legislature on budget issues. He thinks it's important for the group to discuss beforehand what needs to be said and what the committee's position (or positions) is on a particular issue. This should be talked about at a future CFF meeting.

Peter mentioned that there will be a Spotted Owl Plan recovery coming up and there will be time for public comment. The department is encouraging voluntary actions by landowners and regulatory certainty. Mike Cafferata is willing to draft some initial ideas about feedback and would like some comment from the committee. This will need to be added to a future committee agenda.

Next meeting

May 24, 9:00 to 3:00 on the Salem compound.

Minutes compiled by Julie Welp.