

~Final~
Committee for Family Forestlands
Minutes
March 14, 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
Gary Springer	Vivane Simon-Brown

Committee members absent:

Greg Miller	Fritz Ellett
Ned Livingston	

Staff present:

Peter Daugherty, ODF	Bernie Bochsler, ODF
Julie Welp, ODF	

Guests:

Mike Gaudern, OSWA	Joe Holmberg, OSU
Chris Jarmer, OFIC	

Agenda Items:

1. Review Agenda
2. Approve Minutes
3. Symposium Update
4. Update Legislative Issues
5. Budget Issues
6. Board of Forestry Issues
7. Other Business

Approve minutes from February 20, 2007

The minutes from February 20, 2007, were approved with changes.

General Information

Some general items were discussed before the group moved onto the topics on the agenda. Gary Springer and Ron Cease agreed to attend legislative Ways and Means committee meetings on behalf of CFF and present the group's concerns and comments.

Mike Gaudern will appear in Washington DC at the end of March to support a farm bill. He will lobby for energy and call attention to the importance of family forests.

Ron will call Fritz Ellett and Gary Miller to encourage their participation in the committee.

Symposium

Viviane Simon-Brown updated the committee on the symposium workshops and roundtables that were recently held around the state. The information gathered at these public meetings will be

used to create the symposium white paper, which will be sent to the registered participants prior to the symposium. There weren't a lot of people at the roundtables, but that allowed for more personal, in-depth conversations with the attendees. The attendees provided insightful comments and ideas that will form a good foundation for the symposium. Viviane wanted to formally thank the stewardship foresters who were very involved with the roundtables and had a great rapport with the landowners who attended. Bernie shared what he observed on the east side. The group discussed how family forestlands are managed and who owns them. There are a lot of acres out there that belong to non-resident landowners. They also talked about the lack of local saw mills and the expenses incurred in transporting logs to the closest mill, which could be more than a hundred miles away.

The discussion turned to how to encourage landowner participation in the symposium. There are scholarships available for those who can't afford the registration fee. OSWA will allow new OSWA members to attend the OSWA annual meeting for free if they also sign up for the symposium. The flier should be changed before the final mailing to include a teaser on the outside so people will actually look inside. A list of sponsors and exhibitors should also be included to interest more people. More information needs to be made available from local extension and stewardship foresters. The symposium marketing budget is pretty well spent so OFRI or OSWA will need to cover additional publicity costs. Potential attendees should be encouraged to register early to reserve hotel rooms set aside at a special rate for the symposium.

We still need bios from several speakers. Speakers have already been registered and will not be paying to attend. The Board of Forestry members who are not speakers do need to register and the department will cover their registration fees. Exhibitors who have paid \$150 for space will be allowed one attendee for free.

We need to develop a list of volunteers so we can be sure everyone is thanked. Also, thanks to Mike Gaudern and Peter Hayes for recruiting the sponsors, and Bernie, Viviane, and Joe Holmberg, and others for organizing and attending the regional roundtables.

Board of Forestry Meeting

Peter Daugherty attended the last Board meeting. Private Forests has a recommendation before the Board to approve the Coho Conservation Plan. The plan focuses on continuing ongoing efforts to protect Coho salmon.

Ron reiterated that four Board of Forestry positions have become vacant, or soon will be, and the committee needs to think about how to educate the new members. Peter asked why the seats haven't been filled yet, and Gary responded that even though some terms have expired, the members will continue to fill the seats and participate until a new person is appointed. The problem seems to be at the governor's level. Ron pointed out that CFF was created to advise the Board. These issues should be discussed more after the symposium.

The NEDC case was settled. This had to do with water quality and an attempt to characterize the use of harvest roads as point source pollution and the need of a permit from the EPA would be required. The states that these roads are not point source pollution.

Legislative Issues

Peter handed out a list of pesticide bills introduced to the legislature. Many of them, so far, are linked to the Department of Agriculture. The sense is that most of them will not make it out of

committee. There is one bill out of the Senate that applies to ODF only. It sets up a pesticide advisory board under the Board of Forestry. It hasn't been analyzed fully yet but it seems to include more written requirements. HB3499 adds additional privilege taxes for various trees near streams. It would also allow the Department of Revenue to define clearcuts and "significant streams." It was sponsored by the Senate revenue committee and is unlikely to pass.

Budget Issues

Peter explained the problems with determining the costs of fighting sudden oak death and convincing the legislature of the importance of defeating the infestation. He likened it to a fire emergency and how we need to attack it aggressively from the very beginning. This disease could have a devastating effect not only on forest environments, but also nursery stock.

There is a Natural Resource Subcommittee Ways and Means hearing on March 28. Budget hearings will be April 2, 3, 4, and 9. April 10 is the day for public testimony. Ron Cease and Gary Springer will testify. We do not have to present a 10% budget reduction this year, but we do need to present a 2% reduction. This was calculated based on the essential baseline budget amount, but it will be taken away from the Governor's budget. That would come out of the program option packages, which are nice to have but are not baseline. We'd start at the lowest priority items on the governor's recommended budget. The lowest priority that we could target seemed to be the Private Forests package. The eastern Oregon effectiveness monitoring and bioenergy items were initially cut, but instead, the cuts came out of major construction and Protection from Fire. The essential baseline budget for Private Forests was restored. The three new riparian specialists positions will be protected. The whole budget may be negatively affected, though, because of a possible 40% reduction in the US Forest Service budget.

The only bills that went through the first time were ODF membership on the Invasive Species Board and Forest Legacy. The bill to set up separate authority for the seed orchard and the seed bank, and the language in the forest trust bill and in the stewardship bill are all being worked in.

Next meeting

April 18, 9 AM to 3 PM

Minutes compiled by Julie Welp