

~Final~
Committee for Family Forestlands
Minutes
August 15, 2008

A meeting of the Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) was held in the Santiam Room at ODF's Salem compound.

Committee members present:

Ned Livingston	Gary Springer
Mike Cloughesy	Craig Shinn
Sarah Deumling	Brad Withrow-Robinson
Rex Storm	Greg Miller
Rick Barnes	

Committee members absent:

Peter Daugherty

Staff present:

Kevin Weeks	Julie Welp
Marganne Allen	Linda Price

Guests present:

Susan Watkins

Agenda Items:

1. Review of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Update of BOF Meeting, Letter of Support from CFF - PF Program Options Package
4. Develop Forward Agenda, Second Symposium Outcomes
5. Discussion of Committee Appointments and Reappointments
6. Forest Resource Trust Proposed Rules
7. Economic Development Strategy, Forest Practices Act rule revisions
8. Communications/Other Business

Approve minutes from June 26, 2008

The minutes were approved with changes.

Introductions

Marganne Allen attended the meeting as manager of the new Policy and Monitoring Unit. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their backgrounds and experience.

Board of Forestry Meeting

Gary filled the committee in on the CFF presentation at the Board of Forestry meeting a couple weeks earlier. The Board was provided with a report on the committee and there was discussion on the pilot conservation easement program with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) that the committee was asking the Board to approve the department to go forward with. One Board member concern was how much resources would this program take away from the department. Peter told the Board that the resources will come with the pilot project grant. It was noted that the CFF had more give and take discussion with the Board this time than with previous presentations. Perhaps, we should present a progress report to the Board more than once a year; get more involved in the Board agenda. We can look ahead on the Board's agendas and tailor the committee's agendas to

cover those topics we think are important for the Board to have our input on. Craig and Gary also thanked the ODF staff for their support of the Committee for Family Forestlands. In addition to asking for Board approval for the department to proceed with the BPA pilot project, Craig and Gary also presented the Board with an updated version of the CFF's worksheet from the symposium, which is essentially the committee's agenda. Following the discussion, the Board approved the development of the BPA conservation easement pilot project for family forestland owners.

Committee Discussion of LEED Revisions

Rick asked if there was a process for the CFF to address hot topic items quickly, such as, the new US Green Building Council's LEED rating system revisions. Maybe this committee could develop its position on a particular topic such as this and bring it to the Board's attention. Sometimes, the comment window on some topics is fairly narrow, so we may need to move fast on a particular recommendation. Mike Cloughesy offered to talk to David Morman, the agency's Resource Planning manager, about sharing his draft of State of Oregon comments on the LEED revisions with the CFF and the committee can decide if we want to take a position. Rick recommended expanding standards to be considered in terms of tree certification. He suggested the CFF listen to what David Morman has to say and perhaps piggy-back onto the state's position. At the very least, we should endorse or encourage LEED acceptance of other certification systems, the Tree Farm System and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), specifically, in addition to the current Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) system. It's important that basic standards are being met in all of these certification systems. Sarah said that State standards should be raised, rather than lowering LEEDS standards. Craig summarized the discussion. The CFF has interest in making sure that LEED standards relate to sets of criteria that make it possible for family forestland owners to participate, and we'd like to make sure that wood is affirmed when it's sustainably produced, as a component of LEED ratings and an emphasis is placed on the importance of local wood products businesses to family forestland owners. Gary restated his position that this committee should encourage the American Tree Farm certification and SFI certification to be included in the LEED standards. Mike will talk to David Morman, then Craig will take that information and frame it as a committee response and send it the committee members for review and comments.

Priorities of POPS options

The three components of the Private Forest Program's Program Option Package (POP) include A) urban forestry, B) supporting family forestlands, and C) forest practices compliance monitoring. The committee discussed the components and talked about their priorities. The committee will write a letter to the governor supporting the entire package, and making recommendations. We won't get everything we'd like, so we should prioritize those we feel are the most important. Greg commented that the program under Component A will lose positions. Rex pointed out that in the letter to the governor we need to include the importance of the Wildfire Reduction Act POP, in the Fire Program, because it does affect private landowners in regards to fire protection costs. Mike said that the big issue is the shifting of General Fund support to private landowners, through increased fees. The fees landowners pay for fire protection would go way up without this POP.

Forward Agenda

The committee worked to set up a forward agenda for the meetings scheduled through the end of the year. Following is the list of topics the committee needs to discuss.

September 25, 2008

Legislative Strategy

Big Look update from ODF staff and BL member

October 30, 2008

Conservation Easements (Peter update),

Family Forest Succession - Ties to the Land - Plan Committee Actions to connect the dots
The future of OSU Public Education & Extension Forestry - J Johnson/OSU

November 20, 2008

Prep proposal to OFRI re easements ahead of their Dec budget meeting
Big Look, how to give input & influence outcomes

December 18, 2008

Tax credit issues - upcoming legislation
Carbon sequestration update - reports from Woodland Carbon Company, Forest Carbon Working Group, WCI report, others

During 2009

Forest Health Issues on federal lands - communication with feds, fire control issues
Report from the Fed Forestlands Advisory Committee

Other Future Agenda Items

Mike told the committee about a new group being formed, called the Woodland Carbon Company. It is a carbon aggregator group that is being formed by an agreement between OSWA and American Forest Foundation. It will be wholly owned by OSWA, initially. The idea is to aggregate landowners' carbon and sell it through the Chicago Climate Exchange. To have your carbon sold, you have to be a member of Tree Farm. At the first sale, some of the ownership of the company will go to the Oregon Tree Farm System; at the second sale, some of the ownership will go to the Washington Tree Farm System. This topic will be added to the December CFF meeting.

Ned brought up an issue that may need to be discussed at a future meeting. There are 330,000 acres of dead trees on the Winema-Fremont National Forest in eastern Oregon. This area could easily turn into a catastrophic fire. The feds are asking for private landowner advice. It would cost \$160/ton to remove the trees, but they're worth only \$50/ton. Would it be better to cover that \$110 difference or put the money toward fire suppression? We have a pretty full agenda for the next several months, so forest health topics will need to be tabled until next year.

New Committee Members and Reappointments

The committee discussed a possible new member, Susan Watkins, as a landowner-at-large, and Greg Miller's term is expiring, and it was recommended we extend it. Susan lives outside McMinnville, is a member of OSWA, and was involved with the Ties to the Land succession project. Greg, who represents the forest industry, is a valuable member of the committee and is willing and able to serve another term. Both Susan and Greg accepted the nominations, which will now go to the Board.

Ethics

Kevin Weeks updated the committee on ethics rules for committee members in regards to interacting with legislators in the upcoming legislative session. Some committee members had additional questions that he will need to research and then will send out the information to the members.

Forest Resource Trust

Linda Price spoke about the Forest Resource Trust and House Bill 2293-A and proposed rule changes necessary to implement it. The proposed rulemaking creates new rules for the Forest Resource Trust Cost-share Program and amends existing rules to generalize the current Stand Establishment Program as a loan program. In addition to funding stand establishment projects on underproducing lands, it also provides financial assistance for other projects that lead to the improved management of forestlands. The proposed changes also allow other qualified private and local government landowners to be eligible for participation in the loan program, and set a high priority on the funding

of projects or practices that are consistent with conservation plans and strategies of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. A notice of a proposed rule hearing was filed with the Secretary of State on August 1. The hearing will be held August 26. The public comment period continues through September 5.

Craig talked about preparing a short letter indicating the committee's strong support of rule changes that support creating the availability of potential resources to family forest landowners, and also is supportive of strategy concerned with high compliance threshold in terms of the FPA before exceptions are granted. Mike wanted to add his approval of restoration part, which has the potential to do more than it's been set up to do. Also, it can act as a cost-share program, which most landowners would rather use instead of a loan program. Two caveats were mentioned: 1. Compliance 2. This would work better if there was some funding involved. Gary thanked the Forest Resource Trust Advisory Committee for all their hard work on the issue.
(This paragraph needs some clarification - Craig & Mike?)

Forest Practices Act Rules Revision

Marganne Allen presented the CFF with recent and proposed changes to the Forest Practices Act. One of the changes affects the landslide and public safety portion of the rules. The temporary rules went into effect July 18, 2008, and will be in place through January 13, 2009. They require a geotech report for harvest on intermediate risk sites. Marganne also discussed changes related to HB 3628, which allows the Board to waive or modify certain statutory limitations and requirements within the Forest Practices Act. This applies to intensively managed hardwood plantations older than 12, but less than 20 years of age. Hybrid poplar landowners initially intended to harvest the trees at around 8 years for pulp production, but viable pulp markets have disappeared and the poplar growers now want to extend rotations to produce solid wood products from their trees. An issue paper should be presented to the Board at their November meeting.

Marganne turned the discussion to the high aquatic potential (HAP) fish stream concept. This rule concept addresses the concern for increasing the potential of large wood recruitment on small and medium fish-bearing streams. She explained the concept for those members unfamiliar with it. A proposal for HAP stream reaches is still under development. The committee moved on to debris-torrent prone, type N streams. The new rules on this topic went into effect July 1, 2008. This is about retaining trees along type N streams which have been identified as being subject to rapidly moving landslides and have the ability to move wood to fish-bearing streams.

A new Private Forests work plan outline was reviewed. It will be presented to the Board of Forestry in September. The work plan includes topics from the issue scan and also those brought forward both internally and externally. Current issues include review of the 2007 Family Forestland Symposium and CFF recommendations; ecosystem services; closure on outstanding FPAC recommendations rule concepts 8 (now focused on HAP stream reaches) and 12 (Small Type N streams above fish streams); special resource sites, pesticides; landslides and public safety rules; and hybrid poplars. This is a good time for the committee to provide feedback. Rex recommended that the work plan include a discussion after the 2009 legislative session on a work allocation or exercise for the Private Forests Program, since the work capability is in flux. It doesn't quite fit into the current work plan, but the dollars needed for our POPs are significant enough to affect the entire work plan; we should talk to the Board about the outcome of agency funding. Craig asked if the committee wanted to write a letter in support of the work plan. We should also acknowledge that the Board has met our first objective.

Forest Cluster Economic Development Strategy

Mike Cloughesy provided information and handouts on the Oregon Forest Cluster Economic Development Strategy. The group was formed because a couple years ago the BOF, the legislature,

and many others were dissatisfied with forestry economic development. Several state agencies including ODF, OFRI, OSU, and the Oregon Department of Economic and Community Development, agreed to work together to develop a forest cluster economic develop strategy. The group also asked for input from the private sector. Seven forest sector CEOs have begun to hold regular meetings with the governor on how the forest sector could be stronger in Oregon.

Mike also mentioned that the National Tree Farmer Convention is coming to Portland October 16-18, 2008.

Next Meeting

September 25, 2008, in Salem.