

OREGON STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY
October 5, 2009 Retreat Meeting Minutes

In accordance with the provisions of ORS 526.016, a meeting of the Oregon Board of Forestry was held on October 5, 2009 at the Sunriver Great Hall Conference Center, 17600 Center Drive, Sunriver, Oregon 97707.

Chair Blackwell called the public meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Board Members Present:

John Blackwell, Chair	Larry Giustina	Peter Hayes	Steve Wilson
Jennifer Phillippi	Cal Mukumoto	Bill Hutchison	

Others Present:

Representative Gene Whisnant,
Wayne Giesy, Hull-Oakes
Rex Storm, Associated Oregon Loggers
Bill Steers

Marvin Brown, State Forester
Sabrina Perez, Board Support
Gayle Birch, Board Support

Paul Bell, Chief, Protection
Nancy Hirsch, Chief, State Forests
David Morman, Resources Planning

During this informal one-day retreat, Board members worked closely with the Department's Executive Team to seek and explore strategic issues that bear on the future of Oregon's forests, and shared thoughts on how individual values relate to these issues. No decisional items were considered. Notes from the discussion are included and are not intended to reflect any actions officially taken.

An audio record of the full meeting can be found at: <http://oregon.gov/ODF/BOARD>

Crystal Ball Exercise – Notes

Leading Oregon

- Oregon forestry has changed course typically in response to litigation – How can the Board be proactive and truly lead?
- Long term relevance of Oregon's forests
- Connecting Oregonians to the values forests produce
- The Board of Forestry only being vocal spokespersons won't get it done – We need stronger, direct connections to Oregonians
- “One Oregon forest” concept with contributions from all ownerships (including federal.)
- Engaging stakeholders in promoting forestry supported by the public
- Produce excellent 2011 *Forestry Program for Oregon*
- Inspiring vision tied to measurable accomplishments

Board of Forestry Processes

- Continue to improve the Board's policy/decision-making framework and develop an empowered, nimble department
- How will Board bring disparate values and goals together to make good decisions?
- Will the Board be seen as battleground of conflicting opinions or a forum for building common ground?
- Need timely, good, collaborative Board decisions
- Moving from consensus to voting gives the appearance we are moving from one Board to two
- Preference for hybrid voting /consensus decision-making process.

Department of Forestry Budgets

- Department budget reconstruction/redesign
- More holistic Department budget development.
 - Impacts of changes in one aspect of budget on other aspects
- Sufficient revenues to produced desired outcomes
- Keeping the Board and Department relevant with declining budgets
- Address dysfunctional Department budget structure
- Limited Department capacity to track issues and staff Board advisory processes

State Forests

- Convergence of State Forests Greatest Permanent Value Rule, Forest Management Plan, and Structure-Based Management processes – getting it right
- Continue Structure-Based Management or not?
- Appropriate linkages between State Forests management and the *Forestry Program for Oregon*

Protection from Fire

- Fire funding issues
- Liability – prescribed burning
- Unprotected lands – fire

Private Forests

- Threats to maintaining private working forests
- Forest Practices Act adequacy – clarify the ability of the Board to modify regulations in a post-Measure 49 world.
 - water quality protection is exempt from BM 49.
- Clarification of public policy expectations for private landowner contributions to resources protection – logic for the same of different by land use?
- Helping forest landowners to monetize other forest values.
 - SB 513 task force and ecosystem services

Federal and Urban Forests

- Recognize the roles of federal and urban forests in Board policies and Board roles
- Still much to do with respect to federal land management.

Climate Change

- Climate change science still unsettled.
 - Premature to attempt action?
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
 - Link to other state government efforts
 - Consider an advisory committee to the Board on this topic
 - Address through broader work plans rather than a separate Work Plan
 - Look at urban forests in this context

Renewable energy/biomass

- Poplar farms policies

Dynamic Forest Ecosystems

- Hold other work plans accountable for continuing to address this topic

Pesticides

- Work with Department of Agriculture and other agencies to address.

Tax Policies

- Coastal/rural county economics – work with enlightened county commissioners on revising state tax policy.

Board Members' Closing Comments:

John Blackwell

- Chair needs to be more effective
- Make public input process less dreaded and more meaningful

Cal Mukumoto

- More discussion needed on the Board's core mission and values
- Keep in mind the limits on Board and agency capacity to do work
- Prefer hybrid consensus/voting decision-making model

Larry Giustina

- Board work should be a team effort but eventual decision-making is needed
- Need to narrow down the issues. Board can't do it all

Bill Hutchison

- More reminders needed to provide continuity between meetings
- Need Board dialogue on why members support or oppose decisions
- Want staff to consider and report on alternative policy choices for the Board

Steve Wilson

- Informal dialogue during the retreat has been helpful
- Members have more in common than not
- Continue to think about periodic retreats

Peter Hayes

- We have had a public issue scan. Need a Board/staff issue scan. Look at the resulting list and compare with Work Plans
- Work hard, but also smart and collaboratively
- Work better across state agencies—especially important on issues like pesticides and climate change
- Build the Board's decision-making skills

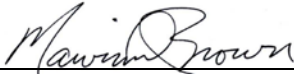
Jennifer Phillippi

- Important to understand the dynamics and resiliency of nature
- Would like to represent the broad public interest as a Board member but often feels compelled to defend a subset of those interests that is attacked

With no further business before the Board, Chair Blackwell adjourned the public meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Marvin Brown



Marvin Brown, State Forester and
Secretary to the Board

SP

Approved by the Board at its February 10, 2010 meeting.