

DRAFT Board of Forestry Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2016

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Items listed in order heard.

Complete audio recordings from the meeting and attachments listed below are available on the web at www.oregonforestry.gov

- 1) Public Testimony, Adam Miller, Agenda Item 1
- 2) Public Testimony, Jim Bellet, Agenda Item 5
- 3) Public Testimony, Mary Scurlock, Agenda Item 6
- 4) Public Testimony, Bob Van Dyk, Agenda Item 6
- 5) Public Testimony, Patricia Farrell, Agenda Item 6
- 6) Public Testimony, Meg Mitchell, Agenda Item 7

In accordance with the provisions of ORS 526.016, a meeting of the Oregon Board of Forestry was held on June 8, 2016 at the Oregon Department of Forestry, 2600 State Street, Salem, Oregon 97310.

Chair Imeson called the public meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Tom Imeson
Nils Christoffersen Tom Insko
Cindy Deacon Williams Mike Rose

Absent:

Sybil Ackerman-Munson

CONSENT AGENDA:

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (5 minutes 2 seconds)

A. April 27, 2016 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

B. APPROVAL OF 2016 RANGELAND PROTECTION BUDGETS

Board member Nils Christoffersen commented that the Rangeland Protection Associations used different formats in their budgets and that he appreciated those that included additional accounting details. Travis Medema, Eastern Oregon Area Director, responded to specific questions and said that though the associations are each separate, the department will work with them to gain more consistency in formatting and more detailed accounting.

Motion to approve of consent agenda. Moved: Nils Christoffersen. Second: Cindy Deacon Williams. All in favor. Motion carries.

C. ANNUAL LETTERS TO THE STATE FORESTER

D. NAME CHANGE AND BOUNDARY EXPANSION FOR ASH BUTTE RPA

ACTION AND INFORMATION:

1. STATE FORESTER AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (5 minutes 2 seconds)

State Forester Decker offered introductory comments:

- The agency has been preparing for fire season and the 2017 legislative session.
- Fire danger regulations are in place; the department is responding to multiple fires in the state.
- The Emergency Board approved the department's request for funding Lloyds of London catastrophic fire insurance.

- The agency is participating with the Governor's Office and other states and agencies in an emergency preparedness exercise to prepare for a possible 9.0 Cascadia subduction zone earthquake.
- Mr. Decker thanked board member Tom Insko for representing the board on the department's audit committee.
- Satish Upadhyay, Administrative Division Chief, is initiating a board governance performance measure self-evaluation process.
- The Partnership Development Program and the Resources Planning Program will consolidate into one program, the Partnership and Planning Program, which Chad Davis will direct.
- State Forester Decker shared his plans to retire in October 2016 after his twenty-ninth fire season. Mr. Decker thanked Chair Imeson, Governor Brown and others for their support of his decision to retire. He outlined the recruitment process for hiring the next Oregon State Forester: A list of desired attributes will be drafted and approved; the announcement will be written and will recruit nationally; there will be public, employee, board and governor interviews; onboarding will overlap as Mr. Decker continues to work with the new State Forester.
- Last month Mr. Decker participated in a conversation at the White House about the wildland urban interface challenge. At that meeting he shared Oregon's story about the \$8 million invested from lottery funds and that the federal government could improve the process by giving federal land managers the ability to engage in restoration work at a better pace, scale, and quality than is now allowed.

Board member Nils Christoffersen gave a report on federal forests' restoration efforts:

- Mr. Christoffersen attended a National Forest Foundation / US Forest Service jointly sponsored workshop on forest restoration, meeting with Chief Tidwell and others, who are expecting a summary on key findings and lessons from collaborative restoration workshops so that they can advance collaboratives. Mr. Christoffersen mentioned that states taking an active partnership role with the USFS are being rewarded with additional resources for their investments.
- Mr. Christoffersen gave an overview of collaborative work affecting all relevant stakeholders and the message from Chief Tidwell about shared decision-making to get all on board with a new way of doing business.
- Mr. Christoffersen remarked on the challenge of wildfire funding for the USFS with rising costs of personnel and operations in the face of a declining budget.
- A long term fix for county payments that would allow county governments to do forward planning and budgeting.
- On May 9 2016 the Board of Forestry Federal Forests subcommittee met and discussed clarification of its role and the role of the board to consolidate a vision for forest stewardship cutting across federal, private and state boundaries.
- Mr. Christofferson met with Max Williams, President of Oregon Community Foundation, to see if there's a larger role to support this effort.

Board member Cindy Deacon Williams mentioned that the SW Regional office arranged a tour with her in the near future.

Chair Imeson mentioned that he and former board member Gary Springer recently visited Hull-Oakes Lumber and Starker Forests, Inc. Mr. Imeson remarked that State Forester Decker's willingness to stay through the fire season and help bring a successor speaks to his loyalty and is much appreciated.

1A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (6 minutes 50 seconds)

Adrian Miller, Manager of Policy and Environment for Olympic Resource Management, gave a high level overview of the history of Olympic Resources back to the 1850's. He said that Olympic's current business structure is a publicly traded partnership with three focuses: 1) to own and manage lands; 2) as a real estate development company; and 3) as a timberland investment management business. He focused on a piece of property that the company manages – the Rockaway Tree Farm, which has given an easement to the City of Rockaway to control their water. He commented that issues have arisen around the use of herbicides and that the company has responded by doing pre-notifications. Mr. Miller said that to address concerns about aerial application in Jetty Creek the company has begun applying herbicides manually rather than aerially. Mr. Miller remarked that Olympic is working with the community to discuss options for housing, safety and conservation projects in the area.

2. APPROVAL OF THE FOREST PROTECTION DISTRICT 2017 FISCAL BUDGETS AND RATES

[Listen to audio](#) 5 minutes 7 seconds)

Doug Grafe, Fire Protection Chief, referenced the staff report and reviewed what he called prudent adjustments in the budget to meet firefighting needs. The adjustments resulted in increases of 3.3% this year, which was a decline from the increases in the past two years.

RECOMMENDATION: The department recommends the board approve all fiscal year 2017 district and association protection budgets as presented in Attachment 1.

Motion to approve. Moved: Cindy Deacon Williams. Second: Tom Insko. All in favor. Motion carries.

3. FIREFIGHTER LEGAL DEFENSE

[Listen to audio](#) 4 minutes 42 seconds)

Charlie Stone, Policy Analyst, Fire Protection Division, summarized the request for approval to adopt firefighter legal defense final rules. Mr. Stone said that no public comments were received on the topic, which likely reflects no opposition to the proposed rules. He highlighted adjustments that were made to the proposed rules, outlined in the staff report.

RECOMMENDATION: The department recommends the board adopt the final rule proposals for OAR Chapter 629, Division 170 as shown in Attachment 5 and direct the State Forester to file the adopted rules with the Secretary of State and Legislative Counsel as required by ORS 183.355 and 183.715 to be effective July 1, 2016.

Motion to approve. Moved: Mike Rose. Second: Nils Christoffersen. All in favor. Motion carries.

4. STATE FORESTS' TOPICS: FOREST TRUST LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE - TESTIMONY

[Listen to audio](#) 18 minutes 57 seconds)

Tillamook County Commissioner Tim Josi, Chair of the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee (FTLAC) and the Council of Forest Trust Lands (CFTLC), commented that with a majority vote the CFTLC (note: did Mr. Josi mean to say FTLAC?) supports the 200 acre parcel sale, which he said will have an insignificant impact on the department's forest management practices and a positive impact on public health in the area.

Commissioner Josi commented that the CFTLC (*note: did Mr. Josi mean to say FTLAC?*) will wait for more information before weighing in on the proposed recreation, education and interpretation POP. He said that the committee understands the public benefits of recreation, education and interpretation. Commissioner Josi added that the department invests \$3.5 million yearly in recreation but public demands are outpacing the department's ability to provide services. Mr. Josi commented that obtaining legislative support for the POP will be difficult. He further commented on the fiscal crisis that the department is facing and the urgency for the board to make a policy decision on the crisis.

Chair Imeson responded that the board takes the issue of financial viability and the counties' role in it seriously, but that the board is also dealing with federal law and a broad group of stakeholders. Mr. Imeson said the board wants to make an enduring decision that will be less vulnerable to litigation.

Commissioner Josi responded that he appreciated Chair Imeson's comments. Mr. Josi commented that the counties sent the board a letter with guidelines about the GPV not being interpreted properly. He also said that studies show that state forestry manages and protects forests well and is not destroying habitat.

Board member Deacon Williams asked how Commissioner Josi's comments were prepared. Mr. Josi responded that in coordination with the Attorney General's office and the Association of Oregon Counties' legal counsel the bylaws were reviewed. A process was set up wherein Commissioner Josi, as the counties' elected representative, asks for a majority vote on positions. Commissioner Josi noted that Clatsop County won't vote without concurring with all of its county representatives.

Information only.

5. CRESCENT SANITARY DISTRICT PARCEL TRANSFER – GILCHRIST STATE FOREST (Listen to audio 16 minutes 16 seconds)

Ed Deblander, Asset Unit Manager, State Forests Division, overviewed the staff report which requires the board to make the following two findings: 1) the characteristics of the 200 acre parcel make it valuable for the proposed use and that the proposed use better meets the GPV standard than the current use for timber production; and 2) the board finds the Crescent Sanitation District is better situated and more qualified than ODF to manage the parcel over the long term.

Mr. Deblander said that the sale would allow the community of Crescent to use the area as a sanitary wastewater treatment facility to improve water quality. He reviewed next steps should the board approve the recommendations, which included actions if the land is not used for its intended purposes.

Public Comment

Klamath County Commissioner Jim Bellet stated that there has been an ongoing problem with the septic tanks in the area, the quality of ground water has been deteriorating and there is concern with area river and stream water quality.

Board member Tom Insko raised the issue of how to make the distinction of what qualifies for a land transfer/forestland conversion and how, in the future, if similar issues arise will they be considered. He said that in general conversion from forestry is not part of the board's vision.

Chair Imeson responded to Mr. Insko saying that the board needs to review each situation site by site before making a determination.

Board member Cindy Deacon Williams stated that the holistic landscape should be considered, and in this situation, with water quality issues arising, it is being addressed.

RECOMMENDATION: The department recommends that the board approve the sale of this 200 acre parcel to the Crescent Sanitary District.

Motion to approve. Moved: Cindy Deacon Williams. Second: Mike Rose. All in favor. Motion carries.

6. 2017 – 19 BIENNIAL BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Listen to audio_MP3 (51 minutes 7 seconds)

Department of Forestry Division Chiefs provided details on the 2017-19 budget development plan for each division and sought the board's input. The final draft Agency Request Budget will be presented at the July 20, 2016 board meeting.

Satish Upadhyay, Administrative Division Chief, categorized the 2017-19 Policy Option Packages (POP's) outlined in Attachment 1 as:

- 1) Responding to the impacts of three back to back severe fire seasons;
- 2) Increasing the financial viability of the State Forests program;
- 3) Making smart organizational changes to position the agency for the future;
- 4) Making the urban rural forest connection.

Each Division Chief outlined their programs' respective POP's (Attachment 1):

- 1a) Fire Protection Division - Fire Season Severity Resources
- 1b) Fire Protection Division - Additional Severity Resources
- 2) Fire Protection Division - Program Capacity
- 3) State Forests Division - Recreation, Education and Interpretation
- 4) Agency Administration (and Forest Resources Planning) - Federal Forest Restoration Program
- 5) Agency Administration - Human Resources Capacity
- 6) Private Forests Division - Coos District Reorganization
- 7) Private Forests Division - Sustainable Family and Community Forestry
- 8) Private Forests Division - Water Quality, Forest Roads and Landslide Areas
- 9) Capitol Construction (DAS funded) - State Forester's Office Building
- 10) Capitol Construction (DAS funded) - West Oregon District: Toledo Facility Replacement

Board discussion ensued around priorities, consideration of support from the Governor's Office, and specifics of the Federal Forests Restoration POP, Private Forests Water Quality POP, and State Forests financial viability.

Public comment

Mary Scurlock, Oregon Stream Protection Coalition, commented that the Private Forests' POP for water quality, forest roads and landslide areas was a high priority. Ms. Scurlock stated that she thought the public lacks assurances on private forest practices and that she would like to see more resources and capacity allocated toward this POP.

Bob Van Dyk, Wild Salmon Center and North Coast State Forests Coalition, supported the State Forests' recreation POP, commenting that the POP would be an investment (one that is not now being made), and was a response to a needed increase in the delivery of services. He stated that the POP is not only about a larger fund reserve but about holistically presenting a picture of the services the department provides.

Patricia Farrell, Oregon Community Trees, an advisory body to the department's Urban and Community Forestry program, said the group supports the POP for sustainable planning and community forestry. She stated that the funding would help meet an important and increasing need for technical assistance in the wildland urban growth area. She said that the proximity of wildland areas near urban areas has increased management complexity, resulting in additional resource needs.

Information only.

7. FIRE PROGRAM REVIEW UPDATE

Listen to audio MP3 (18 minutes 22 seconds)

Fire Protection Chief Doug Grafe remarked positively on the effort of the Fire Program Review and the role of the department to gain a stronger program from the process. Mr. Grafe overviewed the Fire Program Review Committee draft recommendations (Attachment 2) and the timeline, which is targeted towards the 2017 legislative session. Mr. Grafe stated that the work group committee will continue its efforts as the work evolves.

State Forester Decker remarked that the recommendations result in a worklist for the agency's next biennium.

Chair Imeson added that engagement from all during the review process was extraordinary.

Public Comment

Meg Mitchell, representing the USFS, stated that she was impressed with the earlier budget discussions about the Department of Forestry's POP priorities. She said that the state and federal government has a unique opportunity to work together on federal restoration and other opportunities over the next 10 years, such as:

- 1) Collaborating about shared risk than risk transfer, and leveraging risk into something proactive.
- 2) Finding creative ways to put more fire on the land, not less. Ms. Mitchell stated that fire is the tool that takes away fire and has ecological benefits that can't be replicated.

- 3) Working together to address fuels (in the federal sector specifically) on the landscape proactively rather than reactively.

To illustrate the above Ms. Mitchell shared examples of working on fires where ODF held the interest of the USFS and vice versa.

Ms. Mitchell commented on behalf of the USFS regarding State Forester Decker's retirement, that it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Decker, and that he is highly regarded as a statesman.

Information only.

With no further business before the board, Chair Imeson adjourned the public meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Doug Decker

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Decker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doug Decker, State Forester and
Secretary to the Board

MS