

Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests

Meeting Summary

9:00 to 3:00p.m. February 8, 2010

Location:

**Tillamook Room
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR**

Participants

Jennifer Allen, PSU
Paul Barnum, Oregon Forest Resources Institute
Badege Bishaw, OSU College of Forestry
Steve Calish, USDI Bureau of Land Management
Susan Chapp, Forestry Action Committee
Ron Cease
Amy Grotta, OSU Forestry Extension
Wayne Gieseey
Chris Jarmer, Oregon Forest Industries Council
Phil Mattson, USDA Forest Service, Region 6
Janet McLennan
Greg Miller, Weyerhaeuser Co.
Susan Morre, OSU College of Forestry
Don Nearhood
Craig Patterson
John Poppino
Dick Posekany
Dillon Sanders, Inbound, LLC
Gary Springer, Starker Forests
Rex Storm, Associated Oregon Loggers

Invited Guests: Ann Walker, Western Governors' Association

Oregon Department of Forestry Staff: David Morman and Cathy Clem

Mediator: Mike Schnee

Introductions and Agenda

Brief introductions and introductory comments were made. Ann Walker was asked to elaborate on Western Governors' Association (WGA) perspectives regarding the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests. She stated that WGA wants to work with Oregon and the national Roundtable on Sustainable Forests on an update to the WGA Policy Resolution 07-13 on "Achieving Sustainable Forests"

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(http://www.westgov.org/index.php?option=com_wga&view=resolutions&Itemid=53).

Ann remarked that Oregon continues to be a leader that stands out at the WGA and she encouraged the formation of the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests.

January Board of Forestry Meeting Update

David Morman reviewed his previously distributed summary of what transpired at the Board meeting:

The Oregon Board of Forestry was provided with an overview of the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests (Roundtable) concept by Department of Forestry staff followed by a range of perspectives provided by Janet McLennan, Gary Larsen, Mike Dykzeul, Paul Barnum, and Hal Salwasser. The Board also received letters of support for the Roundtable from the State Director of the BLM, Sustainable Northwest, the Forestry Action Committee, Ron Cease, and John Poppino.

After considerable discussion, the Board approved the Department's four recommendations:

- 1. The Board endorsed the Concepts and Principles for Developing an Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests.*
- 2. The Board directed Department of Forestry staff to facilitate citizen development of a charter and short-term work plan for the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests based on the endorsed Concepts and Principles and provide an opportunity for public review and Board of Forestry endorsement of the charter and work plan.*
- 3. The Board approved the proposed framework for a formal Declaration of Cooperation for multi-party expressions of support for an Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests. The Declaration would include a sunset date of December 31, 2012. (Further action on the Declaration of Cooperation will be contingent on Board approval of the Roundtable charter and work plan, but it is intended that the Oregon Roundtable be open and inclusive. It is envisioned that the Board Chair and the State Forester will be the first of what will hopefully be many parties to add their statements of support and sign the Declaration.)*
- 4. The Board directed the Department of Forestry to forward a request to the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests that, once formed, it advise the Board of Forestry on the implementation and data evaluation of the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management.*

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The following points were emphasized during the group's discussion of what occurred at the Board meeting:

1. The formation of a Roundtable is still in question. The Board has not yet committed to endorsement of a Roundtable, but rather has asked for more information to be brought to them; specifically a draft charter and work plan for a Roundtable that could be used should a Roundtable actually be formed. Some issues of importance that should be considered when making the decision on whether or not to form a Roundtable include:
 - Statement of the problem(s) that the formation of a Roundtable would address and of the potential benefits/costs associated with a Roundtable process. The charter must include a clear purpose statement and objectives for a Roundtable.
 - There are many other public processes that consume stakeholder time and effort. Any proposed Roundtable process must avoid duplication of other processes. How will the Roundtable add value?
 - Are leaders in the forest sector willing to develop agreements on what sustainability is and is there a willingness to deal with the issue? If not, then the Roundtable may not be useful.
2. A Roundtable may be an effective way to develop deeper meaning about sustainable forest management. It could help drive science-based approaches and promote understanding of the interrelated and interdependent linkages of environment, economic, and social aspects of sustainability. For example, Oregon communities are currently economically distressed and faced with forest health and environmental issues. Effectively dealing with issues such as these could yield important benefits.
3. Explicit support and participation from the U.S. Forest Service is important if the Roundtable is to be effective in addressing sustainable forests across Oregon. The sovereignty of federal lands is recognized and understood. If a Roundtable is formed, federal participants would need to be appointed by federal officials and the Roundtable would need to be aware of and abide by any Federal Advisory Committee Act considerations.
4. It is ultimately the Board of Forestry's responsibility to evaluate the "indicators." It is important that they hear directly from Oregonians and not have information filtered. The Board should assess if a Roundtable is appropriate in light of this.
5. The indicators work could provide a "finite" project as a pilot project for a Roundtable. Once that project is completed the Roundtable costs and benefits could be evaluated and a decision made on whether or not to expand Roundtable work into other areas.

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Charter

A draft charter was distributed to the group prior to the meeting and was the basis for the group discussion. Specific language was reviewed and participants' suggestions for improvement were incorporated during the meeting. The following points were emphasized during the discussion:

1. Concern was expressed that development of the draft charter at this time might simply result in making the concept real before it is adequately vetted. The issues of defining the problem that the implementation of a Roundtable would address, the benefits/costs associated with the approach, avoiding duplication with other processes, and leadership commitment to the Roundtable and working on sustainability issues all should be clearly addressed before deciding to implement a Roundtable.

Detailed work plan development should be postponed, pending the Board's approval of a Roundtable charter and broad work plan direction. For example, if a decision is made to initiate a Roundtable discussion on Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management, a more detailed work plan can then be developed on how to do that.

2. A lengthy discussion included a range of statements of support for, and reservations regarding, Roundtable formation. In particular, some of the private landowner and operator representatives at the meeting made arguments against further work on the concept. A desire was expressed by many other participants to move forward with implementing the Roundtable if it were comprised of a broad cross-section of stakeholders discussing and examining sustainable forest management. There is interest in academia in supporting the effort. It was noted that tribal, federal, and local interests may be more easily involved in a Roundtable than in the usual Board advisory committees.
3. Specific edits were made to the draft charter that was distributed prior to the meeting. They will be included in the next draft of the charter. Other discussion concepts related to the charter included:
 - Keep the charter short and narrow the focus. It should include the draft purpose, objectives, and scope statements. Some appendices may be appropriate, including moving the introductory statement to an appendix.
 - Go slow. The Board and the State Forester need to approach other entities for formal cooperation.
 - The method for appointing Core Group members is important. The proposed approach needs clarification and improvement. The core group must be representative of the range of stakeholders and core group members must be engaged and willing to invest time and effort into planning and executing projects. Everybody in Oregon has an interest, but how could the approach be managed fairly, efficiently, and effectively? Written descriptions of the Core Group roles and expectations, consistent with the purpose and objectives in the draft charter, should be developed.

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- Focusing on the indicator work to help inform the Board on the extent to which the indicators are being met will allow the Roundtable process to be tested and will provide a perspective on sustainable forest management across all of Oregon's forests.
- The Board of Forestry will retain appropriate control over the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management and their ultimate utility in evaluating where Oregon is in its quest for sustainable forest management. However, the Board has requested that if the Roundtable is formed that it assist the Board in evaluating and interpreting indicator information. The Roundtable would have access to, and be briefed on, the empirical data the Department of Forestry used in arriving at its conclusions on indicator conditions and trends and on the quality of that data. The Roundtable, or a subgroup of Roundtable participants, would be asked, as a group, to make a judgment as to the reasonableness of the department's conclusions. The Roundtable would be asked to ratify the department's conclusions or, to the extent some or all of the subgroup participants thought the data inadequate or inconclusive, reporting that fact to the board – perhaps also with suggestions for additional or alternative empirical data. The Roundtable would not be used as a sort of a focus group on how some members of the Roundtable individually view the status of the indicators.
- If, how, and when the Roundtable would initiate other projects beyond indicator evaluation, including how the dialogue about sustainable forests should be expanded to include more stakeholders and the expected benefits of doing so, needs more discussion. Will a Roundtable truly create a forum that brings people with divergent values together to work on hard issues and attempt to reach some kind of synthesis?
- Questions remain regarding Roundtable participation, expectations for meeting attendance, and the Roundtable Core Group.
- Rex Storm volunteered to participate in the Roundtable Core Group if a charter is approved by the Board.

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Letter to the Roundtable

Wayne Giesy and Dick Posekany submitted a letter (see attachment) to the Roundtable expressing their concern about the economic hardships in Oregon and especially in rural Oregon. They stated that proper forest management could provide timber harvest from State and Federal forests that would be a source of well paying jobs and promote forest health and other environmental and aesthetic values.

Lunchtime Sustainability Happenings Updates

- 2011 Forestry Program for Oregon process
- Spring 2010 ODF/OFRI – Oregonians’ Values and Beliefs Polling
- Western Governors’ Association Resolutions Revisions
- 2010 National Report on Sustainable Forests – Oregon References
- National Roundtable on Sustainable Forests Action Strategy
- Environmental Law Conference – February 2010. Sustainable Forest Management Panel
- Sustainable Forestry – Masters Program at OSU
- Data collection for the national report – importance of forests to people indicator

Next Steps

- The Provisional Core Group will update the Draft Charter and circulate it to the participants at the meeting for their review and comment.
- Our next meeting will be scheduled in April or May.
- The Draft Charter will be presented to the Board in April.

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Attachment

Frank Lumber Co., Inc.

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(503) 897-2371 • Fax (503) 897-3003

AND

Wayne Giesy

P.O. Box 772 • Philomath, Oregon 97370
(541) 929-4170 • Fax (541) 929-4174

February 8, 2010

Attn: David Morman
"Round Table Participants"

Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Thank you for accepting our testimony today on the important subject of Sustainable Forest Management.

I am Dick Posekany, Forest Consultant, Frank Lumber Co., Inc., Mill City, Oregon. Frank Lumber Co. has been in the sawmill business since 1936.

I am Wayne Giesy, owner of small industrial timber tracts located near Alsea and Philomath, Oregon. I served in the Oregon Legislature for two terms. I also worked for Hull-Oakes Lumber Co. for nearly 30 years.

We have shared our concern for many years about the economic depression in Oregon, especially rural areas, due primarily to the lack of timber harvest on public lands. A full level of timber harvest from our State forests, and a reasonable rate of harvest from Federal forests could again supply our industrial infrastructure with well paying jobs. This would also provide well paying jobs on Main Street for the benefit of all our citizens.

Proper forest management provides timber, our natural resource, as the basic commodity. In addition, managed forests promote forest health while providing proper wildlife habitat, pure water, soil retention and aesthetic values.

Sustainable Forest Management means jobs for Oregonians.

Wayne Giesy

Dick Posekany

cc: Board of Forestry
Gov. Kulongoski