



Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting June 23, 2021



Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a meeting of the Committee for Family Forestlands [an advisory body to the Oregon Board of Forestry with authority established in Oregon Revised Statute 527.650] was convened on June 23, 2021, as a virtual online meeting hosted off-site.

CFF Committee members participating:

Eric Hartstein, Interim Private Forests Deputy Chief
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio
Wendy Gerlach, Citizen-At-Large (Voting) Columbia Land Trust Board
S. Mark Vroman, Industry rep (Voting) Hampton Family Forests
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio
Amanda Astor, Forest Policy Manager AOL Ex-Officio
Amy Jahnke OSWA Ex-Officio
John Peel, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)

ODF Staff:

Scott Swearingen, Field Support Unit Manager
Scott Swearingen, Field Support Manager
Al Devos, Partnership & Planning
Susan Muniz, Administrative Support/Recorder

Members not in attendance:

Janelle Geddes, USFS State & Private Forestry Ex-Officio
Kaola Swanson, Conservation Rep. (Voting/Vice Chair) Sustainable NW
Evan Barnes, Committee Chair & SW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Barrett Brown, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)

Guests/Public:

1. Welcome and Review of the Agenda

Gerlach stepped in for Evan Barnes and began the meeting.

2. Approval of May Meeting Minutes

There weren't enough voting members present for quorum. Jahnke noted a correction to the minutes. She had been in attendance at the May meeting but was listed as absent in the minutes. Approval of the May minutes was postponed.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment provided.

4. Private Forests Division Update

Hartstein provided the Division Update beginning with an update on the Governor's COVID restrictions. September 1st was set as the current re-opening date for State Agencies public access. He reported that the recruitment of a new State Forester is underway and the Board members discussed Desired Attributes they considered necessary. The Department of Administrative Services is running the recruitment for ODF and plans on incorporating public comment into the process. He reported that the Board also heard an update on SB 1602 implementation by the Private Forests Division. Regarding Division staffing they are starting to lose some capacity as fire activity increases and staff supports the fire effort. He emphasized that there is a drawdown plan in place to keep core functions and programs operating during and through fire season. Recruitment for the Forest Health and Monitoring Unit Manager position continues as well as the Forest Pathologist position. Additionally, the Division will have additional recruitments for two Landowner Assistance Foresters to help implement federal incentive programs like EFRP and other programs that are implemented through NRCS funding. He closed by noting this was his last meeting as interim Deputy Chief and he will be returning to his position at the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) on July 1st.

18:57

5. Legislative Update

Hartstein reported on the Legislative bills still in process. The ODF budget bill passed out of Ways and Means, slated for the Senate Floor. He reported that these are the final days of the Session. He noted that Senate Bill 762 which represented a lot of what was in the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response did pass out of the Ways and Means Committee with a set of amendments that have ODF directing a whole host of activities around wildfire such as:

- The need to develop and maintain a comprehensive statewide map of wildfire risk
- Design and implement programs to reduce wildfire risk through restoration of landscape resiliency and reduction of hazardous fuels on public and private lands as well as rangelands.
- Develop a 20-year strategic plan that prioritizes restoration actions and geographies for wildfire risk reduction.
- Establish and maintain an expanded system of automated smoke detection cameras.
- Increase the Department's wildfire readiness and response capacity including fire response personnel, aviation assets and administrative support personnel.
- Establish a small forestland grant program to provide grants to support small woodland owners in reducing wildfire risk.
- Establishing a Certified Burn Manager Program.
- Adopting rules in collaboration with the State Fire Marshall and local governments regarding baseline levels of wildfire protections for lands outside wildfire protection districts and provides financial assistance to counties to assist individuals and businesses forming jurisdictions providing wildfire protection.

So capacity-wise, this is \$67 million dollars in funding and over 100 positions to implement these requirements and there would be 62 seasonal positions, 33 permanent and 13 LD positions.

Astor asked what the Private Forests Division was considering about the involvement of the CFF in the Small Woodland Grant Program in SB 762. Hartstein responded that Partnership & Planning Program staff will be the ones implementing that program and thought it would be pertinent to invite program staff to share what they may see as the Committee's role in development of that program.

He was also asked about Budget Note 5518 dealing with Sudden Oak Death and how those funds would be used. He answered that with the new detections outside the quarantine zone the \$1.7 million appropriated would go to addressing that issue directly in addition to the federal resources and adding capacity to the SOD taskforce in that area.

The Harvest Tax bills, traditionally setting the rate for the next two years, passed out of the House Committee on Revenue with an adopted set of amendments. Those amendments would leverage a privilege tax of \$3.18/thousand BF harvested with just over 65% or 2.07 going to administration of the Forest Practices Act (FPA). 28.3% going to OSU Forest Research Laboratory. And 6.6% for OSU College of Forestry Professional Forestry Education. In addition to those, .94 cents of the Harvest Tax proceeds would go to the Oregon Forestland Protection Fund (OFPF) and .81 cents would go to OFRI. It did remain silent on funding to OFRI, and the OR Forestland Protection Funds would be .69 cents instead of .94 cents. Wildfire recovery, HB 3127 which was the entire package is over \$1 billion dollars including housing, economic recovery, and infrastructure. Included \$81 million for natural resource recovery \$41 million for ODF for stabilization, \$5 million to ODF for tree seedling and nursery capacity. He expects that individual projects will be pulled out and

placed in the end of session Christmas Tree bills where a plethora of projects get funded at the last day or so of the Session. They are looking to see what wildfire recovery is included in there and at what amounts.

38:04

6. Post-Fire Recovery Updates

Al Devos, Partnership and Planning works coordinating a lot of the private forests' grants. SOD and Forest Legacy type projects. He also supports the fire effort as ODF IMT 2 as a Public Information Officer. As Post-Fire Recovery was covered under the legislative briefing, he provided members an update on the current fire situation.

50:46

7. July Board of Forestry Meeting

Gerlach led the discussion on the Committee's presentation of their Annual Report to the Board. With Evan Barnes and Barrett Brown not available for the discussion an additional virtual meeting was suggested getting those members together that will be part of the presentation to set up the dialog before the BOF meeting.

1:00:42

8. CFF Member Recruitment

Hartstein reported new members will be brought to the BOF for approval. Gary Jensen as Southern Oregon Landowner Representative (Lane County). Kate McMichael, Landowner-At-Large (Lane County). And Mauricio Valerio as Eastern Oregon Landowner Representative (Union County). Bios of those members were provided to the BOF during that Consent Agenda Item.

1:11:16

9. Committee Member and Partner Updates

Jahnke began that OSWA and Tree Farm's Annual Meeting will be held virtually July 23rd along with an in-person tour on August 21st at the Tree Farmer of the Year property owned and managed by Gail and Gordon Culbertson outside of Veneta. Registration will be available online and available next week.

Astor noted that AOL is going to be hiring a Workforce Development Specialist that will have a singular focus and effort to promote forestry sector jobs and skills training to meet capacity demands for reforestation, planting, (especially post-fire) site prep, slash piling. She encouraged CFF to think of any opportunities there may be to increase interest in the forest contracting sector for forestry technology, Prescribed Fire, fire protection workforce, etc. Woodward agreed that there needs to be a champion for this workforce that is so important for small woodland owners throughout the sector. Astor asked members to consider how the workforce needs to pivot for the future needs of the forest whether it is fuel mitigation, prescribed burning, non-commercial thinning, mastication, future technologies, like drone monitoring. Ahrens added that regarding outreach OSU has a group, The Future Natural Resource Leaders (FNRL high school forestry programs) that are gaining recognition and would be a good group to connect with.

Ahrens updated members on the Fire Aware-Fire Prepare statewide webinars from OSU and Extension. Those have been recorded and can be viewed from the OSU Fire Program site. Local County Extension agents are working on connecting the dots with the local fire jurisdictions and the folks that are in the business of trying to

help people with home ignition zone and fuels reduction and figuring out what the resources are and working more at the neighborhood level with FireWise and things like that. They just wrapped up Tree School Online with Julie Woodward and Mike Cloughesy. They provided and hosted 47 webinars with OFRI, OSU and our partners. They are waiting with their planning for next year to see how the COVID restrictions may dictate virtual meetings again or in-person Tree School. He reported working with Ryan Gordon and other partners assisting people with fire recovery, reforestation and managing their forests salvage logged or not. Also the ice damage recovery also a big issue for many westside counties. Many young non-merchantable stands were severely damaged. Non-merchantable stand management assistance is really a huge need and they are looking at putting together a toolkit or options for landowners to deal with that. All that ice damage goes hand in hand with fuels reduction issues as well as site prep, so landowners need assistance on how to manage these damaged young stands. Astor suggested consideration of bio-char production as one tool in fire recovery. Ahrens responded on the differing methods and challenges to creating bio-char. As part of the recovery effort, Ahrens continues to work with Ryan Gordon trying to help landowners with the seedling shortage and the availability of contractors to do site prep, tree planting and all that. He reported that there is lots of money coming from lots of directions and the real challenge now is to coordinate our efforts and figure out our roles. Particularly, there's enough money coming to pay for all the seedlings that non-industrial owners need. There are so many groups willing to throw money at this, that we just need to coordinate our ask and ensure the nuts and bolts of the planting plan and someone to hold the hand of every landowner if needed, to make sure they get the right trees in the right place and mobilizing the crews needed, the workforce there. If the funding comes from the legislature, there will be a working group and new capacity to get coordinated. Extension's role is trying to facilitate that forestry assistance and forestry education with ODF when those network roles are coordinated. The Watershed Councils are emerging with a major role and OSWA will play a part as well. OSU's Master Woodland Manager and some of the Society of American Foresters folks are standing by and waiting for COVID to let up to be able get help out on the ground. With each year's fires including those across the west currently, the need will be increasing.

Woodward reported on some of the projects that OFRI and partners have been involved with this year. Partnering with OSU and OSWA they produced a Forestry Taxation Webinar Series with Tammy Cushing. She noted it is always an important topic for landowners and it will be useful to refer to into the future. The Committee had helped in the past initiating one of the first tax workshops at OSU. Another update from OFRI was an RFP they awarded to Mason, Bruce, and Gerard to put together data on the economic impact of the 2020 Labor Day Fires on the forest sector and how those million acres impacted will shape the future of this sector. Another project package they have worked on with ODF, OSU and the Forest Protective Associations is on logging slash. That was included in the Tree School Online Workshop along with creation of an instructional pamphlet and how-to video. This led to OFRI and ODF re-starting a new biomass working group housed at DEQ focusing on energy and carbon and smoke management how to use slash piles and what can be utilized also safe practices and minimizing emissions as possible. They did develop a virtual Sustainable Forest Management Tour, used at the Mass Timber Conference which told the story for architects and engineers about forestry in Oregon. In addition, OFRI has been able to double the funding for KOG's outreach campaign to bring awareness to human-caused fires. She added that Kristin Babbs with KOG would be a good guest to invite and present to the Committee. Astor asked if OFRI had been part of any conversation about the proposed Community Risk Reduction Grant Program with the Oregon State Fire Marshal included in SB 762 to educate those living in the WUI how to create defensible space and prevent fire starts. Woodward assumed it was brought to their attention but there hadn't been any engagement yet as it is legislatively based proposal.

Gerlach thanked the ex-officios for their updates and asked about the CFF meeting schedule for the fall. Muniz shared that there is usually a check-in in September with general updates and fall/winter meeting invitations will be sent out after the BOF meeting. Gerlach then took the end of the meeting to express gratitude to the outgoing

members, John Peel and Evan Barnes. She hoped to have an opportunity at the ZOOM Annual Report discussion to extend the member's thanks to Evan as he wasn't able to attend this meeting.

1:53:41