

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	G
Work Plan:	Forest Resources
Topic:	Committee Appointments
Presentation Title:	Committee for Family Forestlands Appointment
Date of Presentation:	June 7, 2023
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SUMMARY

This agenda item includes an update on the appointment and reappointment for members of the Committee for Forestlands (CFF). Wendy Gerlach has served her first term and would like to be reappointed for a second term and continue to serve as chair. One nomination has been submitted to fill the Forest Industry Representative position (Eric Kranzush).

CONTEXT

The CFF, a standing committee to the Board, provides advice to the Board and the State Forester on methods to help improve the vitality of family forestlands, including improving owners' ability to manage and market their timber and other forest products. The CFF continues to evaluate the impact of policy and regulatory changes on family forestland owners.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

CFF members serve three-year appointments that generally run from July through June (Attachment 1). There are seven voting members, including four family forestland owners, one forest industry representative, one conservation community representative, and one citizen-at-large. The CFF currently has six ex-officio members representing Oregon State University College of Forestry, the State Forester, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, public land managers, logging/forestry consulting interests, and small forestland owner groups. Additional information on the CFF can be found [here](#).

As of July 1, the Citizen-at-large position is in need of reappointment and there is an open position for the Forest Industry Representative.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the re-appointment of Wendy Gerlach as Citizen-at-large and Chair and the appointment of Eric Kranzush as the Forest Industry Representative member of the CFF. Their biographies are noted in Attachment 2.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Proposed CFF Voting Members Appointment Schedule
- (2) Member Nomination Biography

Proposed Committee for Family Forestlands Voting Members Appointment Schedule

June 7th, 2023

Proposed schedule for CFF members' appointments / reappointments. New Voting Members, Chair and Vice Chair to be appointed by the Board of Forestry.

Voting Member	Appointed	2023	2024	2025	2026
Citizen at Large Wendy Gerlach (Chair)	2020				June 30 X
Conservation Community Kaola Swanson (Vice Chair)	2019			June 30 X	
Forest Industry Eric Kranzush	2023				June 30
Southern Oregon Area Gary Jensen	2021		June 30		
Landowner at Large Kate McMichael	2021		June 30		
Eastern Oregon Area Maurizio Valerio	2021		June 30		
Northwest Oregon Area Scott Hayes	2023			June 30	

X = have or will have served two terms, not eligible for reappointment, and a new member must be nominated.

Wendy Gerlach



Wendy Gerlach is a lawyer in private practice with experience including forest-based conservation finance and nonprofits advising. She has advised clients on conservation easements, land acquisitions, carbon projects, and land trust operational issues. She also spent many years as a corporate, estates, and tax lawyer advising on finance and business issues. In that capacity, she worked with firms such as Thede, Culpepper in Portland, Novartis Pharmaceuticals AG in Switzerland, Ernst & Young affiliate ATAG AG in Switzerland, and Ropes & Gray in Boston. She is a graduate of Princeton University and the University of Washington School of Law, and is a board member of Columbia Land Trust and the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. She is a past board member of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts and currently serves on its pro-bono legal team and government relations committee. Wendy's interest in forests ranges from her early experiences studying botany, to research on the relationship of forests to public welfare, to pharmaceutical licensing of forest compounds, to recreational time spent in the forests of Oregon. As a 5th generation Oregonian, she has a deep connection to the state and commitment to its welfare.

Eric Kranzush

My name is Eric Kranzush and I am a Professional Forest Manager at Giustina Land & Timber Co. in Eugene, Oregon. Giustina Land & Timber Co., is a 4th generation family-owned company, which has been in business in Oregon since 1917. Further, we are an SFI certified landowner, with an eye toward long-term (longer rotation) sustained yield forestry. We are honored to provide Oregonians with the clear water, clean air, abundant wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and the sustainably certified forest products they demand.

I received a B.S. in Forest Management from OSU in 2001 and an MBA from UO in 2014. For over 20-years, I have been active in Oregon's forest industry.