



Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting March 18, 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 March 18, 2021 as a virtual online meeting hosted off-site.

CFF Committee members participating:

Eric Hartstein, Interim Private Forests Deputy Chief
Josh Barnard, Deputy Chief Private Forests (Secretary)
Kaola Swanson, Conservation Rep. (Voting/Vice Chair) Sustainable NW
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext./College of Forestry Ex-Officio
Wendy Gerlach, Citizen-At-Large (Voting) Columbia Land Trust Board
Amanda Astor, Forest Policy Manager AOL Ex-Officio
Amy Jahnke OSWA Ex-Officio
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio
Evan Barnes, Committee Chair & SW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
John Peel, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)
S. Mark Vroman, Industry rep (Voting) Hampton Family Forests/
US Timberlands

ODF Staff:

Scott Swearingen, Field Support Unit Manager
Ryan Gordon, Family Forestland Coordinator
Nate Agalzoff, Incentives Coordinator
Alex Rahmlow, Federal Incentives Unit
Thomas Whittington, Water Quality Specialist

Members not in attendance:

Barrett Brown, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Janelle Geddes, USFS State & Private Forestry Ex-Officio

Guests/Public:

Jeremy Felty, OSWA
Liam Chambers, Willamette University student

1. Welcome and Review of the Agenda

Chair Barnes welcomed the members and guests and invited comments on the agenda. None were offered. He asked for a roll call.

2. Roll Call

Roll call continued... 16 people were virtually in attendance. (See above for participants.)

3. Approval of the January and February Minutes

Barnes offered to accept a Motion and a Second for approval of both the January and February Minutes as there was a lack of quorum at the last meeting. Gerlach made Motion to Approve, Peel seconded the Motion. All voted in favor. The minutes for January and February were approved as presented.

4. Public Comment

One member of the public was in attendance but didn't offer comment.

5. Ex-Officio Appointments to the Committee: Amanda Astor and Amy Jahnke

Hartstein verified that as part of the CFF Charter, new ex-officio members are officially appointed by CFF for two-year continuing terms unless there is a change in their organizational status. Amanda Astor, the new Associated Oregon Loggers, Forest Policy Manager is taking the place of Rex Storm and Amy Jahnke, new Oregon Small Woodlands Assoc. Executive Director taking the place of Jim James. Both were up for Committee vote for appointment. Vroman made a Motion to Accept them both as new ex-officio members. Gerlach seconded. All voting members were in favor of the appointments. Barnes welcomed their participation.

6. Private Forests Update

Hartstein, the interim Deputy Chief of the Private Forests Division provided a brief update on the Division and Department business. He began by reporting the Board of Forestry had new members that were confirmed by the Senate earlier this month. Karla Chambers, who is the co-owner and vice president of Saltbush Island Farms in Corvallis and a

member of the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response. Ben Deumling, president of Zena Forest Products and former member of the Board State Forests Advisory Committee. And Shandra Ferrari who is an attorney at Trout Unlimited. Their first meeting will be in April. There wasn't word yet if the Governor has appointed a Chair to the Board and there is still one vacant seat on the Board. He offered there was still an opportunity for the Governor to nominate for those vacancies through the Senate Rules and Executive Appointments Committee during this Session.

He went on to note the recruitments happening in the Private Forests Division. There were interview panels in Central Oregon, North Cascades, Forest Grove, Klamath and Lakeview for new Stewardship Forester positions funded through the Emergency Board earlier and it was a priority to get those filled this biennium. Soon after the Division will put out recruitments for a Monitoring and Forest Health Unit Manager and a Pathologist that will be based in Forest Health. A Policy Analyst is in recruitment right now for the Field Support Unit. Then he reported that the Field Support Unit sent out a memo on requesting reforestation extensions due to the 2020 wildfires. Related to restoration he shared that there was straw available in the Silverton area that could be used for erosion control. The straw came from certified seed fields, but the straw was could not be certified weed-free as it was harvested before inspectors were able to do so. Because of that the Forest Service and BLM weren't able to utilize the straw for their erosion control efforts. But it would still be an option for use on private lands.

Barnes requested a spring update on the Severity Program at the next meeting. Gerlach asked for any available update on the MOU process. Jahnke responded to her that Jim James is the primary OSWA representative on the MOU process and she was only aware that the end goal of the MOU was to have a Habitat Conservation Plan, but she wasn't aware of any legislation around that. Barnes noted that he understood there wasn't to be any public disclosures coming out of those efforts at the present time and the lack of rumors speaks well of the group's cooperation in the process.

Barnard added regarding the SB 1602 work, that the Division was working on the further development of e-notification in the FERNS system to accommodate all the notification requirements of 1602. And they are working with Oregon Water Resources Department on their data. He hoped by next month's CFF meeting there would be more to share.

7. Legislative Update

Hartstein continued with an update on the current Legislative Session. Important deadlines were coming up on Friday, March 19th where policy committees had to post work session agendas for bills. If a bill was not *scheduled* for a work session on or before Friday, then the bill is dead. Following that there is the deadline of April 13th where continuing bills have to be move out of their Chamber of origin to the next Chamber (House or Senate) if it's in the policy world. If it's in Revenue, for example tax-related bills those have different rules and deadlines. There are quite a few bills that the Division is tracking. He noted that he'd seen some of the Committee members testifying on particular bills. The forest taxation bills, have had work sessions this week in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committees. **House Bill 2070** that is the Governor's and Department's Harvest Tax Bill passed out of the Committee with a unanimous vote and moves on to the House Revenue Committee. The other forest tax-related bill is **HB 2379** which would replace the Harvest Tax with a Severance Tax. That bill also had a work session where they passed a phase bill out of that committee so there were some amendments that were proposed, not adopted, but still passed without recommendation of the passage... and that will be going to the House Revenue Committee as well. Some of the other forest taxation bills haven't been scheduled for a hearing so probably will be dead. Astor had a question regarding potential fiscal impacts to the Department, if there is a Severance Tax as it would be based on value and subject to market fluctuations. Hartstein noted there must have been a FIS but it is a continuing process and he made note to find an answer by the next meeting. Gerlach asked whether the tax revenues would go by the current distributions and how distributions would differ between the Harvest and Severance Tax scenarios. Hartstein said that if they move forwards on the Harvest Tax the current system will be kept intact. The Severance Bill **HB 2379** would allocate funding differently. Astor agreed that the Severance Bill is a complete change. Currently the tax is based upon volume and the Severance would be based on value. And there is a question as to how the value would be assessed. She surmised that the legislators recognize that this is extremely complicated. Vroman added that a change to a value-based system is not going to be as stable or fluid for the recipients of those dollars. Anything that gets tied to a market-based situation will fluctuate as the value of logs goes up and down. So, a Severance Tax system wouldn't bring as much base stability as we currently have. Barnes agreed that the Harvest Tax is all ascertained by scale and has scale tickets to back up the actual volume so there wouldn't be guessing. Continuing Hartstein reported that there

have been public hearings in the Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery Committee on a couple of omnibus fire bills, **Senate Bill 287** which is the Governor's Wildfire Bill and the **SB 248** Senator Golden's omnibus wildfire bill. In another committee in the House there is **HB 3160** which would require insurers to collect \$10 dollars for casualty and property insurance policies and then send those monies out back to the State for investment into the Oregon Wildfire Preparedness Fund. Those funds would then distribute dollars to ODF, the State Fire Marshall's Office and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) for protection, wildfire recovery and restoration. Last week he reported that ODF, DEQ and OWEB presented to the House Wildfire Recovery Committee on the Natural and Cultural Resource impacts from the 2020 fires and unveiled an \$86 million dollar funding request to the State dealing with things like roads, culverts, erosion control, riparian and flood plain restoration, reforestation, water quality protection, cultural resource assessments, etc. He recalled it being in the Rules Committee, so it could sit there the entire session. There had also been discussions around the Reforestation Tax Credit bills **HB 2632** and **HB 2782**. Both of those are in the Revenue Committee so the deadline also does not apply there. **HB 2594** has an amendment that has to do with water quality and would require the Board of Forestry to review rules related to the overall maintenance of water resources and review domestic water use classification and adopt and maintain some rules around that. That went to before the House Water Committee. **HB 2663** is an Appropriation to ODF of \$1.7 million dollars to combat Sudden Oak Death (SOD). That moved out of the House Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee and moved unanimously to go to Ways and Means. Others that the Division is watching, **HB 2298** artificial beaver dams re-names then environmental restoration weirs. Those projects (primarily the east side) but would exempt the projects from FPA. Finally, **SB 335** relating to the Board of Forestry. Amendments would change the composition of the Board, have the State Forester be appointed by the Governor and dissolve the Regional Forest Practices Committees replacing those with an optional working group that would be established by the Board. It was currently going through submitted testimony and looking for a work session to be scheduled on that one as well. Astor added that it reduces the timber industry representative from 3 to 2 and that one of the – 2 amendments requires that one of those is from the small woodlands community. Ahrens requested that if there was a list of bills that touch on natural resources and forestry it would be beneficial to members in tracking bill status between meetings. Hartstein agreed to send that out to the members.

8. Forest Resilience Projects – Emergency Board Funding

Alex Rahmlow with the Partnership and Planning Program at ODF presented an overview of project funding. He began by reporting that in January ODF submitted a Legislative Emergency Board Funding Request for over \$15 million, and of that \$5 million was requested specifically by the Partnership and Planning Program. That the Program has three bodies of work: The Federal Initiatives Unit, that is entirely dedicated to administrating and applying for Federal grants towards fire mitigation, fuel reduction, generally landscape scale restoration projects. Next, the Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFRP) a relatively new program that has to do with the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) supporting projects on federal land and we do a lot of sub-contracting with the Forest Service to get them NEPA-ready acres. What money is generated from profitable timber sales they are able to re-allocate back into conservation-type work, forest restoration, stream restoration, things like that. Both are the main bodies of work for Partnership and Planning but there is also a Planning and Analysis Unit which provides scientific support for the executive staff at ODF.

He emphasized the E-Board timelines and the \$5 million dollars in allotted funds (that decision came January 8th) initiated a Call for Projects due only a month later. The public Call for Projects was open for 7 days. February 8th they made those initial determinations and are currently working through getting those projects into contractual grant agreements. They are hoping to have all awarded projects under contract and in place for work to begin as we need to spend the \$5 million by the end of this biennium. He then explained how and where the funds were directed. ODF Pre-existing; Other Governments; Federals; Non-Government Organizations. In 7 days, Partnership & Planning Program received over \$20 million dollars in funding requests. Of our \$5 million, 4.1 is going towards projects. .9 is going towards deferred capacity. Both of their programs FFRP and the FIU are predominantly federally funded through a competitive process which requires our proposals look more like what a grant proposal and less dictated by internal programs and policies. But noted that a number of things can't be funded with federal dollars. About 40% of our original fiscal year 19-20 Policy Option Package is included in that .9. The project allocations are by Area. Southern Oregon Area received approximately received 2.1. Northwest Oregon about ¼ million. Eastern Oregon close to 2. And then we had one regional project. Generally, he wanted to emphasize is over half of our E-Board funding is going to partner projects focusing on cross-boundary collaboration as one of the requirements. They do have partner projects that include an ODF line item, for a

Stewardship Forester go out and help assess an area. And vice-versa we have ODF submitted projects that include line items for watershed councils to conduct fuel reductions as well. So, this is kind of hard to lump these together, ODF versus partner projects. Rahmlow used as an example that the NW Youth Corp that provides young adult training was awarded funding to help the Santiam State Forest assess and triage the trails and collecting data in terms of impacts from the Beachie Creek Fire. They are trying a new approach being more intentional with the type of work that we are doing. The majority of the work we are funding is defensible space, fuel reduction treatments to reduce fire severity. But there are a number of other deliverables not technically associated with these but have value-added. Another example, he added that there is a Right-of-Way project. A thinning operation that includes Forest Service, and the County with ODF crews doing the work. But he stated that there are many unfunded requests with other opportunities for collaboration that are important to remember as well, over 16,000 acres of treatments that went unfunded. 4000 salvage logs from burned over areas to be placed for in-stream habitat restoration and 12 scientific support projects. Rahmlow noted that there is a mid-point opportunity to pull on existing funding through 'slippage' where there may be funds that would be left over that can be re-awarded to projects on the wait list. In April they will begin looking at the short-listing of shovel-ready projects.

Ahrens contributed an important case for additional outreach. Helping landowners navigate the various grant and funding opportunities, there should be incentives program information for landowners to explain the availability of assistance, so people don't get discouraged if funds are unavailable or limited year to year for different areas. Rahmlow agreed and offered it is important for people to know when, where and how much people can expect, being proactive with funding opportunities instead of reactive. He agreed there should be an internal clearinghouse of active grants, an efficient method for grant tracking maintaining the specific details. When a Call for Project goes out, they are looking for shovel-ready projects and especially using federal funding for wildfire recovery. Partnership and Planning is working on Policy Option Packages to meet the identified need for regional coordination in the field.

Gordon expressed his frustration at trying to fit post-fire restoration work into that E-Board allocation. He hopes to change the dialog around a little bit to include restoration as one of those critical areas that we are making investments in along with prevention, mitigation and suppression.

9. Fish Passage Update

Thomas Whittington, the Water Quality Specialist for the Private Forests Division at ODF presented at the meeting to report on the pending Memorandum of Agreement between ODF and ODF&W regarding fish passage coordination on non-federal forestland to keep everybody up to date on the progress on the MOA and Forest Practices Technical Note 4 which relates to fish passage. He provided an overview of the two agencies involved in the Agreement and their roles and authorities. First, the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W) who administers the policies set forth by the Fish and Wildlife Commission with the Oregon Board of Forestry under its authority in Oregon with ODF charged with administration of the FPA and forest practice rules. This new agreement solidifies ODF's and ODF&W's roles and respective authorities for fish passage coordination into the future. He noted that the original MOU was signed in 2000 but since then there were some changes in ODF&W's rules and statutes, which revised, renewed and reflected the importance of fish species across the State. The new Agreement recognizes and attempts to resolve many of the differences and provides for a coordinated interagency response to fish passage projects. One goal was to provide a clear process for installing fish passage structures. Another to provide for regulatory concurrence with ODF&W's stream simulation criteria while maintaining ODF as the primary agency for fish passage on non-federal forestlands. A last goal, which is key, is a collaborative review and publishing a revised Forest Practices Technical Note 4 which provides the design and installation criteria for fish passage structures on projects under the FPA authority. The draft MOA is in its final form and under review from the leadership in both agencies, once Peter Daugherty, State Forester has signed it he'll move it on to Curt Melcher, ODF&W Director. Once the Agreement is signed by both Directors the Agreement will be in effect. The on-the-ground implementation will be directed through Technical Note 4. Updates to Tech Note 4 have been underway for quite a few months now and has been recently shared with the Fish Practitioner Work Group (comprised of representatives from the Regional Forest Practices Committees and practitioners who are experienced in fish passage projects) and with numerous stewardship foresters across the state.

The scope of the Agreement, when required, provides for programmatic approval of stream crossings under ODF&W if they are designed and installed using the Stream Simulation Criteria and strategies specified in the revised Tech Note 4.

The new MOA affirms ODF's role in ensuring fish passage is provided for when stream crossings are constructed, replaced, removed or abandoned and in certain instances maintained. The Agreement and associated Forest Practices Tech Note 4 serves as concurrence that ODF administered stream crossings will meet Oregon's Fish Passage Rules which are under ODF&W's authority. The key element there is the Statutory Written Plan which communicates how any proposed stream crossing will be designed and installed to meet the requirements. The Agreement also allows for emergency actions to address safety concerns with the caveat that the landowner/operator would have to go back in the following in-water work period to fix that and restore that fish passage. The Tech Note will provide detailed information on specific strategies to accomplish fish passage including installation, channel spanning structures, stream stimulation culverts, low water crossings and on the flip side, of course removal or abandonment of existing structures. The Tech Note also includes information on Written Plan content, gathering critical stream and geologic information designed criteria of in-water work guidelines and construction, best management practices. Any alternate practices have to go through a process of review through ODF&W and get buy-off for the design. The in-water work is probably the biggest thing that's been discussed. There is a process outlined to conduct fish and aquatic species rescue and salvage. They are working with ODF&W to approve some of that on a case-by-case basis or with an annual programmatic letter from them to be able to complete that fish handling work with a reporting requirement for all fish rescue/salvage activities. The report will include all the information, written plans, inspection reports. Part of the agreement is that ODF&W and ODF will jointly review fish passage projects from a sample of installations completed the prior years from the reports.

10. Post-Fire Recovery Update

Ryan Gordon was on hand to provide this update. He framed the post-fire recovery effort by using a puzzle analogy, a puzzle that the community is trying to put together without an awareness of the big picture of the funding opportunities that are out there. The Emergency Forest Restoration Program, (EFRP) is the primary funding opportunity that is available. Typically, they send a big request back to Washington, D.C. which is based on a pretty high-level estimate of need and then it is approved or not and money is set aside for Oregon and then AFF goes out and contracts with landowners for work under the Program. It sounds like now to avoid unnecessarily tying up a bunch of extra money given the demand across the Western U.S. they are going to take it on a rolling basis, essentially fund projects as they are planned. So, as ODF helps to create plans for landowners they get a more accurate picture of the financial needs and that enables them to keep the funding pool a little bit more fluid.

Agalzooff stepped in to say that part of the equation is communicating. It will be a challenge to get all the landowners and projects that are interested into the que and go for year one. It's a large sum of money they've been told has been earmarked for Oregon, but it will be appropriated as we review our specific needs through the field office level. Gordon added that the roll up sent to D.C. was about \$75 million. So that \$75 million in EFRP was based on an estimate of need of those landowners that came forward during the signup, and rates that were developed by FSA for different practices. Those figures were then rolled into a really high-level gross estimate of which practices would be necessary, across how many acres and at what cost? And that is how that \$75 million was determined. But he offered that they typically do overestimate in a pretty serious way because the on-the-ground needs may differ from the expectations which is part of why D.C. is holding back in terms of making a full allocation all at once. He was assured however that there is the opportunity for funding for landowners who had signed up.

Another puzzle piece is there is pretty good certainty around NRCS. They went through two rounds of Emergency EQIP and folks who participated in those programs are currently implementing their projects and that's moving forward. In addition, at least in part of the landscape in Western Oregon in the spring there will likely be another EQIP signup for post-fire restoration. In addition, there is always the potential for State Funds and the Agency's legislative ask. Gordon continued that the State worked through the ETART process and then worked with an Assessment sub-group to pick through those ETART reports, BAER reports, ESR reports and other information available from the Labor Day fires and based on that put together an estimate of restoration needs. That estimate amounted up to about \$85 million. He recalled that almost half of it was focused on soil stabilization. There was also funding earmarked in there for roads, culverts, water quality related issues, and reforestation and seedlings. Abraham added that the estimates are just for the next 24-month period. Those costs are sitting with the House Wildfire Recovery Committee along with a bunch of other items such as infrastructure, housing, etc., so it's hard to prioritize what may come out of the Committee or where that is going to go. The Assessments were for All Lands, but the Agency has prioritized the non-federal lands for restoration and

recovery. Gordon noted that yet another piece is the outstanding request with State & Private Forestry, but he has not received any information on the status of that request. The broad request included funding for both the mitigation as well as post-fire restoration, funding for landowner assistance and reforestation as well as the seedling needs. And then the final piece of the puzzle is ODF's partnership with Sustainable NW. They are working on an application to the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) through NRCS. That the solicitation was just recently announced and closes in late May. So, Jenna Trentadue and Kaola with SNW are the leads there, and that is just in its early stages of coming together.

Gordon expressed his concerns around the capacity to implement all the assistance needed. With thoughts about how ODF along with their partners can build, hold together, scrape together the capacity to help implement a lot of these programs because a lot of them bring funding for financial assistance, but not a lot of funding for technical assistance. And that is clearly an important part especially with a lot of the impacted landowners in this landscape who are going to need a lot of help working through the process of getting trees replanted on their property. Some of that might be actually hiring some capacity at ODF or at OSU Extension. But working through a partner like Sustainable NW to directly hire some additional boots-on-the-ground or maybe pulling in some consulting forester capacity or others like local cooperators, watershed councils or SWCDs to help augment some of that capacity and deliver some of the programs to meet these needs. With the new model where they are going to fund individual landowner projects as we get them planned out and moved forward there is uncertainty on the technical assistance funds. Abraham added that the \$85 million request also includes a share of capacity needs for the different agencies implementing cost share programs and providing technical assistance. Woodward mentioned pulling in the Partnership for Forestry Education to lay out the pieces and help coordinate to help pull in the bigger group. Gordon was enthusiastic about pulling in the Partnership but wanted to have something more concrete before having a super deliberate conversation about how we could potentially fund different parts of this. To finish up Gordon turned the discussion quickly to the topic of seedlings. He noted that the issue has finally gotten some attention from the press. There are efforts underway for short term needs as well as working out long term strategies. He reported for the short term they just took delivery of the first batch of seedlings from Silva Seed, 29,000 western red and western hemlock and Glenn and Joe Goldsby in particular worked really hard to help those get distributed to landowners and some also going to the Santiam State Forest. That effort provided a hard look at the logistics of seedling distribution that needs to be planned for to distribute the approximately 420,000 seedlings that are still to come by the end of this year and into 2022. Long term strategy is being discussed with a larger group. They have garnered some interest and funding from the Forest Service and are looking to build some partnerships potentially with Arbor Day Foundation and American Forest Foundation regarding their experience tree planting on public grounds. They are exploring some unique opportunities to leverage resources to help folks on private lands as well. Again, there has been a lot of media interest recently sparked by the press release sent out. Keith Andersen with DEQ is part of the SR7 team has been looking to collaborate with Business Oregon around potential incentives or other opportunities to increase nursery capacity. And Greg Stone from the Oregon Association of Nurseries is on the committee as well. Gordon has been speaking with Diane Haase (USFS) as a resource as she has experience in what it takes to start and run a tree seedling nursery. But another market with potential is for seedlings of riparian species for restoration efforts.

11. Committee Vacancies

John Peel, Eastern Oregon rep. and Evan Barnes, Southern Oregon rep. have terms on the Committee ending June 30th, 2021. There was also a vacancy for a Landowner-At-Large rep that has gone unfilled throughout the year.

Peel reported that he had been trying to find a replacement for his seat as Eastern Oregon landowner. He had a conversation with a fellow landowner who expressed interest in serving and lives in Portland part of the time and but owns a tract of forestland in Eastern Oregon. He expressed interest in serving as Eastern Oregon forest owner rep, but he's tied up with the post-fire efforts through this year as he lost timberland in the Mackenzie River area over Labor Day and would only be available starting in 2022. Barnes, being the Southern Oregon landowner representative whose term on the Committee was ending, had been putting out a solicitation in the Woodlander quarterly paper several times now but hadn't gotten any calls. Felty offered to help the search and asked for more information to provide those who might be interested through OSWA. Barnes directed him to the CFF page on the ODF website for a general description of the committee and member positions.

12. Partnership Updates/Adjourn

Woodward reported that OFRI had initiated a study of economic impacts from the 2020 Labor Day fires on Oregon's forest sector. The study is being conducted by Mason, Brewster, Girard in conjunction with forest economic advisors. Brandon Kaetzel is the study advisor from ODF. She wanted to let the Committee know as some may get calls or be asked for information. They are hoping the study results will be out in late summer. Woodward also noted that OFRI has just updated the "Establishing and Managing Forest Trees in Western Oregon" publication. As well as another publication that came out this week is on "Managing Logging Slash in Northwest Oregon" and there will be a Tree School online on May 4th. Mike Cafferata, Rodney Jacobs was a big part of getting that pushed out and wanted to do some educational work around that especially in northwest Oregon. Both publications are on the <https://knowyourforest.org/> website and available to order or download. And then there's going to be an accompanying video, kind of a how-to video that Mike Cafferata and others at ODF are helping put together on a how-to for slash piling and burning. Go to <https://oregonforests.org/> and under Publications.

Felty announced that OSWA has an ongoing Forestry Taxation Series and in light of all the legislative tax issues he thought it would be of benefit for members and landowners to understand how the tax programs work for harvesting and owning timber. The series is most Tuesdays from now until May. It's sort of every other, with the exception of the next two, so the next one, it started on the 9th of this month and the next one is next Tuesday the 23rd. If anyone is interested in that or knows anyone interested just direct them to the front page of <https://www.oswa.org/blog/> besides that a lot of our chapters have ongoing virtual webinars with support from OSU Extension and OFRI for that.

Ahrens offered that Extension has most of their business online now except for landowner visits and seedling projects you know more on the ground. They just kicked off the Fire Aware – Fire Prepared Webinar Series and want to convene local meetings, if possible, in Estacada, Molalla, Sandy, Oregon City just the local folks in fire protection as well as the agencies like ODF or NRCS to get people connected with resources that help them from the home and outwards with fuel management and fire preparedness. Ahrens added that the series will focus on the home ignition zone and what landowners can do and hopefully get people inspired enough to take the actions they can without waiting for a lot more government assistance. Because growing awareness also grows responsibility for taking care of yourself and your property. One goal is to set up landowners for those landscape level projects. But in the meantime, landowners can make some real changes in fire behavior when it enters the community. And it will come down to which communities are organized and ready to put their proposal on the table for funding. These programs also solicit a lot of questions and they need to have answers ready once we get people engaged. Local representatives are there to help with FireWise applications and individual assessments. Barnes shared his experience as a FireWise Coordinator in his neighborhood in trying to get people involved. Ahrens acknowledged the challenges but emphasized that the properties that aren't prepared will only be part of the fire/fuel continuum when it comes down to those areas.

As there were no more updates offered, Barnes called the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14th.