



Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting Summary for October 19, 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 October 19, 2021, as a virtual online meeting. Meeting recordings will constitute the official record.

CFF Committee members participating:

Nick Hennemann, Interim Private Forests Deputy Chief
Wendy Gerlach, Citizen-At-Large (Voting)
S. Mark Vroman, Industry rep (Voting) Hampton Family Forests
Maurizio Valerio, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Kaola Swanson, Conservation Rep. (Voting)
Gary Jensen, Southern Oregon Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Kate McMichael, Landowner-At-Large Rep. (Voting)
Barrett Brown, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio
Amanda Astor, Forest Policy Manager AOL Ex-Officio
Rick Zenn, OSWA Executive Administrator Ex-Officio

ODF Staff attending:

Scott Swearingen, Field Support Manager
Alex Rahmlow, Partnership & Planning/SFGP Lead
Adam Coble, Forest Health/Monitoring Manager
Nate Agalzoff, Incentives Coordinator
Amy Singh, Forest Legacy Coordinator
Astrea Strawn, Forest Seedling Coordinator
Adam Meyer, Acting Legislative Liaison
Megan Ehnle, Executive Support
Tim Holschbach, Deputy Chief Policy & Prevention Mgr Protection Division
Mike Kroon, JE Schroeder Orchard Manager/Landowner Assistance Unit Manager
Susan Muniz, Administrative Specialist

Members not in attendance:

Janelle Geddes, USFS State & Private Forestry Ex-Officio
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio

Guests/Public:

Chair updates. Chair Gerlach opened the meeting and did a roll call for attendance to ensure a quorum. The committee approved the September meeting minutes. Motion by Chair Gerlach, Barrett seconded.

Division update. Nick Hennemann, interim deputy division chief, provided updates on the state forester hiring process, new staff and roles within the division, re-opening date of January 1, vaccine mandate, Board of Forestry work planning, and the SB 1602 forest accord. Committee members discussed asking a question of the state forester candidates and when to get involved and at what level.

Charter review. Adam Meyer, Acting Legislative Liaison, explained how the committee work fits into the context of policy development and legislation. The committee reviewed the charter and asked questions about advising the state forester. The committee asked that the Board of Forestry Chair and State Forester be invited to one of the next meetings.

Work plan. The committee reviewed Wendy's memo containing possible workplan priorities the committee offered in the September 2021 meeting. The committee wants to know what's the mechanism, and timing for advising the Board. The committee would link to link its workplan to items of proposed Board action. Staff will develop a calendar to help facilitate this discussion in the next couple of months, as the Board finalizes its work plan. Staff will provide what the Board has for work planning to the committee before the next meeting to help inform the committee's work. The committee noted that in addition to highlighting policy priority areas, committee members can facilitate input by bringing

specific project, implementation, and other “asks” to the committee for integration into the work plan, and invited committee members to bring such asks forward.

The committee would like to help the Board and State Forester by providing: whitepapers about relevant issues to family forestland owners, timely policy recommendations, information about issues for family forestland owners that are not on the Board’s work plan. Committee members noted the potential for committee comment on ODF materials relating to family forestlands prior to these materials going to the Board.

The committee wants to know what other options they have to support and influence policy decisions along with its responsibility to advise the board and state forester. The committee wants to look at short-term and long-term planning and influence.

SB 762 update by Protection Division Acting Deputy Chief for Policy Tim Holschbach who spoke about the current rules advisory committees. There were two committees. The first had 100 days to develop a WUI definition. That committee’s work is done. The second is a Wildfire Risk Mapping Rule Advisory committee whose work is ongoing.

Partnership and Planning. Alex Rahmlow discussed the Small Forestland Grant Program established by SB 762, as passed in 2021. He reviewed Section 24 of Senate Bill 762. There’s \$5 million to be given in grants - \$1 million for defensible space, and \$4 million for small forestland grants to reduce wildfire risk. There were questions about the need for and requirement for project sponsors. There were comments about restricting the acres for management plans, the value of a management plan for smaller acreages, limiting the number of management plans required for each landownership, and ensuring equity and inclusion of people who have least access and need the most assistance with forest management. Specifically, it was noted that the project sponsorship required for the grant program as preliminarily described could lead to the exclusion of the people with deepest financial need for project assistance.

Landowner Assistance. Nate Agalzoff, Incentives Coordinator, discussed how the agency is working to better deliver landowner assistance to more landowners through broader outreach. The partnership with American Forest Foundation was extended to June 2022 to bring more projects under that contract. The basic Uniform Forest Management plan for managing a small piece of forestland and receiving assistance has become the standard. Nate noted that the NRCS Healthy Forests Implementation Plan has received funding for easement programs and a 10-year reforestation program. He also reported that the NRCS stewardship program is moving toward landscape scale implementation. Finally, Astrea Strawn of ODF has been engaged recently as a reforestation specialist for private forests. This new position is directed toward using funds available under SB 762 and getting seedlings into the field for planting.

Post-fire recovery. Keith Baldwin, forest practices field coordinator, discussed post-fire recovery. Keith addressed 2020 west side fires and touched on the 2021 east side fires. He discussed four prescriptions for stream harvesting and site-specific prescriptions based on site needs and forester inputs. There haven’t been issues with landslides or roads. The eastside had over 1,000 landowners impacted by fires in 2021 and will likely ask for assistance from the department to help with reforestation and recovery. Guidance already exists for eastside reforestation requirements after wildfires. Keith explained current primarily rearview, after-harvest reforestation rules, versus forward-view reforestation rules that would take into account fire risk, drought, and changes to the land because of that drought. Issues include

labor shortage, cooler space needed for seedlings at the nursery stage, conflicting priorities – grass seed, seedlings and grass seed for grazing, or just plant seedlings and plant grass seed later. He noted that certain areas are effectively unable currently to grow trees, and that it would make sense to avoid replanting in low probability areas.

Chair Gerlach adjourned the meeting.