

Agenda Item No.:	F
Work Plan:	Agency Administration Work Plan
Topic:	Appointments to Emergency Fire Cost Committee
Presentation Title:	Appointment of John Davis and Eric Kranzush
Date Presented to Board:	March 4, 2024
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SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to recommend the appointment of two candidates to a position on the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC).

BACKGROUND

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 477.440 directs that the Board *shall appoint an Emergency Fire Cost Committee consisting of four members, who shall be forest landowners or representatives of forest landowners whose forestland is being assessed for forest fire protection within a forest protection district. At least one member shall be selected from each forest region of the state. Members of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee shall be appointed by the board for four-year terms.* In addition to the statute, the EFCC approved membership policy (Attachment 1) states: *It is the policy of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC) to follow the statutory requirements related to committee membership and to ensure an inclusive nomination and vetting process that results in the most qualified people serving on the committee.*

ORS 477.445 gives authority to the EFCC (Attachment 2) to *supervise and control the distribution of funds from the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund.* The Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund (OFLPF), established by ORS 477.750, is used to equalize (reimburse) emergency fire suppression costs expended in protecting forestland statewide by forest protection districts, both state and association. The annual expenditure limit of the OFLPF is \$13.5 million which includes up to \$10 million for emergency fire suppression costs, up to \$3 million for statewide severity resources, with the remaining available for administration/operating costs and up to a fifty-percent contribution towards any annual premium for catastrophic suppression cost insurance policy. If there is any unspent authority the EFCC may consider strategic investments in the state's complete and coordinated fire protection system.

Due to Chris Johnson's retirement and Eric Lease opting to not pursue a reappointment, the EFCC has two vacancies. Chair Garrelts, with support from the administrator, implemented the EFCC membership policy throughout the recent solicitation process. Communication and coordination occurred between the Chair and ODF executives regarding the final candidates and this recommendation. John Davis represents a large landowner in the eastern region, and he is a member of the Klamath Forest Protection Association. John Davis's brief biography is in attachment 3. Eric Kranzush represents an at-large position, given that the required Northwest and Southwest Oregon seats are currently filled, and he has membership on Coos, Douglas and Western Lane Forest Protective Associations. Eric Kranzush's brief biography is in attachment

4. Both John and Eric are skilled leaders with extensive experience in firefighting, budgeting, and finances, as well as a deep understanding of ODF's complete and coordinated system.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board make the following appointment:

Appoint John Davis and Eric Kranzush to the Emergency Fire Cost Committee with terms expiring at the end of March 2029.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Emergency Fire Cost Committee Membership Policy
2. Emergency Fire Cost Committee Membership
3. Biography John Davis
4. Biography Eric Kranzush

Emergency Fire Cost Committee Membership Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC) to follow the statutory requirements related to committee membership and to ensure an inclusive nomination and vetting process that results in the most qualified people serving on the committee.

AUTHORITY

ORS 477.440 Emergency Fire Cost Committee; members; terms; vacancies

DEFINITIONS

Board means the Oregon Board of Forestry.

Committee means the Emergency Fire Cost Committee

Forest Regions mean forest practice regions that include eastern, northwest and southwest Oregon.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board shall appoint an Emergency Fire Cost Committee.

The Committee shall elect one of its members as the chairperson.

Committee Chairperson:

- Leads the recruitment with assistance from the EFCC administrator.
- Coordinates with the Oregon Department of Forestry executive leadership to make a recommendation to the Board.

Committee Administrator prepares Board staff report for committee appointments.

STANDARDS

Board: appoints four committee members for four-year terms.

Committee chairperson

Statutory requirements

- Chairperson shall hold office for a period determined by the committee.
- Whenever the office of chairperson of the committee becomes vacant, the committee at its next regular or special meeting shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy.

Committee membership

Statutory requirements

- Members shall be forest landowners or representatives of forest landowners whose forestland is being assessed for forest fire protection within a forest protection district.
- At least one member shall be selected from each forest region of the state.
- Members shall serve at the pleasure of the board.

Minimum experience

- Experience/participation on a forest protective association.
- Knowledge of wildfire policy and operations.
- Knowledge of forest management (on a large or small scale).
- Demonstratable insight into Oregon's complete and coordinated fire protection system.

Representation

- One member must represent a large, publicly owned private forestland landowner.
- One member must be an Oregon resident – small woodland landowner.
- Other members may include large or small forest landowner or rural resident.

Membership preferences that may be applied

- Experience serving on a forest protection association board and/or budget committee.
- Forest landowner or representatives of an Oregon-based forest landowner company.

Membership recruitment and application

- Notification of recruitments will include outreach to: Oregon's Forest Protective Associations (FPAs), Oregon Department of Forestry District Foresters and FPA District Managers, Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC), Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA), Oregon Forest Protective Association (OFPA), Oregon Tree Farm System, Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) and other trade associations as determined.
- EFCC Chair shall send formal solicitation letter to chairs, presidents, etc. of the entities listed above.
- Applicants shall submit a resume demonstrating they meet statutory requirements, minimum experiences, and representation requirements.

EXCEPTIONS, EXEMPTIONS, and CONDITIONS

- When filling a member vacancy, if there are no qualifying candidates that meet the representation requirements related to either a large, private forestland landowner and/or a small woodland landowner, the membership may not meet the requirement for one-term.

EMERGENCY FIRE COST COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
March 2025

	First Term Began	Current Term Began	Term Expires end of month
Brennan Garrelts, Chair	1/20	1/24	1/28
Kathryn VanNatta	9/23	9/23	9/27
John Davis	3/25	3/25	3/29
Eric Kranzush	3/25	3/25	3/29

The positions recommended for appointment are in **bold**. The appointment term would end September of 2029.

Current members

Brennan Garrelts, Chair

Southwest Region

Coos, Douglas, and Southwest Oregon Forest Protective Associations

Vice President, Lone Rock Timber Co.

Kathryn VanNatta

Northwest Region

Northwest Oregon Forest Protective Association

Small forest landowner, representing all Oregon small woodland landowners.

John Davis

Eastern Region

Klamath-Lake Forest Protective Association

Vice President and General Manager, Mountain West Timberlands, Green Diamond Resource Company

Eric Kranzush

Western Oregon

Coos, DFPA and Western Lane Forest Protective Associations

Oregon Forestry Manager, Roseburg Resources – Western Regional Office

John Davis Biography

John Davis holds a B.S. in Forestry from Humboldt State University and is a seasoned forestry and timberlands operations professional with over 31 years of experience managing large-scale forest assets across Oregon, Montana, and California. As Vice President and General Manager of Mountain West Timberlands at Green Diamond Resource Company, he oversees 925,000 acres, including 635,000 acres of Eastside forest, ensuring sustainable harvesting, fire mitigation, and financial stewardship. Throughout his career, he has held various leadership roles, directing operations with multimillion-dollar budgets, coordinating fire prevention and suppression efforts, and fostering collaboration between industry stakeholders, regulators, and local communities. In the role in Oregon, he has worked within the complete and coordinated system on a number of large fires and Green Diamond is an active partner in the district level Fire Protective Associations. His expertise spans strategic planning, budgeting, financial analysis, contract negotiations, and resource management, all while prioritizing safety and environmental responsibility.

With a deep commitment to forestland protection, John has been actively involved in emergency response planning, including wildfire suppression, risk mitigation, policy through participation in two recent workgroups focused on solving for State fire funding, and the national level through National Alliance of Forest Owners effort to develop MOU's with the USFS on both fire suppression and fuel breaks. His experience with long-term harvest forecasting, fire cost management, and investment in fire prevention aligns with the mission of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC). As a dedicated representative of an Oregon forestland owner, he is passionate about ensuring equitable fire suppression funding and advancing strategic investments in fire detection and response.

Eric Kranzush Biography

My name is Eric Kranzush. I currently serve as the Oregon Forestry Manager at Roseburg Resources, where I oversee the reforestation, stand management, and wildfire protection of nearly 400,000 acres of timberlands in Western Oregon. Roseburg Resources actively participates in fire protection within the Coos, Douglas, and Western Lane Forest Protective Associations.

For the past 23-years, I worked at Giustina Land & Timber Co, where I held various leadership roles within the Linn Forest Protective Association (LFPA), including multiple terms as President and Vice-President. I chaired the Plans & Studies Committee, overseeing the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of LFPA's motorpool and facilities projects. I also developed a robust understanding of local district fire protection budgets and advocated for operational efficiencies in Initial Attack systems.

I have represented LFPA on the Oregon Forest Industries Council Protection Committee and the Oregon Forest Protective Association. Currently, I serve on the ODF Headquarters Services Committee and the State Forester's "Fire 35" Committee, seeking durable and equitable funding for ODF's Protection Program.

My advocacy and field experience include testifying on wildfire issues at the State Capitol, serving as a Landowner Representative and Resource Boss on numerous large wildfires, and extensive experience as a Burn Boss in prescribed fire operations.

I hold a bachelor's degree in Forest Management from Oregon State University and an MBA from the University of Oregon.

I am deeply committed to effective fire management and financial stewardship. My extensive experience in forest protection, budget management, and strategic planning aligns well with the responsibilities of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC). I am eager to contribute to the sustainability and resilience of Oregon's forestlands through my role on the EFCC.