

Lane County Forestland Classification Committee Meeting

April 11, 2016 – 9 AM – 12:00PM

Minutes

In Attendance

Committee Members:

Sue Bowers (Chair) – At large Representative

Steve Cafferata – Eastern Lane Landowner Representative

Lauren Grand (Secretary) – OSU Extension Agent – Lane County

Terry Ney – Chief, Lane Fire Authority, State Fire Marshal Representative

Lindsay Reaves – Western Lane Landowner Representative

Tom Soward – Oregon Department of Forestry Representative

ODF Staff:

AJ Hudgik

Link Smith

Greg Wagenblast

Other Interested Parties:

Chris Cline

Al Gerard

Opening Welcome & Introductions

Review specifics of Statutes & Rules: Link Smith gave a presentation to the committee members on the specific rules & statutes that will govern this classification process.

This group will focus their efforts on lands that are within the Oregon Department of Forestry fire protection district boundary. They will be charged to determine if the current lands are classified correctly, if there are any lands that need to be classified or if there are any lands that should no longer be assessed. One large discussion point that the committee will need to wade through is the classification of suburban areas. Where does the forestland stop and begin? Another discussion point is are the boundaries still appropriate after years of landscape change?

Once the committee makes its preliminary recommendations, there will be multiple public meetings to capture any community input. There will also be a public hearing held for community members who may have input in support or concerns about how their land is

classified. The final recommendation will go to the State Forester. Any appeals to the classification will go to circuit court without a jury.

The definition of forestland under the statute was explained and made clear to the committee.

Meetings will be noticed to the public in the local media outlets.

Introduction of By-laws and Procedures

A copy of the by-laws was distributed and asked to be reviewed for the next meeting.

AJ Hudgik, ODF GIS support for the committee, gave a presentation of the GIS maps and tools accessible to the committee to assist in classifying lands.

Large maps of each township will be printed before each meeting and the committee will classify forestlands a township at a time. These maps will also be available on Google earth and ArcMap for more in depth review where necessary. The committee will review the townships ¼ ¼ sections at a time (40 acre blocks). If 50% or more of the land is considered forestland then the entire ¼ ¼ section is classified.

Oregon Department of Forestry will provide the resources necessary to facilitate the land classification process. They will also update their website with relevant information regarding the committee and its work on their website at www.oregon.gov/odf.

Forestland classification assignments will be shared with Lane County to be added as a layer on their zone and plan map view. This will help make information more accessible to the public.

The committee is prompted to think about these procedures and discuss finalizing them for the next meeting.

Election of Officers:

Steve Cafferata nominates Sue Bowers as Chair of the committee. Sue Bowers accepts the nomination, and Lindsay Reeves seconds.

Steve Cafferata nominates Lauren Grand as secretary of the committee. Lauren Grand accepts nomination, and Terry Ney seconds.

Next Meeting Planning

The committee agrees to meet monthly at the Western Lane Oregon Department of Forestry Office in Veneta.

Sue Bowers will send out a doodle poll to determine availability of the committee members.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 PM