



Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting Summary for June 9, 2022



Under 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 June 9, 2022, as a virtual online meeting.

Meeting recordings constitute the official record.

CFF Committee members participating:

Wendy Gerlach, Citizen-At-Large (Voting)
Gary Jensen, Southern Oregon Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Kate McMichael, Landowner-At-Large Rep. (Voting)
Rick Zenn, Oregon Small Woodlands Association Executive Administrator
Ex-Officio
Amanda Astor, Forest Policy Manager AOL Ex-Officio
Barrett Brown, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Kaola Swanson, Conservation Rep. (Voting)
Maurizio Valerio, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)
S. Mark Vroman, Industry rep (Voting) Hampton Family Forests

ODF Staff attending:

Kristin Whitney, Administrative Specialist
Mike Kroon, Interim Deputy Chief – All Lands
Alex Rahmlow, Interim Small Family Grants Program
Astrea Strawn, Seedling Coordinator
Tim Hoffman, Public Affairs
Trask Hodgson, Community Wildfire Forester
Danny Norlander, Forest Climate Carbon, and Health Analyst
John Tokarczyk, Resources Planning Manager
Nathan Agalzoff, Interim Family Forestland Coordinator

Members not in attendance:

Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio

Guests/Public:

Sarah Cameron, OSU College of Forestry
Chris Farrar, Clatsop County

Chair Comments. Chair Gerlach called the meeting to order, and a quorum was established. Wendy asked for changes to the agenda and public comment before moving on to the chair updates. Wendy continued with the membership of the Committee, at this time two terms are ending, Kaola Swanson and Barrett Brown. Kaola Swanson is interested in continuing membership within the Committee. Barrett Brown will be unable to reappoint his membership to the Committee due to other commitments. Wendy gave them each time to speak. Wendy spoke on the vacant place for a NW landowner representative for a successor along with her thoughts. Wendy then asked for suggestions on possible appointments. The Committee asked Kaola to leave the meeting so they could vote on her reappointment. The Committee made an official quorum to accept Kaola’s reappointment to the Committee. This will be presented to the Board of Forestry for them to approve or deny.

Division update. Mike Kroon began with a progress report on where the division is with the Private Forests Accord. Mike discussed timelines and mentioned the other agencies/authors who are involved with the rules writing. Mike advised that SB762 has an agenda item update. Mike mentioned the funding for SB762 is fully allocated to projects, with a review of the projects on the landscape in progress. There was an ask from the Federal Forest Restoration Program to see if the committee would be interested in learning more about the ongoing work. Federal forestland, at times, does share property lines with smaller forest/private forest lands. Mike then moved on to hiring updates for the Private Forests Accord positions and their status including the Division Chief position. Mike provided the re-organization update within the division. Mike provided an update on this fire season with updates about fire team participation within the division. Amanda inquired about the organization structure for all positions for the Private Forests Accord, including the small forest landowners. Mike gave a quick update on the two branches of the organization structure. Wendy requested additional details on the second position Mike was describing. Mike advised on an organization chart that could assist in clarifying this. Kaola asked if all programs that touch small landowners will be rolled into this office or if it will just be Private Forests Accord related. Mike answered that yes, all programs will be included. Amanda offered the most recent organization chart

as of April 2022 to make sure it's accurate. Mike clarified the changes that aren't reflected on the organization chart shown.

Forestry Program for Oregon Update. Danny Norlander, Forest Climate Carbon, and Health Analyst introduced himself and his division to the committee. Danny then started his report with a brief history of the Forestry Program for Oregon. Danny mentioned there was a Department of Land Conservation and Development meeting the day before that would have more information on a legal structure for land ownership; would have more input or sway on that landownership question than the Forestry Program for Oregon would. Wendy asked for a refresher on the Forest Action plan. Danny explained it came from the 2008 Farm Bill in which each state must develop a forest action plan. Danny provided additional details/timelines and where to find more information on this. Mauricio asked when the Forest Action Plan has a conflict with a local state plan and if there is a process for that. Danny explained it is a prioritization tool and what data is included for applying for projects on the ground in areas. Danny moved on to the revision process moving forward and explains it has been a "soft rollout" over several weeks. Danny spoke on the approval process regarding the Board of Forestry and who is involved, including a third-party observer. Wendy inquired about a high-level overview of how the climate plan and work plan will mesh in the future. John Tokarczyk provided a basic overview of this. Danny also touched base on this and added a little more clarification. Kate asks about who the stakeholder groups are and how information is being gathered. Danny advised of a staff report with the layout of the board framework. John spoke on the facilitated process with the Oregon consensus and what will come from that. Danny reads off the list of groups. Amanda inquired about the Department of Land Conservation Development presentation to the Board of Forestry and if there will be a future collaboration between the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Department of Land Conservation Development. Danny advised that there is regular collaboration, and the hope is to utilize the reports the Department of Land Conservation Development spoke on. Danny gave a brief overview of what the reports go over. Amanda asked a last question about the "soft rollout" if there will be additional connection points with the board with the workforce and the ability to get work done on small woodlands. Danny advised he wanted 5 days to speak on that but was unable to and then elaborated on moving forward with the intention and plan. John provides additional details on this. Wendy mentioned that this item would be something to hold until the report to the board later in the agenda and the presentation to speak more on that as well.

Small Forestland Grant Program Update. Alex Rahmlow started his update by providing background information on the Small Forestland Grant Program. Alex provided previous timelines and stated where the agreements currently are among the two types of funding assistance to the small family forestlands. Alex shared a map of the State of Oregon showing each of the grants accepted sites with individual information and stats. Alex explains it is either individuals or communities receiving grants and how the projects are looked at on the map. Alex mentions that the map being shared is available on the [Oregon Department of Forestry Grant Incentives](#) site and spoke on the individual awarded grants for projects and the other information on the map about the awarded project and Oregon Department of Forestry operational area stats. Next Alex spoke on the 2020 communities at-risk report, close to 75% of the communities across the state are low or moderate risk and how they split funding among the higher risk communities and what is showing on the map around the polygons, and the difference between the small forestland owner 160-acre limit listed in SB762 and the industrial landowner. Alex followed up on the next steps getting a process for defining, measuring, and recording treatment activities and locations following up on what Mike mentioned briefly in the division update. Amanda asked a question about when proposals were submitted if a file was to be attached that the sponsors helped with and if there is a tracking of organizations' sponsorships. Alex gave in-depth details on how this works and who assists. Amanda inquired if a lot of work is being completed at the field level by those considered landowner assistance foresters or other positions jointly or primarily funded federally, or if it depends on the unit. Alex agreed with the mix and spoke more on the Southwest Oregon grant request with additional project coordination details. Maurizio Valerio provided a report/testimony from the ground in Northeast Oregon on the Firewise Grant Program which a community was granted funding. Maurizio stated on May 7th there was an event for this project and more than 40 people showed up for it and described that process from his experience with the Oregon

Department of Forestry being the biggest sponsor for the Firewise program. Alex spoke that there typically is “slippage” and described with an example of what that means and how adjustments work depending on the project to have a consistent data collection across the agency once coming to the close of a biennium. Wendy asks a question about future endeavors with this program. Alex advises the plan is to continue in the future. Mike adds he can verify this information later. Amanda adds the information she has on the topic of funding and continuation. Alex adds additional details and hopes to return in the future to discuss future changes and possibilities with the committee. Alex asks for feedback on the report.

Small Forest Owner Update. Nate Agalzoff introduced himself and provided an update that he along with the other sections within the Private Forests Accord have been chipping away at the rule-making process over the last couple of months. Nate advises the Small Forest Owner section is being worked on in two parts and describes each piece, strategy/approach, and additional agencies involved. The first draft was developed for the Small Forest Owner office and the Forest Conservation Tax Credit and sent to the Private Forests Accord authors for review. Nate advised that last week a meeting work session was held and received generally positive feedback. The Oregon Small Woodlands Association is said to work on proposed language edits. Nate mentioned there will be a follow-up meeting in the following week with a meeting every two weeks until finalized. Wendy mentioned with her work with non-profits the tax credit is not useful in the case of being a non-profit and is also curious about private landowners with lower current income and if there would be a carry-over from years past. Nate answered with his understanding of the tax credit and how things are calculated and asked Mike to add in information as needed if he was understanding the question correctly. Kaola added some details for non-profits in the hope to clarify the initial framing of the question from Wendy. Wendy offered to follow up on this after the meeting.

House Bill 5006 Update. Astrea Strawn introduces herself and starts speaking on what her work with House Bill 5006 entails. Astrea continues with what she is currently working on that she could use the Committee’s help with. Astrea provides the background on House Bill 5006 and how its worded to the Oregon Department of Forestry and the perceived need to get everything coordinated for the landowners to maximize the output of seedlings for reforestation post-fire season 2020. Astrea provided a breakdown of what the funding is going to, personnel, contracts, and more before describing the work that had already been started this spring working with nurseries around the state. Astrea inquired about various questions for scoping and provided a proposed timeline. There will be a seedling review workgroup to help advise the response to the 2020 fires with the small forest landowner's advice as the agency started the process. Astrea would invite a member from the Committee for Family Forestlands to that review process. Astrea then asked the committee to review the draft solicitation to be returned to her within the next couple of weeks. Mark inquired about the seedling aggregation service, and if she would speak on it. Astrea provided the background work that Ryan Gordon and Glenn had done before she started the project. Mark inquired further about the funding for the service. Astrea briefly elaborated on where those funds came from and where it goes. Mark inquired about the number of seedlings produced. Astrea gave brief details on the orders and advised she would send out additional information. Amanda asked about who all the partners reached out to and if the Oregon Association of Nurseries was one; she also asked about details on the collaboration between the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Association of Nurseries. Astrea had limited info and gave brief details on what nurseries were picked and how they were picked. Amanda inquired if there are any numbers/understanding of how many of the seedlings were ordered vs how many were planted due to workforce shortages/issues. Astrea advised she does not have any numbers at this time, but we could do them in the future with a possible survey; she then elaborated on the shortages and how they can impact if all seedlings get planted or not. Kaola added in on the workforce topic about possibly partnering with Bonneville Environmental Foundation for additional assistance. Barrett inquired about what is available for the Forestry Incentive Programs account and if it has been available in the past to backstop aggregate orders in a transactional way for small landowners. Astrea has no additional information on this. Mike advised that Ryan put this together and gave a brief history of the Forestry Incentive Programs and how it has been used/statutes involved. Astrea asked if the Committee for Family Forestlands will review the solicitation draft

over the next week or so before she takes it to the Seedling Workgroup. Wendy advises they will review. Astrea inquires if the committee would like her to return later with an update, and the committee agrees.

Report to the Board. Wendy opens the floor and proposes to review the draft sent out. Wendy asks for big-picture comments or changes. The committee proceeds with a walkthrough of the draft. Wendy advises to please speak up if any questions/concerns arise during the review. Committee discusses edits/corrections to be made. Barrett suggests Mauricio possibly uses the skills development/career information within the draft in person or uses it in the future for the youth. Maurizio agrees and adds additional comments on workforce development. Kaola and Amanda discuss how it could assist with the Association of Oregon Loggers as well. The committee continues to discuss edits/corrections. Wendy requests that Mike circulate the draft to get it solidified. Mike comments on the due date. Maurizio requests the date and time of the Board of Forestry meeting. Mike advises he will get details once they are finalized. Wendy advises how the Board of Forestry meeting is typically run. Wendy requests items for the presentations and provides her ideas. Kaola agrees with Wendy's suggestions. Wendy advises the timeframe they have available. Maurizio requests time to discuss education and engagement. Wendy advises the committee they can refine details during the meeting on July 7th. Asks Sarah Cameron for any input. Sarah Cameron adds additional details. Amanda mentions voting members may be required to present. Committee will review the tentative timeline and discuss it at the next meeting. Committee discussion on if the Board of Forestry meeting will be attended in person or virtually. Wendy discusses to-dos.

Review of special Board of Forestry meetings. Amanda asks about getting the Board of Forestry topics/agenda ahead of time and if this has been followed up on or if it is still pending. Wendy advises this appears to still be pending currently and then leads into a review of special Board of Forestry meetings. Mike adds additional details regarding when agenda items are asked for as a basic guide. Wendy advises on additions to presentations with the Board of Forestry. Wendy asks for final comments. Amanda adds a comment on the Board of Forestry work plans and adds suggestions. Wendy adjourns the meeting.