

**OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS ASS'N.
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AND UPDATE MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2005
SALEM, OREGON**

Attendees: Mike Barnes, Nancy Hathaway, John Foster, Paul Nys, Roy Hendrick, John Poppino, Mike Gaudern, Arlene Whalen

EXECUTIVE MEETING

2006 Annual Meeting Update

Plans are being finalized for the Annual Meeting. The model being followed is that the state office is assisting Yamhill County by getting speakers, sponsors, processing the registration, etc. and in return any profit will go to OSWA. In 2007 there will be a Family Forest Symposium and Board of Forestry Meeting in Corvallis. Benton County could then host the Annual Meeting: dinner, tours, hotel. For the most part, subject matter and speakers would be organized by the Symposium.

AFLAC

There is now a signed agreement with Aflac. Scott Neilson, Aflac State rep, is helping to pay for the next membership recruitment brochure. OSWA is applying to be licensed to sell insurance. In addition, Mike Gaudern is a licensed agent. The issue of conflict-of-interest has been legally explored and determined not to be a problem. Basically, if Mike G. takes a call regarding Aflac insurance and refers the caller to an agent in the caller's area, he has done enough to earn a percentage without spending any time at OSWA's expense. Mike Barnes has also had preliminary talks with Pacific Benefits Group in Beaverton, brokers for primary health care.

Budget and Staff/contractor Update

December billing has been sent out. Lyn Boniface will be putting the budget into QuickBooks. OSWA has hired Michele Plosser to work Mondays and Fridays to replace the office help from Wally Lien's office. Michele will be paid \$25/hour up to \$1600/month. Janet Lien is teaching Michele office procedures and as they progress they are drafting an office procedure book. On days that Michele isn't in the office, OSWA still has access to Janet Lien's office. Michele's duties will include: database management, filing, mail, responding to e-mail, processing applications and renewals, membership reports.

The actual monthly amount will be somewhat flexible. We may spend up to \$2500/month but hopefully we'll be able to lower this expense to \$1600/month except for a few peak

months.

Legislative Update

The Board of Forestry is still trying to decide on Rule Concept #8 of the Riparian Rules. As presently stated, Rule Concept #8 would double the basic basal area now required for small and medium fish streams.

The Board has made no decision--they could not arrive at consensus. This rule will probably be discussed at the March Board Meeting. OFIC is proposing an Active Management option which would allow flexibility. At issue is "coarse woody debris being delivered to the stream." Active Management would allow placing wood in the stream instead of having so many leave trees.

No one has defined what the desired future condition should be. DEQ thinks it's a water quality item rather than a fish issue. Each agency is looking at a desired future condition through their own lens. The law requires that any new law not have a significant negative economic impact. In this case, there has been a 714 analysis, but of dubious quality and insufficient as it pertains to small woodland owners.

Would this doubling of basal area in riparian areas be a "tipping point" for small woodland owners? As rules become more onerous and as younger, less experienced owners inherit family tree farms, they may decide it isn't worth the trouble. We may get to the desired future condition, but there may not be many tree farms. The Board of Forestry is operating in a political environment composed of some who believe that no management (meaning no harvest) is the best policy.

Columbia County Survey

Paul Nys reported on the recent survey (one year in the making) done by Columbia County. About 50% of mailed surveys were returned. Results are now being tabulated. The response on individual surveys has been overwhelmingly positive. After discussion, the Exec Board decided to bring a draft survey before the full Board of Directors at the Feb.3rd meeting.

Strategic Plan

Time for another 5 Year Plan. Would be very helpful to have the results of a survey first.

JOINT UPDATE AND EXEC MEETING

This is our major communication vehicle to membership and our Number One service. How can we better communicate with readers? Discussion about format: readers prefer

consistency, provide calendar of upcoming committee meetings, include members' names in articles, encourage "how to do it on the ground" articles from members, request articles from Extension Agents, feature members. Content should expand membership. OK to reprint from other publications if determined 60% of our members haven't read it. Other ideas put forth: Rotate chairmanship.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hathaway
December 11, 2005

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