

OSWA Executive Board Meeting,  
December 7, 2007  
Oregon Forest Research Institute, 317 SW 6th Ave. #400, Portland, OR

Attendees: Mike Barnes, Mark Copeland, Mike Gaudern, Nancy Hathaway, Mark Havel, Kristina McNitt, John Poppino, Dave Schmidt.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

OSWA is now dependent on non-dues revenue to implement our expanded outreach and educational efforts. Of our \$220,000 budget we received \$70,000 in non-dues revenue which comprises one-third of our budget. We have budgeted \$40,000 just for hosting Full Spectrum Forestry. If we could receive \$150,000 for 2 years this sum would include a data review for the contributors. OSWA is exploring other fund-raising efforts. The Meyer Trust has an interest in forestry and has put money into the Willamette River Restoration but requires a broad spectrum of goals. Friends of Paul Bunyan could give to a C3 for money to support Full Spectrum Forestry. Family Forests of Oregon (a C3) could accept funds.

OSWA needs to recruit new leadership to fill expiring positions.

Ginger being put onto a salary position as of Jan. 1. The position would be task oriented. She will be assisting Mike with her current duties and help with the The Update , which is now produced in-house.

The Full Spectrum Forestry website is being built by Mark Havel and is now linked to the OSWA website. The Windy Woodlander is an effort to reach out and offer help for the recent storm damage.

## **EDUCATION**

Howdy Neighbor! Full Spectrum Forestry: Mike Gaudern, Mike Barnes, and Mark Havel gave a presentation to the OFRI Board of Directors asking for continued financial support for OSWA's Howdy Neighbor program; specifically \$5,000 direct to OSWA and an additional \$5,000 in support services. This grant would help finance the mailings to the 34,000 landowners in Oregon who own 10 acres or more of timberland.

Howdy Neighbor events appear to be successfully attracting the landowners not typically engaged with forestry educational and support organizations. The events are organized in bottom-up fashion, with the audience able to ask any question of the "experts" on hand. OSWA sees this as a service to the state (meeting the needs of owners of transitional lands, new owners, and the upcoming generation who will someday inherit the forest, to keep forestland in forestland.

**Annual Meeting in Florence:** Friday will be a typical Tree School program. The banquet is being generously sponsored by Davidson Industries, a local family forestland ownership. Registration for the banquet will be limited to the first 220 due to room capacity.

**Patron program:** Rather than duplicate mailing based upon events OSWA has begun a one time patron program mailing. 190 companies and organizations have been sent a patron packet. There are four levels of patronage. The Patron letter will be sent out the week of Dec. 10 with prices similar to Clackamas Tree School.

**Insurance:** Regarding liability, OSWA has insurance for its board members. It could potentially be more cost effective if several woodland groups were under one umbrella. J.D. Fulwiler could insure if 30% of the woodland groups' board members were the same people. FFO has a Board structure that requires a majority of OSWA Board members, however despite requests, OSWA has failed to offer replacements to these positions. It would be very easy to have at least FFO and OSWA join forces on this issue. Mike Gaudern has contacted both the Oregon woodlands Coop and OTFS to see what their situation is and if we could cooperate further. Regarding fire insurance, Bliss is reviewing the entire insurance program, trying out different numbers to compose a "risk retention group."

## **DEVELOPMENT**

**OSWA and OTFS MOU:** We reviewed the MOU of cooperation put together by Rick Fletcher. Benefits to OTFS include OSWA's advocacy, educational and administrative assistance. A benefit to OSWA is that OTFS has good connections to the AFF funds from the Canadian Software Tariff Agreement.

OTFS Board of directors did not receive the joint OSWA/OTFS developed "Straw Dog" until the OTFS Board meeting in November. Some members of the Board were concerned that the projects listed in the straw dog did not line up with the OTFS strategic plan. OSWA has requested a copy of the plan.

If after review and further meetings the main concepts are not acceptable to OTFS, it is recommended that OSWA should apply directly to AFF as we already have a program on the ground providing services to Oregon landowners. Application should be made by January 1, 2008.

**ODF:** Marvin Brown, the State Forester, is trying to get ODF to work closely with OSWA as it is a landowner-based association.

**Carbon:** Mark Copeland reported on the carbon issue. The carbon story presents a problem in that it is far too complicated for consumers' one-sound-bite mentality. For instance: cutting a tree actually banks carbon long-term but the drawback is that this hasn't been explained well to the public. A three statewide effort with WA, OR, and CA is forming.

## **POLITICAL**

**OSU funding:** Kristina McNitt reported on OSU funding and concerns about funding the OSU Forest Lab. Researchers are more or less free to choose their own area of research. Should their choices be closely related to outcomes desired by forest owners? The Forest Lab funding is allocated from the General Fund and matched by the Harvest Tax. So small woodland owners have some stake in the financing. Could researchers compete for tax dollars, potentially coming up with more meaningful results? To achieve any useful change, OSWA would need to build a coalition with similar interest groups, including OSU to present to the legislature. Our proposal could be “a look at a new service delivery.”

**Poplar issue:** This issue will be coming up in the Legislature in February. A palatable alternative will be that the BOF waive regulations under certain circumstances.

**Inheritance tax:** Legislation may be forthcoming from DOR.

**Gas Pipeline:** In Washington and Columbia counties there are eminent domain issues. OSWA does not a position but some landowners may want to speak to legislators. Companies should be compelled to follow their own guidelines in this matter. The impacts on forestland are far greater than those on ag land.

**Fire Policy:** Will be assigned to the Governmental Affairs Committee.

**Forestland Classification and fire protection:** There will be a draft coming from committee with the final report going to Marvin Brown’s office. Two issues are: (1) how do lands get classified? and (2) should there be dual assessment on interface lands? The committee is trying to come up with a forest-fire plan for 5-10 acre plots. ODF fire plans are currently designed to protect trees, not structures or people. Fire protection costs will rise 25% across the board. East side owners don’t think it’s logical to have grazing lands pay for increased fire protection, as burning eradicates juniper. Oregon is the only state that doesn’t pay for fire protection out of the General Fund.

**School fund:** The school fund bill for support for rural schools in timber-dependent communities is tied to the energy bill with a four year proposal. There would be a 15% reduction each year with the intent of never being renewed.

Next Exec Committee Meeting will be held January 4, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Hathaway  
2nd V.P., Dec. 13, 2008

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