

Oregon Small Woodlands Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 16, 2007  
Salem, Oregon

Attendees: Mike Barnes, Mike Barsotti, Dick Beers, Brian Bliss, Dallas Boge, Linc Cannon, Mike Cloughesy, Ken Faulk, Rick Fletcher, Mike Gaudern, Rick Gibson, Scott Hansen, Nancy Hathaway, Donna Heffernan, Roy Hendrick, Jim Johnson, Kristina McNitt, Ken Nicholls, Paul Nys, Frank Pender, Jr., John Poppino, Joe Steere.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Moved, seconded and approved unanimously August 2007 board minutes.

Moved, seconded and approved unanimously September and October 2007 minutes as corrected.

**Fire and General Liability (GL) insurance:** Mike Gaudern, Brian Bliss of Bliss Insurance and also representing Safeco, and Rick Gibson of ODF, the ad-hoc insurance committee) reporting.

ODF has 12 Forest Protection Districts in the state. If you have a fire, and it is contained on your property, and one of these local resources is used then it is not subject to the \$300,000 charge. In addition, your fire assessments must be paid up (via prop. taxes), you must have no current citation, and if told you had a hazard, it must have been corrected. If outside resources are used, then you are subject to fees assessed according to ODF chart.

Negligent fires are still covered under GL. The Fulwiler fire insurance that OSWA has traditionally offered is underwritten by Safeco. If OSWA can generate 1700 participants then coverage would begin at \$250 for one to 500 acres, \$400 for 501 to 1499 acres, and above 1500 acres would be negotiable.

Brian Bliss pointed out that there are 2 aspects to fire insurance: (1) the legal liability beyond your property, and (2) the costs to extinguish the fire on your property. Liability insurance is geared toward non-negligent fires. In OSWA's case, he thinks that we can form our own insurance company. (There are no state requirements for a "risk retention group.") Why let the insurance company make money on us? We'd have to first start with a company, then later transition to our own self-insuring program.

The board continues to be interested in this topic and plans to continue to investigate education about fire insurance. Education of members is key, because we must get a high percentage on board to keep costs reasonable. Chapters are encouraged to hold meetings to discuss this, potentially inviting someone from the local ODF office to explain our liability. As a reminder, the Urban Wildland Fire Protection Bill, SB360, mandates a \$100,000 fine if you do not fire-safe your woodland house.

**Staffing:** Ginger Simmons has been trained as Mike Gaudern's assistant and will also be the Update editor.

**Budget:** At year-end, October 31, OSWA has a deficit of just under \$1,000. This year we raised \$70,000 in non-dues revenue which allowed us to put on 3 Howdy Neighbor events. Future Howdy Neighbors have 4 potential sponsors.

Mike Gaudern thanked all the individuals and chapters who contributed funds which made this year such a financial success. Stimson Lumber Company is donating \$25 towards each new OSWA membership in 5 northwest counties. Total Donation is \$2500 for 2007.

## **ADVOCACY**

**State issues:** Kristina McNitt updated us on the hybrid poplar issue. Greenwood Resources (formerly known as Potlatch) has asked for the legislature to extend the growing period for poplar from 12 years to 20 years. (They were advised to prepare for opposition for this in a Mater Engineering report dated 1998.) Initially the proponents asked for a Work Group but that effort failed. However, the groups have continued to work together to achieve a compromise. OWSA agreed to support legislation to waive certain standards for poplar growing and a new bill will be introduced as a new legislative piece in February. Hybrid poplar growers do pay the harvest tax.

The whole legislative session was about “green” energy, trying to determine Oregon’s green building codes. LEED has been extensively promoted--however it has a bias against timber and limits certification to just one program. (In California the governor vetoed the LEED bill because it didn’t include California timber.) Kristina has written a letter to Oregon Department of Energy (ODE) urging them to identify the outcomes and form working groups, so that all groups that meet the outcome criteria would be recognized as meeting the green building standards.

ODE has established the Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC--say “Betsy”) which gives a 50% tax credit for building a biomass plant.

**Board of Forestry nominees:** The Senate has made it clear that it does not want contention this year. Nominees must not receive “significant portions of income” from forestry. We could be looking for someone from outside the industry whom we could support.

**Phipps Nursery:** Still working to assure that all family forest landowners have access to quality seedlings for forest management. An ODF staff person is working on this. In the meantime, you can look for seedlings at fsn.com which has a link from OSWA’s website ([www.OSWA.org](http://www.OSWA.org))--fsn is Forest seedling network.

## **EDUCATION**

2008 Annual Meeting in Florence next April. Friday will follow the Tree School format with a banquet in the evening. Saturday will be devoted to tours. One tour may be to Don Davidson Forests--over 20,000 acres. Al Pearn, Dick Beers and Dan Rankin are on the committee. Ilene Waldorf will run the Silent Auction. OSWA board asked that there be a presentation on fire insurance.

**State Fair:** Our part in the State Fair presentation will be evaluated and discussed at a later date.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

The Oregon & Washington Tree Farm System will be hosting the ATF National Convention in Portland on October 16, 2008. This year over 400 people attended the convention in Madison, WI. However, they had over 600 sign up for tours.

The committee is hoping to raise \$15,000 from a silent auction.

**Opportunities for collaboration between OSWA and OTFS** are being studied by a committee of Rick Fletcher, Clint Bentz, Mike Barsotti, Mike Barnes, Mike Gaudern, and K.C. Van Natta. OTFS is the American Tree Farm System's (ATFS) local organization. ATFS is member of the American Forest Foundation (AFF). OSWA and OTFS have greatly overlapping missions and members. Rick Fletcher presented the conceptual draft which gave examples of how landowners can be better served by the two organizations and the two organizations can take advantage of each other's strengths. One example of being mutually supportive is the strong grass roots representation OSWA enjoys at the Oregon legislature and lobbyist representation in D.C. provided by AFF.

AFF now has an endowment of \$150 million received from the Canadian Softwood Tariff Agreement.. AFF is redesigned the organization into a new model with 3 centers of focus: (1) Environmental Learning (2) Conservation--new policy development and (3) Family Forests. The annual interest from the new endowment is being used to assist in the operations of these 3 centers. ATFS is the primary program of the Family Forest Center.

Some new AFF activities parallel OSWA efforts and with our new MOU we should be able to coordinate. AFF is developing a new process that will not be the traditional formula driven method for distributing funds to its state Tree Farm organizations. A closer OTFS/OSWA partnership may bring additional AFF funds to Oregon. ATFS has over 90,000 members.

**Climate Change:** Linc Cannon from OFIC noted that policy makers have taken global warming as a given. At this time carbon markets are all over the map--some are business driven and some are ecologically driven. Since the USA is not part of the Kyoto Accord, individual states have undertaken initiatives with California leading the way.

Western Climate Initiative (California-led) has a one year work plan. Issues will require legislation to establish a climate registry where companies report their carbon output. The Pacific Forest Trust is pushing restrictions which are very onerous for timber owners.

One big issue for Oregonians is the baseline and additionality issue (see #2 below.) Our position is that a concrete parking lot should be the baseline, ie., starting from Development to non Forest Uses. Oregon, with its FPA, has required replanting so we are ahead of most states who could add "additional" forestland. The next "Kyoto" international conference will be in Bali and family forests need representation.

A Workable Climate Change strategy must include these six elements of OSWA policy as adopted in April 2007:

1. Incentives to forest landowners to keep forestlands in forest uses.
2. Full credit for carbon sequestered and stored in forests and forest products and from forgone carbon emissions from product or energy substitutions.
3. Credit for carbon sequestration, storage and offsetting carbon emissions must accrue to forest landowners, forest products producers, and forest bioenergy producers.
4. Accounting standards that create and equitable trading system across administrative boundaries.

5. Methods for inventory and accounting of carbon emissions, sequestrations, storage, and substitution offsets need to be accurate and feasible utilizing accepted forestry inventory and forest product assessment protocols.
6. Carbon reporting, tracking, compliance, and administrative systems should complement existing systems.

Moved, seconded, and unanimously passed that OSWA accept and support the Workable Climate Change strategy such that it contains the six elements listed in OSWA policy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Hathaway  
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