

Draft
Oregon Small Woodlands Association
Board Meeting
February 1, 2008
Salem, OR

Attendees: Mike Barnes, Dick Beers, Dallas Boge, Linc Cannon, Mike Cloughesy, Mark Copeland, Peter Daugherty, Ken Faulk, Allan Foutch, Mike Gaudern, Scott Hanson, Nancy Hathaway, Jim Johnson, Kristina McNitt, Ken Nicholls, Frank Pender, John Poppino, Dave Schmidt, Joe Steere, Greg Stone (by phone), K.C. Van Natta.

Guests: Jan Oyala and Sue Morell, representing J.D. Fulwiler Insurance.

ADMINISTRATION

Executive Board minutes of January 4, 2008 approved as corrected. Executive Board minutes of December 7, 2007 and Board minutes of November 16, 2007 approved.

Mike Gaudern reported that our Patron program has almost achieved our goal. We have raised \$13,000 with another \$15,000 pledged. With this support, our programs can go forth as planned. M. Gaudern acknowledged the Patrons and will distribute the list to chapters so that patrons can be acknowledged for their generosity. We encourage chapters to personally thank our patrons.

OSWA membership stands at 1775 memberships with all renewed except 150 outstanding. We are currently one-quarter into the fiscal year.

The March Update will be promoting the upcoming Howdy Neighbor events around the state: Portland Urban Forestry, at the World Forestry Center; Jackson County in May; Prineville in early September; south Benton County TBA. In addition, the Update will briefly announce the American Tree Farm System 2008 Convention to be held in Portland in October.

This issue of the Update will be sent to 31,000 woodland owners with financial assistance from a number of patrons and one government agency. M. Gaudern requests that all chapters send their new list of officers to the OSWA office.

2008 Leadership Elections

OSWA needs officers for the positions of President, 1st Vice President, and a Chair for the Government Affairs Committee. Please suggest names to John Poppino.

EDUCATION

ODF Wildfire Education Pamphlet will be distributed to 31,000 woodland owners.

Regarding fire insurance, our survey showed it might be worth creating a risk-retention group to include fire insurance up to \$300,000 and GL insurance. In the history of OSWA insurance with J.D. Fulwiler there has only been one claim of \$10,000 for a medical-related issue. Even though J.D. Fulwiler considers OSWA members an educated workforce, more education may be needed: ie., what is the definition of an "operation?"--are people aware an operation may include use of a weed-eater or 4-wheeler? J.D. Fulwiler reps, Jan and Sue, will shop other carriers in addition to Safeco before our renewal date of July 1st. They will also shop for best rates for individual properties, ie., the individual property itself would be insured, not the (multiple?) owners/ members.

2008 Annual Meeting

M Gaudern and M Barnes will be meeting soon with Don Davidson, speaker for the banquet. M. Gaudern and M. Barnes will get a list of motels and clamming information. Horse logger will be contacted to demonstrate (on the beach) environmentally correct logging. OSWA will be sending out brochures shortly. Sponsors, exhibitors, programs, patrons are all lined up. There will be awards given for service. Dick Beers announced that Ellicksons' program about their history in the area will be on Feb. 29. Ellicksons will be our host for the Howdy Neighbor tour on April 26th, open to the public. Their facility will hold 500 people.

Storm Damage

The northern coastal area, particularly Clatsop County, suffered huge losses during the recent storm and are trying to deal with the damage. Much of the financial loss cannot be recovered due to the downturn of the log market and the fact there small woodland owners are usually pretty small players in the market. Other negatives facing owners are potential fire hazards, bark beetles in fir, and the difficulty of replanting among fallen trees, and worst, no harvest money to afford seedlings and replanting. ODF is sending service foresters to help advise. One Board member noted that small owners are affected disproportionately by FPA rules.

The estimated small woodland loss in Clatsop County alone is 2,000 acres with about 28 million board feet of blowdown. The City of Astoria's forest is totally on the ground with very little of it merchantable. There may be an opportunity for a Howdy Neighbor tour in August to see the storm damage.

Sudden Oak Death

The ODF is budgeting \$1.5 million towards eradication and monitoring of SOD. The federal government has increased money towards SOD but not to the rising level of infection. ODF is trying to raise money from the Ways and Means committee before SOD spreads. Scientists are afraid SOD could become an environmental disaster.

ADVOCACY

Special State Session

Kristina gave an overview of what will hopefully be a three-week session. No rules will potentially limit bills to about 100 as opposed to 3,000. Each of the 30 Senate members will be allowed to introduce one concept and each Senate committee is also allowed one concept. The House will be allowed no individual or committee bills. All issues will have to have consensus. The GAC committee has been working with interim committees.

Poplar

Compromise will probably allow the BOF to waive certain requirements. Poplar growers will need: a Stewardship agreement, be a hybrid poplar plantation, use bona fide science. Then they may petition the BOF.

Inheritance tax

There will be legislation introducing change from 1 million to 7.5 million exclusion.

Climate change and carbon

Any piece will be very broad and overreaching. GAC will need to keep tabs on this issue, but be aware that it could suck up lots of time.

Ways and Means Committee

ODF petitioned for funding for Sudden Oak Death (SOD) but Ways and Means is justifiably concerned about the state's economy. Legislators are being very cautious. Next Friday, Feb. 8, the state economist will speak.

LNG

As with climate change and carbon issues, this presents a capacity issue for OSWA. Washington County will oppose LNG publicly. Individual woodland owners are encouraged to interact with their legislators. Clatsop, Columbia, Washington, Yam hill, Marion are the counties personally affected by the pipelines. Under FERC guidelines, public or existing easements will be used when practical.

No legislation has been introduced in February regarding the LNG issue. The Governor can stop the pipelines if he has enough political pressure. Although this is not a statewide issue, the Board encourages Washington County to go ahead. There will be a NoLNG rally in Salem on Wed., Feb. 6 at the Capitol.

There is a new industrial lobby group forming. As to political affiliations with other groups (TIMOs and REITs) we are taking a wait-and-see attitude.

National Issues

OSWA and OTFS need to form a more symbiotic relationship to better serve the woodland owners of Oregon. OSWA has local political input and AFF (parent of OTFS) is planning to provide national support in D.C. OSWA has organization at the county level and volunteer power to put on programs whereas OTFS has the opportunity to receive moneys from the Canadian softwood agreement. With financial support, there would be less pressure on volunteers. Oregon has the potential to be the national model of cooperation.

Jim Johnson noted that in Virginia the Tree Farm System was imbedded within the OSWA equivalent organization. Both benefitted by being linked and were very complementary in all respects. Mike Cloughesy said that OFRI views both organizations as supporting landowners of Oregon.

K.C. Van Natta and Mike Barnes agreed that they would move forward on putting some action items in the OSWA-OTFS MOU. OTFS will identify tasks that need to be done, adding to them incrementally over time, and submit an application to OTFS for funds. OSWA will come up with a cost analysis of these tasks.

Regional issues

Linc Cannon with OFIC reported on the 5-state project dealing with climate change: Western Climate Initiative process (WCI) was initiated by California and now includes the Pacific NW. This agreement is designed to form a regional closed-cap carbon policy. The set of protocols for forestry include permanent easements.

Development of New Tools

Oregon Woodlands Cooperative is moving forward. They have received another grant of \$147,000 which has to be matched by volunteer time. Each of the three employees comes with special skills: Scott Zimmerman--marketing, Lewis Leatherman--small milling ops, Kent Goodyear--forest products industry.

March 7th will be the next Exec. Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hathaway
2nd VP
February 5, 2008

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