

Oregon Small Woodlands Association
State Board Meeting
Adair Officers Club
Adair Village
April 26, 2007

Representatives: Keith Argow, Mike Barnes, Mike Barsotti, Dick Beers, Dallas Boge, Lyn Boniface, Mike Cloughesy, Mark Copeland, Peter Daugherty, Allen Foutch, Mike Gaudern, Scott Hanson, Nancy Hathaway, Roy Hendrick, Jim Johnson, Ron Larson, Ken Nicholls, Paul Nys, John Poppino, Joe Steere, Greg Stone, Al Thayer, Bert Vanderwall, Dennis Werth, Aaron White.

President Barnes Called the meeting to Order at 10a.m.

Minutes of the annual board meeting of April 20, 2006 and the executive board meeting of February 2, 2007 were approved as amended.

ACTION ITEMS

It was agreed that as the new By-Laws have changed the Board's focus, we should review the five-year-plan at the next meeting.

“Forest in the Farm Bill” coalition: With our co-stakeholders NOAA and NWOC, OSWA is trying to get involved before all decisions about money and programs are made. Across the nation, forestland is at risk for conversion to other uses. Money has diminished for assistance in cost share and extension programs. Cost share programs recently have funded the professional writing of management plans.

As regards funding more money for assistance to tree farmers, OTFS is working to design management plans to make them more valuable to landowners. Landowners will be the primary writer with foresters as mentors. If interested in helping create a new format, call Mike Barsotti and plan to attend the May 22nd meeting in Salem.

NWOC, our federal level lobbyist and educator solicits support yearly via OSWA's mailing list. Donations are 90% deductible.

Instead of begging for “no cuts” for agencies, OSWA would like to see a new design using organizations which have voluntary support. The issue is how much time and effort should OSWA contribute to this?

Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously that OSWA support the NWOC to the extent we have in the past and encourage lobbyists to maintain the current level of support in the Farm Bill.

Discussion led to the future establishment of a committee at our next board meeting. Information will be sent out to all Board Members. Think about the where, what and how you see this working.

Keith Argow, NOAA, landowner, and former district ranger, spoke briefly of the view from Washington DC and the political reality. Woody biomass is big on Capitol Hill. Even watchdogs can't pick up all the last minute changes to legislative bills. The median age of those typists is 26 years old. As forestland owners, we control our future. Have faith in your future!

Regarding the issue over insurance, NOAA sells a national liability insurance policy--\$195 for 500 acres plus the membership cost of \$35. He thinks fire insurance might be better negotiated on the state level.

Family Forests and Carbon Policy

Mark Copeland explained that carbon issues will become the dominant issue of forestry in the next decade and they will determine where agency dollars will be allocated. If subsidies go to manufacturers, there won't be any trickle-down to producers. The upside of a carbon program might be: biofuels could be sold, credits for retaining forests on forestland, could help the Federal forests reduce fuels on their land. A negative might potentially be that we are charged for cutting trees.

Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously that consistent with maintaining economic viability with landowners the following 6 points are adopted regarding progress toward a low-carbon economy by 2050:

1. Landowners should be given credit for maintaining forestland as forestland,
2. Increase forested areas.
3. Manage forests from seedlings to mature forest, including the harvest thereof, to store carbon over the long-term and reduce vulnerability to drought, insects, and fires.
4. Capture more carbon in durable wood products and use wood instead of energy demanding substitutes.
5. Reward woodland owners for helping reduce warming contributions.
6. Use mill waste and woody biomass to create energy.

Legislative Review

Kristina McNitt is focusing our efforts on fire fighting and private forestry. The Measure 37 "fix" is awful from our standpoint. Currently included is a 20% "taking." Essentially, only loss of value over 20% would be considered in a M 37 suit. The GAC committee has decided not to actively lobby on behalf of the Statewides.

Our strategy will be to hold a Legislative Lobby Day on May 17 to meet and eat with legislators and talk up the FPA and other of our issues.

Information Items

Budget report: Lyn Boniface that at the end of our fiscal year (Oct. 31) we had a \$9,000 surplus after tax adjustment. Right now, OSWA has a surplus of \$8,000 higher than projected. Revenues are the same as last year at this time, expenses have decreased somewhat. Lyn received our thanks for her work for OSWA.

Mike Gaudern stated that OSWA can't afford any more budget cuts. We need to increase our non-dues revenue. However, we've come a long way from red to black. Last year we received \$13,000 for work OSWA did, this year we've received \$42,000, mostly related to sponsoring the symposium, annual meeting and contract work for the Woodlands Coop.

Nomination committee report

John Poppino reported we have nominees in all slots. For 2nd Vice President: Joe Steere, Dave Schmidt. For 2nd V.P.: Donna Heffernan, Bert Vanderwall. Unopposed: Roy Hendrick.

Annual Meeting Agenda

Dick Beers graciously invited us to attend the 2008 Annual Meeting in Florence, hosted by Lane County.

Chapter Reports (condensed highlights)

Columbia--Bought a 20 foot trailer to store seedlings, paid admissions for 400 5th graders to the World Forestry Center (OFRI paid transportation), 95,000 seedlings were ordered for members, grossed \$12,000 at their seeding sale.

Coos--Biggest turnout ever at their annual meeting, held annual tree sale.

Clackamas--Held annual Tree School, native plant sale at Easter time, 60 people attended their annual meeting, awarded Lifetime Service award to Lyn and Linda Butts, gave 2 \$1000 scholarships.

Douglas--Robust tour schedule, had a meeting with land-use attorneys, starting a forestry scholarship, Mike Newton spoke at their annual meeting.

Washington--Held native plant sale to support 2 \$1000 scholarships, sold 100,000 seedlings (grown by contract), bought own portable toilet for tours.

Marion-Polk--Held several successful tours, several hundred acres of forestland in southern Polk County were donated by a member.

Linn--Annual meeting featured wildlife speaker, gave 2 \$1000 scholarships, will host Norwegian foresters this summer.

Lincoln--Rick Zinn spoke at their annual meeting, held a seedling sale in conjunction with the Home and Garden Sale.

Lane--90 people attended the annual meeting in Dec., sponsored Forest Field Day for hundreds of schoolkids, sold 13,000 seedlings at tree sale.

Other Reports

ODF--Peter Daugherty is excited about "new ways to do business." Instead of traditional model of one forester to one landowner, one forester could be helping groups gathered together by an existing organization (OSWA.)

Jim Johnson--Believes the extension system here is still effective, in fact, he came to Oregon because he feels Oregon has the best extension model in the West.

OFIC--Al Foutch reporting--Legislation always comes down to dollars. Costing \$100,000 per year for 10 years for replicative studies of Hinkle Creek. Relative calm on the Board of Forestry is because there are larger issues at stake now. Other legislative issues right now:

Measure 37, pesticide reporting, Green building according to LEED standards (even though LEED is prejudiced against wood), hybrid poplar taxing policy, field burning ban (and undoubtedly slash burning will be next.) One positive note is that there is a bill to increase estate tax exemption to \$7.5 million.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hathaway
April 26, 2007

Corrected and approved Aug 3rd 2007