



OREGON TREE FARM SYSTEM

Our Values: Connectivity; Collaboration; Stewardship; Inclusivity; Gratitude
Our Mission: Empowering private landowners to manage their forests sustainably
Our Purpose: Impacting the world by making Oregon a better place one acre at a time

OTFS Board Meeting Minutes November 16, 2024

Called to Order: 2:40

Roll Call:

Present: Rick Barnes, Mike Barsotti, Dave Bugni, Steve Cafferata, Wylde Cafferata, Mary Chamness, Dick Courter, Jock Dalton, Pam Dalton, Dave Ehlers, Darren Goodding, Lauren Grand, Kate McMichael, Jim Merzenich, Norm Michaels, Margaret Miller, Steve Vaught, Dave Wells, Sue Zeni, Tom Agens, Margaret Miller, Rick Zenn, Julie Woodward

Absent: Dick Beers, Ed Easterling,

Additions/deletions to the agenda. Co-Chair Wylde Cafferata

- There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

October 3, 2024, OTFS Board Meeting Minutes:

- Kate McMichael made a motion to approve the October 3, 2024 OTFS Board Meeting Minutes. Norm Michael seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Pass the Gavel to Incoming Chair Darren Goodding

- Rick Barnes made a motion for Darren Goodding to be chair of the OTFS board. Steve Vaught seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments from outgoing Co-Chair Steve and Wylde Cafferata

- OTFS is on good financial footing.
- The bookkeeping service and the great work Sue is doing is going well.
- We reorganized the OTFS relationship with OSWA including moving the storage locker from Salem to Pleasant Hill cutting the costs in half.
- We now have our own mailing service, and we also use Constant Contact.
- 11 new board members have been recruited.
- Kate has done amazing work on the website.

- A huge amount of work has been accomplished on the bi-laws and operating manual with the governance working group.
- The certification process has been revised and there are now 90 inspectors.
- Creation of the Ambassador Kits.
- Ad in NW Woodland
- Tree Farm Video
- Award luncheon program.
- We are sad to say Joe Holmberg needed to resign from the board- he will be missed!

Comments from Chair: Darren Goodding

- Thank you for the opportunity to serve as chair. 2 words that come to mind are relevance and viability. How can we do an even better job helping people realize why they should be certified tree farmers? There was a discussion about how in some states it can affect the ability to stay on forest deferral. It's not the case in Oregon.

Resolution to change signatures on financial accounts: Sue Zeni

- The secretary read the Oregon Tree Farms System Resolution that had been e-mailed to board members prior to the meeting. After discussion the board requested that the following changes be made prior to voting on the resolution.
 - The date be changed from November 17, 2024 to November 16, 2024.
 - Add Dave Bugni Oregon Tree Farm System Chair Elect, as well, with signature authority at both US Bank and Vanguard accounts.
 - Steve Cafferata, former Oregon Tree Farm System Chair, should be removed from signature authority at both US Bank and Vanguard accounts.
- Kate McMichael made a motion to approve the resolution to change signatures on financial accounts that include the above corrections. Wylda Cafferata seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2025 Budget Discussion + Vote: Sue Zeni; Steve Cafferata

- Sue reviewed the reports that had been e-mailed to board members prior to the meeting: 2024 Nov Budget Graph, 2024 Tree Farm System Budget Nov 15, 2024, 2025 Draft Tree Farm System Budget Nov 10 2024, Balance Sheet Nov 10 2024.
 - Steve requested that the following changes be made to the budget for 2025:
 - Inspector Incentives: Inspectors who do 2 inspections a year receive \$100. Each additional inspection receives an additional \$50 incentive.
 - Inspector Mileage: reimbursed at GSA, Federal Rate.

- Norm Michael made a motion to approve the suggested changes. Kate McMichael seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Landmapper maintenance- will be expensive. Margaret Miller believes that between the Washington Tree Farm System and ODF the expense might be covered.
- National Leadership Committee. There will be \$1,800 from ATFS and \$5000 from our budget to fund attendance. Darren Goodding, Dick Courter, Dave Wells, and Jim Merzenich are interested in attending.
- Dick Courter requested that the budget for the Memorial Fund be changed to \$600 so that he could purchase new donation envelopes and a flip screen that he could use for display purposes.
 - Sue Zeni made a motion to approve the budget change request, Dave Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2025 Board Meeting Schedule: Darren Goodding

- Darren will e-mail the 2025 Board Meeting Schedule to board members.

Establishment of 2025 Working Group Members: Darren Goodding

- Board members will e-mail Mary and Darren the working group(s) they will work on in 2025.
- There was a discussion about creating an Events working group. Wylda made a motion that we start an Events working group. Dick Beers seconded the motion. 16 voted in favor, 2 voted against. The motion passed.

Landowner Journey/Communication Report: Summary of 2024 accomplishments + plans for 2025: Lauren Grand and Kate McMichael

- We now have our video captioned and show it on a TV that comes to events.
- We have increased social media presents and continue to improve our website.
- The Tree School ad has been ramped up and we are sponsoring regional tree schools.
- We are assisting the certification committee with pioneer status calls.
- Swag has been ordered for the Ambassador kits and there is a video for how to use the kits.
- Continuing to work on a self-certification program for land owners with less than 10 acres.
- Working on creating an online tool to help landowners write management plans.
- Mike Barnes will do a press release about the 2025 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year.

Governance Working Group Report: Summary of 2024 accomplishments + plans for 2025: Wylda Cafferata

- This year we updated the Operating Manual and Strategic Plan.
- Next year we will work on making the Operating Manual shorter and more concise.

Certification Working Group Report: Summary of 2024 accomplishments + plans for 2025: Norm Michaels and Steve Cafferata

- In 2024 there were 484 inspections, 314 certifications, 48 placed on Pioneer status, and 118 decertified.
- 40 inspections were required by ATFS. They are almost complete, only 2 to go.

Recognition Working Group Report: Summary of 2024 accomplishments + plans for 2025: Rick Barnes

- We will review the application form to see if it can be simplified.

The board gave a HUGE thank you to Steve and Wylda for the wonderful job they have done in the last 3 years as co-chairs. You have done an amazing job and it's incredible how much you have accomplished!!!

The board also would like to thank Darren Goodding and Dave Bugni for being our new chair and chair elect.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00