



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 August 8, 2024

Called to Order: 8:31

Roll Call:

Present: Mike Barsotti, Rick Barnes, Dick Beers, Dave Bugni, Steve Cafferata, Wylda Cafferata, Mary Chamness, Jock Dalton, Pam Dalton, Ed Easterling, Dave Ehlers, Darren Goodding, Lauren Grand, Kate McMichael, Jim Merzenich, Norm Michaels, Steve Vaught, Dave Wells, Tom Agens, Parks Brigman

Absent: Dick Courter, Joe Holmberg, Sue Zeni, Nate Agalzoff, Seth Barns, Margaret Miller, Holly Ober, Carie Spradlin, Nicole Wood, Julie Woodward, Rick Zenn

Reading Values, Mission, Purpose Statement: Ed Easterling

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

June 13, 2024 OTFS Board Meeting Minutes:

- The June 13, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes were approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Cafferata (Sue Zeni provided the data)

- Reviewed Budget vs Actuals: 2024 Budget- FY 24 P&L, Balance Sheet as of August 2, 2024, and Profit and Loss Detail January 1-August 2, 2024.
- Overall, we are in very good shape. Discussed upcoming income and expenses.
- Sue has requested directions from the board regarding the money currently in the Vanguard Money Market Fund which is paying 5.3% now and if some of this money should be invested within Vanguard in CDs, stocks, or bonds. Discussion resulted in agreement that we should not invest in the stock market, and we should look at options for investing in CD's if the interest rates look good enough.

- The savings we have now on our budget are because we do not have a paid administrator, and our co-chairs work a lot harder. The working groups also do a lot of the work that was done by the executive director when we had one. Now that we are financially in good shape in the future there will be the option of contracting some of the work if people think it is needed.

Committee on Family Forestlands Report: Kate McMichael

- Their last meeting was the week after our last board meeting. Dave gave an interesting presentation on culvert replacements, and they have been preparing their annual report for the Board of Forestry. CFF will next report to the board on either the 4th or 5th of September and the next official meeting will be the 12th of September.
- Kate continues to bring up the economic realities of being small forest landowners and requesting they continue to think about flexibility in how to respond to post disturbance salvage rule making for small landowners and allowing leeway for small landowners to work with their stewardship foresters in case-by-case basis in riparian areas.

Compliance Monitoring Committee Report: Steve Vaught

- There are 3 studies going on various levels. See Compliance Monitoring Program Committee (CMPC) meeting summary- July 11, 2024, by Steve Vaught 8-5-2024.
 - The reforestation monitoring study is complete and a draft report has been sent out. Discussed the results.
 - Riparian rule design study to develop workable protocols for rules compliance monitoring and looking at vegetation retention on streams.
 - Road and steep slopes rule selection study. Mount Hood Environmental is working on it now and they are going to send it to ODF for review. The guidelines for selecting these rules are: Is the rule measurable? Is it time sensitive? Has it been assessed in the past? Is it a rule that has been included in state forest studies?
 - Next meeting will be October 10th.
 - Steve C. asked if the results of the reforestation monitoring study will be part of a press release and if it was based on entire units or parts of the stands. Steve V. will investigate.
- **Comments from the Co-Chairs: Steve and Wylde Cafferata**

- There are 3 potential new board members. Pam and Jock Dalton were appointed as Oregon Tree Farmers of the Year and had been asked to join the board. Rick Barnes has been asked to be the chair of the Recognition Working Group and it would be beneficial to be on the board and be up to date on the direction the board is heading to make sure the working group is consistent with the desires of the board. Dave Bugni made the motion to approve the 3 new members, Steve Vought seconded the motion. The motion was approved by consensus. Welcome Pam, Jock, and Rick!
- Keep Oregon Green partnership. With the approval of the board, Keep Oregon Green has offered to bring their green signs to the Annual Meeting in November and sell them at cost to our members so they can be put up with our tree farm signs. These signs can also be mailed out with OTFS signs in the future.
- Landmapper update: A letter has been submitted in support of the Eco Trust seeking a grant to fund the maintenance and updates of Landmapper. Steve and Wylda attended the Washington Tree Farm board meeting and gave them a presentation on Landmapper to encourage them to try it.
- An inspection team attended Jim and Ed Merzenich's tree farm on Monday. They are in competition with the State of Washington for regionals. They should find out the results in about a month.

Comments from Chair-Elect Darren Goodding

- A big thank you to Kate for all your work with the website, all the ways you have made the website better, and constantly monitoring it and dealing with the inquiries that are averaging 2-3 a week. Some of the inquiries are about certifying or recertifying tree farms, and it has already led to one family who had been decertified working towards recertification. Darren handles the requests as they come in.

Revised Management Plan Template Report: Lauren Grand

- Lauren reviewed the history of the committee who created the Oregon Forest Management Planning website starting in 2018. This committee has recently gotten together again and has updated their website so that the resources page follows all the headings, resources are readily available for each section, and the links work. Lauren is looking into funding a website that will be even more

helpful in writing management plans. It would pull data and resources together and be like the Turbo Tax of Forest Management Plans.

Annual Meeting Plans: Wylda Cafferata

- The annual meeting will be on November 16th at The Oregon Gardens. The theme is Information Celebration.
- Wylda reviewed the agenda, speakers, and awards. This year the awards will include the County Tree Farmers and County Tree Farmer of the Year and their videos. The Hagenstein award will also be awarded this year, if you have any ideas of a candidate, please e-mail Wylda and she can send nominations out to the board for a vote before the October meeting so that there will be time to make the awards. Pam and Jock have been asked to present the awards.
- Wylda asked for the board's approval to sell the remaining OTFS logo gear at cost and there were no objections.

AFTS Report: Parks Brigman

- Thank you to Steve and Wylda for joining in on the Washington meeting a few weeks ago.
- Annual funding is out, and Sue has the detailed information.
- Parks discussed the EUDR (European Union Deforestation Regulations) and PEFC (Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certificates) which endorses ATFS standards. There are currently 40 proposed modifications to meet standards that include everything from required geolocation of every plantation to definitions of plantations, primary forest, and forest degradation. The bar of certification continues to be raised and farther removed from practical applications and intent. ATFS continues to look at the practicality of continuing with certification at the state level. Parks will see if he can find the EUDR source text, and if he does, he will forward it to the board.
- Oregon was not selected for third party audit next year.
- States who are going with recognition instead of certification: Right now there is about 2/3 to 1/3 certification to recognition, but it is getting closer to a 50:50 split.

Reports from Working Groups:

- Governance: Wylde Cafferata. We are working on revising the strategic plan and we hope to have it for you by the October meeting.
- Recognition: Rick Barnes.
 - Rick was appointed Recognition Chair on July 22 and has since had a good meeting with Dick Porter and been given the awards to pass on to Steve and Wylde.
 - Rick has been seeking guidance from Dick, Steve, and Wylde, and sees the responsibilities as chair to maintain open communication with the OTFS chair and board of OTFS, communicate with chapter chairs, and encourage them to select a tree farmer of the year.
 - Rick thinks that it would be OK to select a tree farmer even if they aren't currently certified or an OTFS member. The OSWA chapters should make their selection, and if their choice isn't currently certified or a member, we could work with them and encourage them to become certified and come into the Oregon Tree Farm system.
 - It will be important to provide chapters with timelines to get the nominations submitted and as a committee to look at the current nomination form to see if it can be simplified.
 - A selection committee will need to be established to visit the county tree farmers of the year. Steve Vaught, Norm Michaels, and Rick Barnes have done it in the past and it's good to have consistency over the years. Ed Easterling has agreed to serve on the committee as well.
 - Steve Cafferata is working with the videographer.
 - It will also be important to communicate with the working group chair and provide them with the information to prepare the press releases.
 - Working with the board in selecting the various awards: Bill Hagenstein, Country Tree Farmer of the Year, Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year, Inspector of the Year.
 - Rick will also work with Forest Services personnel on recognizing the awarded tree farms.
 - The 4 overarching goals of the working group are 1. Inspire both the Oregon Tree Farm System and OSWA membership to showcase their great work. 2. Ensure a clear and easy application process. 3. Ensure County and State Tree Farm tours are an integral part of the Tree Farmer of the

- Year Program benefiting all the Oregon Tree Farm System and OSWA members. 4. Work with OSWA local chapter, OFRI and OSU extension.
- There was a discussion about involving additional extension agents, consultants, and ODF personnel in the future.
 - Landowners Journey/Communication- Kate McMichael
 - We are currently in the process of following up with landowners in Pioneer status.
 - We are looking at a draft of a Landowners Journey page on our OTFS site.
 - An Ambassador Kit video has been completed and can be shown at the OSWA annual meeting in September.
 - Kate continues to encourage ideas and feedback on our website and potential additional pages.
 - Kate asked and received permission from the board to purchase a small TV for displaying the OTFS video at events with money in the Landowners Journey budget.
 - Certification: Steve Cafferata/ Norm Michaels
 - 295 Inspections
 - Recertified 183 people
 - Decertified 89
 - 21 placed on pioneer status.
 - Of these inspections 26 were required, about 20 are left to do. About 49 were over 10 years. The number was 252 years ago so we have made a lot of progress. All these inspections have been assigned.
 - Other for the good of the order
 - Time to think about if you want to change working groups in 2025. Thank you for all the work that is going on.
 - Dave Wells is on the Northwest Oregon Forest Practices Advisory Committee with Dick Beers and he would like people to feel free to contact him if you would like to bring anything before the board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:33

Our next meeting is 8:30 October 3rd.