



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 October 3, 2024

Called to Order: 8:30

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, Steve Vaught, Dave Wells, Sue Zeni, Tom Agens, Margaret Miller, Rick Zenn, Julie Woodward

Absent: Dick Courter, Joe Holmberg, Norm Michaels, Nate Agalzoff, Seth Barns, Parks Brigman, Holly Ober, Carrie Montgomery

Reading Values, Mission, Purpose Statement: Dave Ehlers

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

- Addition to the agenda: items 7, 8, and 9 will be moved to after the reports from working groups. Jim Merzenich will also talk with us about a new possible partnership.

August 8, 2024, OTFS Board Meeting Minutes:

- Kate requested that the minutes be corrected to reflect that the Committee on Family Forestland had been preparing their annual report and didn't present it until the fifth.
- The amended minutes were approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Zeni

- Reviewed Budget vs Actuals: 2024 Budget- FY24 P&L, September 20, 2024, and our balance sheet through screen sharing.
- Overall, we are in very good shape and doing well within our budget. Discussed upcoming income and expenses. Sue will check to see if all grandfathered

donations have been received and is continuing to work with ODF to receive the funding for the stewardship grant.

Comments from Co- Chairs: Steve and Wylda

- Land Mapper grant- Steve reported that ATFS is changing its requirements as of January 1 requiring shapefiles be submitted with each inspection. Steve requested costs from Ecotrust to make the program capable of this and then authorized the spending of \$5,000 to make the enhancement out of funds that had remained in the budget.
- Grandfathered companies who have more than 10,000 acres are financially, politically, and culturally important to us and we could benefit from seeing if a representative might be interested in joining our board. Steve will pursue this.
- The Annual meeting plans are coming along well. Many thanks to Margaret, Kate, Sue, and Mary for working on this with me. Postcards have been sent out, speakers have been confirmed, and catering is all arranged.

Comments from Chair-Elect Darren Goodding

- Darren is working on the transition to “take the reins” in November and glad Steve and Wylda are remaining on as a resource.

Certification: Steve Cafferata

- 385 properties “touched” this year by certification, pioneer, or decertification.
- Properties that had been over 10 years since last certification: in December of 2022 there were 207, December 2023 117, and September 30th, 2024 , 28. There are plans to get these 28 done by year end.
- Properties 6-10 years since the last certification, in 2022 there were 314, in 2023 293, and by September, 2024, 118. Good progress is continuing to be made.
- Inspector incentives- Steve suggested the following changes in inspector bonuses for next year: 2 inspections a year would result in a \$100 bonus, with \$50 for each additional inspection. 3 or more parcels under the same management plan would count as 2 inspections. The same owner with different management plans- each parcel would count as an inspection. Grandfathered companies would receive a \$100 bonus if their inspector has everything up to date at year end starting this year. For state employees, the maximum we can do is \$50 for 2 or more inspections. The board was in favor of the proposed changes.

Governance Working Group Report: Wylida Cafferata.

- Nobody on the board is up for renewal this year so we will only need to vote for the new folks who have come onto the board at the November meeting.
- Working groups- everyone is encouraged to consider if they want to stay in the same working group in 2025. Let Wylida know if you would like to switch groups, and it will be finalized at the November meeting.
- Draft copies of the OTFS STRATEGIC PLAN: 2025-2028 have been sent out to board members and were reviewed by Wylida. There was some discussion about the largeness of some of the goals and wording. Everyone, please continue to review and provide feedback to Wylida. A vote on the changes will take place at the November meeting. A huge thank you to the Governance working group and everyone who helped to work on it.

Finance Working Group: Steve Cafferata

- Steve brought up the considerable amount of money that has built up through donations. Discussion about our options ranging from:
 - Continuing as we are currently.
 - Hiring some administrative support with the additional funds (which led to lots of additional discussion about how this could work and what work this role might do).
 - Continue without hiring administration support. Rather than sending donation request letters to all members, send a letter at year's end describing what the organization has accomplished throughout the year and only making donation requests from the grandfathered companies.

Steve encourages all members to continue thinking about options and sending him thoughts and comments.

- National Leadership Committee Budget. Next year it will be held in Maine, and its estimated cost will be around \$2,500 per attendee. If the chair and chair elect would like to attend, we should fund them. Some money will come from National as well, but we don't know how much yet. Jim Merzenich and his wife would like to attend but he and his wife could finance the trip themselves.

- Steve proposed we pay part of the cost, potentially \$1000, for each Board member who would like to attend, and the full cost for the Chair and Chair-Elect. There will be further discussion at the November meeting.
- Please feel free to send Steve any thoughts or comments and continue to think about the budget; it will be voted on in the November meeting.

Recognition Working Group: Rick Barnes

- Rick shared and discussed the recognition group goals.
 - Encourage Involvement in the recognition process.
 - Make it as easy as possible on tree farmers. The recognition group will review the nomination form for OTFY to see if it can be simplified.
 - Allow time for County TFY to get certified prior to being nominated for OTFY.
 - Encourage, but don't require the OTFY to join the board (this change has already been made) or require them to have an OTFY tree farm tour if they do not want to.
- There was a discussion about when to announce the Tree Farmer of the Year. Rick made a motion to announce in November who the Oregon 2025 Tree Farmer of the Year is. Sue seconded the motion. The board voted 12 in favor of the motion, 0 against the motion, 3 abstained. The motion passed.
- There was a discussion about what to call the second place Tree Farmer of the Year. Rick moved that second place be called the Silver Award. Wylde seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously, and the motion passed.
- Thank you to Rick for your work as chair and thank you to Steve V. and Norm for your help with the working group.

Landowner Journey/Communication Working Group Update: Kate McMichael

- A TV has been purchased and the video is now captioned and premiered at Tree School Umpqua.
- Kate would like to work with Norm and Steve about an Inspector page and Rick on a Recognition page on the website.
- Thank you to Kate for doing a wonderful job with getting the website to be a one stop page with all the information on it.

Committee for Family Forests: Kate McMichael

- We did do our annual report to the Board of Forestry on September 5th. It is available on the YouTube channel about 3 hours in or you can click on the agenda and link directly to it. Dave Bugni had a letter he submitted and was read, and Gary Jensen and Kate reported as well.

Compliance Monitoring Committee: Steve Vaught

- The next meeting is next week. Steve V. sent in the comments on the reforestation study that he collaborated on with Steve C. and it will be an agenda item at the meeting.

Management Plan Template Committee: Margaret Miller

- On the 8th Margaret and Lauren will meet with Ecotrust about their capacity to take on new work. Margaret also has a new contact Kelly Klein (she attended Tree School South) who is a web developer and had ideas about improving Land Mapper.
- Washington DNR funds may be available for Land Mapper Maintenance, and Margaret will continue working towards a plan to have the work done within the timeframe the funds need to be spent, and is continuing to work on a plan to fund this maintenance and updating of Land Mapper.

Jim Merzenich:

- Jim is planning on attending the national partnerships meeting in Redmond next week. He will have a table there to explain the work they are doing on their farm related to wildlife as well as representing OSWA and OTFS.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37

Our next meeting is November 16, 2024, in person at the Oregon Gardens following the Annual Meeting.