

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 12, 2023

Meeting Called to Order 8:30

Roll Call:

Present: Tom Agens, Mike Barsotti, Dick Beers, Dave Bugni, Steve Cafferata, Wylda Cafferata, Mary Chamness, Dick Courter, Ed Easterling, Lauren Grand, Darren Goodding, Joe Holmberg, Kate McMichael, Norm Michaels, Steve Vaught, Sue Zeni, Nate Agalzoff, Sara Loreno

Absent: Clint Bentz, Gordon Culberson, Dave Ehlers, Rex Storm, Jeremy Norby, Austin Reimer, Seth Barns, Parks Brigman, Carrie Spradlin, Julie Woodward, Rick Zenn, Nicole Wood, Holly Ober,

Reading Values, Mission, Purpose Statement: Steve Cafferata

No additions or deletions were made to the agenda.

June 22, 2023 minutes were approved by consensus.

Strategic Plan Moment: Steve Vaught

- Goal 4: Recruit, engage, and support volunteer inspectors.
 - Reach out to people we know, especially in the forestry community, and ask them to be inspectors.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Zeni

- Thank you to Mary for the work we are doing together to send thank you letters to the 152 donors to OTFS to date.
- Oregon Tree Farm System, Inc. Budget vs. Actuals: 2023 Budget-FY23 P&L October 8, 2023, (which had been e-mailed to board members earlier) was reviewed.
 - Income: OTFS has 2 new income categories
 - Donations OTFS At Large- People who have donated to us who are not tree farm members.
 - Interest Income. This has been a success. Year to Date OTFS has earned \$3,053 in interest.
 - Income is starting to come in for the Annual luncheon.
 - Grants- we have been paid for most of our grants.
 - Video income- we have received income from last year, but not for this year yet.
 - Expenses:

- OSWA – we received a refund check for last years services and we have paid them a little for the work they have done this year.
- Certification- there will be more inspector incentives and mileage coming in.
- Landmapper grant we haven't paid much yet.
- ODF Stewardship Sustainability: we use this money for sustainability efforts such as Landowner Journey Working Group expenses, etc. We have already received the \$2000.
- We haven't spent much money on our luncheon yet.
- Overall, the budget is in good shape.
- Wylda thanked Sue for the tremendous work she has been doing for OTFS.

Memorial Fund Up-Date: Dick Courter

- The Memorial Fund Report will be available at the annual meeting.
- Dick believes the fund is around \$168,000. There is one more donation that has come in and Dick will send it to Vanguard.

Comments from the Co-Chairs

- We have had a lot of donations come in and we are very grateful for all of them.
- We have applied for and received our own bulk mailing permit.
- It's time to go through the locker in Salem to see what we should keep and what we should get rid of. Mike Barsotti volunteered to help. After this it will likely make sense to move the locker location down here (Eugene area).
- Oregon Kitchen Table survey- Wylda was involved in making one of the speeches for it. Hopefully everyone took the survey.
- The Capital Press talked with Steve and Wylda for an article they wrote on succession planning. It is available on-line.
- Mark Swanson is the new Starker Chair. His specialty is prescribed burning and fire.
- Thank you to Dick Beers for all his years as treasurer, and Lauren Grand for stepping in in the past to be our secretary, and to Mary Chamness and Sue Zeni, who, in their current roles as secretary and treasurer, are invaluable to OTFS.
- Steve emphasized the importance of transparency within the board, and how they try hard to accomplish this.
- Steve and Wylda have worked to involve the board in the important decisions. The board governs decisions being made, not the chairs or any single member of the board.
- Working on the Tree Farm board should be fun, and along with that there should be the joy of accomplishing the important work that is being done for OTFS.

Governance Structure: Tom Agens/ Steve Cafferata

- Tom Agens is the incoming chair for the Washington Tree Farm System who summarized the structure of the Washington board of directors.
 - The board includes 4 current officers, the current chair, the vice chair, the secretary, and the treasurer.
 - The immediate past chair is on the executive board of directors and the program administrator is on the board of directors. Four additional positions on the board are held by Inspector Coordinators from different regions, and the remaining five slots are filled by 'members at large' nominated by the board, serving 2-3 year terms. They try to keep it so no more than a third of the board rotates out at one time.
 - The full board meets annually, with a quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee, to which all WTFS members are invited. The key roles include the chair, vice chair, secretary, and immediate past chair, with the latter responsible for the nomination process for the outstanding tree farmer of the year.
 - The board also has meetings, like we are having today, that are considered committee meetings, not board meetings.
 - Elizabeth has had a paid program administrator position for the past 10 years. She puts in 30 hours a week and they have \$31,000 budgeted for this position. She is an at will employee.
 - Tom welcomes any questions and would be happy to answer them.

Land Mapper Update: Sarah Loreno

- Land Mapper started in 2017 with funds from ATFS and NRCS. In 2020 they received a grant from the US Forest Service through ODF of \$24,535 which is scheduled to expire at the end of this year.
- Most of their work is either completed or in progress to be completed by the end of the grant cycle. One area that is in progress that might not be completed by years end is adding information about important wildlife habitats and critical habitats. Julie Woodward offered to have a conversation about tools they have been using for wildlife.
- In September Landmapper was released for Washington. This is huge, in the past it has only been available for Oregon.
- In November there will be a resource guide released to help people utilize the application and georeferencing will also be added to PDF's so your maps can be used in Avenza.
- They are still exploring funding sources to keep Landmapper working and current into the future.
- Dave Bugni requested a blurb about Landmapper that he could use in the Clackamas County newsletter. Sarah will send one to Steve and Wylde so they can send it to all the local chapters to use.

FORI Definition: Explanation + Vote: Norm Michaels

- We need a common state definition for FORI. Each state has their own.
- Norm read and explained the proposed FORI definition which had been e-mailed to board members before the meeting.
- Discussion about watershed and water drinking resources for large metropolitan entities, what comprises a “large metropolitan area”, and the way it relates to FORI.
- Norm Michaels made the motion that we accept this definition of FORI.
- Mike Barsotti seconded the motion.
- Dick Courter and Dick Beers abstained (Dick Beer’s used direct message to the secretary during the meeting to abstain due to being unable to turn his mute off in time). All other votes were in favor of the motion.
- The motion passed.

National Leadership Conference March 12-14: Wylda Cafferata

- The National Leadership Conference is being held in Vancouver Washington this year March 12-14.
- Washington was putting on the conference and Oregon has been invited to help in the planning. Now it will be put on by both Washington and Oregon.
- There is funding from ATFS for those who would like to come that could include mileage and lodging and so forth. Please let Steve and Wylda know if you would like to attend using this funding. Due to funding planning they need to know soon so they can send the forms to you to fill out with time to get them to Parks before November 17th. The amount of funding depends on the number of requests ATFS receives.
- They are looking for Oregon field trips near Portland. Hopkins Demonstration Forest was suggested.

Annual Meeting Planning: Wylda Cafferata

- The meeting is coming up on November 4th. Thank you to Julie Woodward, Mary, Sue, and Dick for working on the planning.
- You can sign up to attend on the website.
- The program in the morning is *Forestry in Story, Song, and Verse*. There will be a professional troubadour in the second half and then we will have the business meeting, lunch, and award ceremony. This will be followed by a short Board meeting.

Tree Farmer of the Year Calendar Re-visited

Timing of Tee Farmer of the Year Announcement: November 2023 or June 2024: Mike Barsotti Discussion + Vote

- Mike discussed the pros and cons of timing the announcement of Tree Farmer of the year in November or June.

- Mike moved that we recognize and announce our 2024 state winner at the Family Forest Convention usually held in June, so that the 2024 TFOY would be announced in June of 2024.
- Wylde seconded the motion.
- Dick Courter discussed his strong feelings about following the previous 57 year historic announcement pattern of announcing in November.
- Additional conversation followed including the pros and cons of the how long it may take to prepare and accomplish what needs to take place such as getting ready for and organizing evaluations, tours, venues, as well as the side effects that the timing of the announcement may have on the additional candidates for the award. The Board discussed how we can achieve what will be best for the Tree Farmers of the Year both at the county, state, and regional/national level, as well as what is best for OTFS.
- Wylde called for a roll call vote. A Yes vote is for June, a No vote is for November. Previously submitted proxy votes were placed for Gordon Culberson and Dave Ehlers.
- The motion passed with 12 Yes votes, 3 No votes, and 2 Abstain votes.

Confirming or Revising Tree Farmer of the Year Calendar: Steve Cafferata Discussion + potential vote.

- Steve reflected that he hoped that all board members had read the previously e-mailed opinions of both Ed Easterling and Dick Courter on this subject.
- Steve summarized how the tour dates would stay the same, and the announcements would stay the same; we are only talking about the title of the Tree Farmers, not the calendar. The original disagreement came out of the COVID situation, and that Dick and the Recognition Committee and Oregon Tree Farm System did an excellent job of managing through the COVID timeframe.
- The Board discussed the vote that took place in the November 2021 meeting, the timing of when tours and announcements have taken place since 2020, the complications that resulted from the COVID year, and the tremendous leadership that took place during this time.
- Dick Courter moved that OTFS change to the historical schedule thus reversing the November, 2021 vote.
- Dick Beers second the motion.
- Wylde called for a roll call vote. Yes vote reverses the decision of the November 2021 meeting, No vote kept everything remaining as decided in the November 2021 meeting (Option A “Status Quo” in the previously e-mailed information). Previously submitted proxy votes were placed for Gordon Culberson and Dave Ehlers.
- The motion did not pass with 2 Yes votes, 13 No votes, and 2 Abstain votes.

- During the meeting the secretary accidentally mis-tallied the votes. The true vote tally is reflected above. The vote results that were announced in the meeting are not changed.
- Dick Courter announced that OTFS is now effectively out of his will. He has changed his mind about a substantial donation he was planning to make.
- Mike Barsotti thanked Dick for the tremendous amount of work he has done for the Tree Farm Systems.

Wylda

- Wylda announced that the meeting had run out of time. There are a few things that need to be voted on and reports from working groups that can take place by e-mail.
- Working group chairs please send Wylda the reports you were going to make, and she will send them out within the week.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:30