

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: May 16, 2023

Meeting Called to Order

Roll Call:

Present: Tom Agens, Dick Beers, Dave Bugni, Steve Cafferata, Wylda Cafferata, Mary Chamness, Dick Courter, Gordon Culberson, Ed Easterling, Scott Hayes, Joe Holmberg, Kate McMichael, Steve Vaught, Sue Zeni, Darren Goodding, Parks Brigman, Carrie Spradlin, Julie Woodward, Rick Zenn, Kathryn Charlton, Mike Barsotti, Norm Michaels

Absent: Clint Bentz, Dave Ehlers, Lauren Grand, Jeremy Norby, Austin Reimer, Seth Barns, Nate Agalzoff, Nicole Wood, Rex Storm

Reading Values, Mission, Purpose Statement: Kate McMichael

One addition was made to the agenda: Time for the recognition working group report will be added to the meeting.

March 9, 2023 minutes were approved by consensus.

Strategic Plan Moment: Kate McMichael/ Wylda Cafferata

- The second goal: To enhance OTFS visibility before the Oregon Board of Forestry, the Governor, and the legislature.
 - Dave Bugni has invited the Governor to the Family Forest Convention
 - Kate represents us to the board of Forestry in the Family Forest Committee as the landowner at large. Her current goals:
 - Keeping forests as forests for small land owners.
 - Climate smart forestry and the forestry plan for Oregon moving forward.
 - Making sure OTFS gets mentioned regularly at meetings.
 - Wylda has submitted paperwork to see if June 24th can be declared Oregon's State Tree Farmer of the Year Day.

Introduction of Darren Goodding, Potential New Board Member+ Vote

- Introduction of Darren Goodding. He is the External Relations Manager on the Wallowa- Witman National Forest, the OTFS District Coordinator for Eastern Washington, and a certified ATFS Tree Farm Inspector. He served previously on the Washington Tree Farm System board.

- Steve moved that we vote to have Darren join our board. Dick Courter seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to have Darren join our board. Welcome Darren!

Treasurer's Report: Sue Zeni

- Sue reviewed the May 14th 2023 Budget vs. Actuals: 2023 Budget- FY23 P & L.
 - We have received our first \$1 in interest, and we will start earning more now that the checking account has moved to a Vanguard fund.
 - There was a request for a report that shows a comparison of last year and this year's income and expenses date.
 - Discussion about how to treat recording the Memorial Fund to make sure it's clear that the accounts are not co-mingled and how grants are recorded.
 - Thank you, Sue, for the nice, easy to read reports.

Recognition Working Group: Dick Courter.

- The recognition committee for the 2023 Tree Farmer of the Year might have 6 to 7 nominations this year. June 1st is the deadline for submitting nominations. After that the eligibility will be confirmed.

Family Forest Convention up-date/volunteer needs: Dave Bugni

- So far there are close to 100 registered for the conference and 150 registered for the tour, which puts the tour close to capacity.
- Planning is going along well. There are still some volunteer opportunities.

Tree Farm of the Year Sign Information/Discussion: Wylde Cafferata

- Discussion about options for offering former Tree Farmers of the Year new signs and how to handle the cost of the \$200 per sign.
 - A suggestion was made that we offer to split the cost of the signs 50/50, making the cost of \$100 to the past Tree Farmers of the Year and \$100 to OTFS for each sign.
 - Tree Farmers of the Year would need to have maintained their certificate and still be a participating member of OTFS to be eligible.
 - Wylde will reach out to the former Tree Farmers of the Year who have met this requirement to see how many would be interested in receiving a new sign.
 - Steve and Wylde can contact Kim Minton when they are ready to order signs.

ODF Compliance Committee Report: Steve Vaught

- Steve is serving on the committee whose purpose is to provide recommendations and input to the Department of Forestry in the compliance monitoring program to oversee the monitoring of the Forest Practice Act.
- It would be good to communicate Steve's role to the OTFS members in the next newsletter so they can talk with Steve about any information or concerns that they would like Steve to bring to the group.

ATFS Certification changes: Steve Cafferata.

- There will be changes in the way the third-party audit committee will do audits.
 - Multiple teams across the state instead of one team.
 - If a tree farmer is selected, we can't help them upgrade their management plan.
 - The time spent on the tree farm inspection will be proportional to the complexity of the tree farm.
- The third-party assessments are going to be more tedious and burdensome, not less so. Parks would like to encourage the Certification Committee to continue thinking- is it still worth it?

Landowner Journey Report: Dave Bugni

- Dave shared the Getting To Know More About OTFS video that is on the OTFS website.

Certification Up-date: Norm Michaels/Steve Cafferata

- 95 Inspections to date. 14 were required. 26 of those were decertified mostly due to sold or deceased. 25 left to go for the year.
- 27 inspectors have done one or more inspections and Rod Bardell has done 20!
- Still looking for more inspectors.

Comments from the Co-Chairs

- Wylde continues to serve on the Search Committee for the Starker chair. There are some great candidates, and the Search Committee is hoping to finalize their recommendation soon.
- Wylde is also serving on the committee to find a replacement for Tiffany Hopkins for the MWM and WOWNET coordinator. Recommendations are in and they are hoping to have it finalized soon.
- ATFS has provided Constant Contact and Steve and Wylde will try to send out newsletters every quarter.
- There will be a video contract with ODF that will have enough funding to cover our video costs again this year.
- Landmapper- the grant needs to be completed by the end of this year.

- Bonuses (2 so far) and mileage will be paid to the tree farm inspectors this year as agreed upon in our previous meeting.

Partner Reports:

- ATFS: Parks Brigman-
 - In the process of notifying the regional OTFY finalists. Oregon has made it to the final 2 in the West with our own Dave Bugni. Congratulations!
 - Annual funding is in the ballpark of what it was last year.
 - Merch orders should be arriving shortly.
 - Keep thinking through if the third-party certifications are worth it.
- OFRI: Julie Woodard-
 - Kathryn Charlton has come to work with OFRI starting May 1- Welcome! She will be managing the Discovery Forest.
 - OFRI has 3 new members on the board of directors and has had their budget approved.
 - OFRI is doing workshops and training about the new Private Forest Accord rules and is also working on an updated illustrated manual which will hopefully come out next year.
- SIC: Tom Agens-Nothing to add to the written report currently.
- SAF: Mike Barsotti/ Steve Cafferetta-
 - The annual meeting was a good one. Steve enjoyed the C & D mill tour. There was also a great presentation on Douglas Fir decline in SW Oregon and the effects of forest fires.
- USFS: Carrie Spradlin:
 - Inflation Reduction Act competitive grants are starting to come out. A large portion of these funds will go to urban and community forestry. Nationally it's close to 1 billion dollars.
 - Grants for underserved private landowners will be coming out soon.

The June 22 meeting will be held in person at Estacada.

Meeting Adjourned 10:23