



Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting Summary for March 8, 2022



Under public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a meeting of the Committee for Family Forestlands [an advisory body to the Oregon Board of Forestry with authority established in Oregon Revised Statute 527.650] was convened on March 8, 2022, as a virtual online meeting. Meeting recordings constitute the official record.

CFF Committee members participating:

Wendy Gerlach, Citizen-At-Large (Voting)
Kaola Swanson, Conservation Rep. (Voting)
Gary Jensen, Southern Oregon Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Kate McMichael, Landowner-At-Large Rep. (Voting)
S. Mark Vroman, Industry rep (Voting) Hampton Family Forests
Maurizio Valerio, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Rick Zenn, OSWA Executive Administrator Ex-Officio
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio
Amanda Astor, Forest Policy Manager AOL Ex-Officio
Barrett Brown, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Nick Hennemann, Interim FPA & Monitoring Deputy Chief

ODF Staff attending:

Kristin Whitney, Administrative Specialist
Mike Kroon, All Lands Deputy Chief
Ryan Gordon, Planning Branch Director

Members not in attendance:

Janelle Geddes, USFS State & Private Forestry Ex-Officio

Guests/Public:

Ben Deumling, Board of Forestry
Susana Gladwin, Public
Ann Walker Consulting, Public
Kelly, Wallowa resources

Chair Comments. Chair Gerlach called the meeting to order, asked if changes to the agenda were needed. Members of the public introduced themselves and stated takeaways from the meeting.

Forest Resources Division/Legislative Update. Deputy Chief Hennemann spoke on the senate and house bills that came out of the Private Forest Accord passed each body. Between now and November staff will work on rulemaking guided by what is in SB1501 which includes the Private Forest Accord Report. He talked the division’s expected work and adding 20 positions through the next 4-6 months, the remaining 51 permanent full-time positions will be hired toward the end of this biennium. He reported that the state offices open May 1, 2022, and mask mandate is removed for everyone April 1, 2022. Hennemann asked about a May in-person meeting for the committee. He touched on current hiring for vacant positions.

There was discussion about increases in salaries for higher pay bands due to the competitive labor market; small forestland owner positions; and hiring generally. Hennemann discussed the legislature’s budget appropriations for administering the new laws, pay bands are set by the Department of Administrative Services; current recruitments that are not from the Accord. Maurizio asked about the work locations for the new positions and the preference to have them spread across the state. Hennemann explained some positions will be Salem-based and others across the state.

Private Forest Accord Update. Mike Kroon gave a broad overview of the work to be done between now and December 2022. For rule writing, each chapter of the Accord Report will related rules. ODF is building the rule-writing team, including developing position descriptions and reaching out to other agencies for staffing help. May is the goal to have some personnel in those positions, depending on when the Department of Administrative Services finalizes the position descriptions. Training for staff and the public are part of the plan, including partnerships with forestry and conservation groups to do outreach. Kroon talked about the field positions, 12 small forestland owner foresters across the state, and additional managers across the state. He talked about additional inquiries required to fill those positions, HR personnel, facilities, etc. The habitat conservation plan initial application must be submitted by the end of the year. The rulemaking is due November 30, 2022.

A question about the effective dates, if there will be, and the process on the HCP along with the approvals and affected species and implementation timeline. Hennemann confirmed what was mentioned and said the HCP completion deadline is 2027. A request of the timeline if one was written to be sent out and where to look for those resources, can the committee share as available? ODF is working on a webpage for the FPA which may be placed there.

Amanda provided a link of a timeline she presented at the Oregon Loggers Conference. Hennemann elaborated on those timelines and potential changes, effective dates, and due dates. He shared how the committee input could help decision-making for the rulemaking and implementation. Mark asked about the staffing with ODFW on building the layer for stream buffers. Hennemann shared that TerrainWorks would be under contract for much of the modeling work and that ODFW and ODF are collaborating on this. ODF plans to procure TerrainWorks services as soon as possible.

Amanda asked if the small forestland foresters at the districts would act as experts in the office to help stewardship foresters or would they take over responsibility for those notifications. Kroon answered they would be subject matter experts for the small forestland office and mentioned other entities' inquiries and the intent of the foresters at the districts. Amanda talked about the potential for incentive programs that could be additives which Kroon confirmed the incentives program is to be included with the small forestland owners. Clarification was provided on the training and outreach intentions, the processes for them and technical support to come from it. Julie spoke about OFRI's work on having a similar message for all which had been taken to the Governor's office and mentioned the assistance they anticipate providing.

Chair Gerlach asked the public who had just joined to introduce themselves and their topics of interest.

Policy Option Packages (POPS). Ryan Gordon, Planning Branch Director, described the policy option packages the Board of Forestry would consider on March 9, 2022. He shared the staff report, timelines, and the process of the policy option packages.

Amanda mentioned the added positions she suggested to the that she would look like to be part of workforce development as training is crucial. Chair Gerlach asked about the Forest Legacy program and how priorities were considered, Kroon gave more detail and the intent of the program.

Roundtable.

Barrett asked Ryan for more details on the upcoming Board presentation about the Forestry Program for Oregon. Ryan explained it is an information session about the intent and overview of the plan to move

forward in the next 12-18 months to work through revisions with the Board of Forestry in April. The FPFO will be within the carbon and climate change plan, Barrett asked if that could be touched on. Ryan described the information, plan, and process.

Open Discussion.

Mike Kroon started the conversation about the small woodlands program seedlings, timelines, funding, and the intention of the start time for post-fire assistance and who to contact.

Barrett asked for more information on changes and potential changes. Kroon elaborated on what positions are working to start the process and the intent of making those permanent. He also touched on the fire season and the current foresters' fire intent, the intent of the division to have a team fill in as needed. Barrett asked about incentives for folks that help with wildfire, compared to those who don't have the opportunity to work on a wildfire assignment. Kroon answered the intent with the duration of each forester participating on fire and what that meant for incentive to help take some workloads of the district to focus on their priorities.

Gary asked to add input on the outreach for small woodland owners and gave insight on his experience with OSU extension. He also talked about landowners turning to OSU as an education entity compared to ODF's regulations and guideline outlook. Asked if OFRI might provide a grant that ODF could fund a position for that. Glenn added more information to what Gary mentioned about the outreach that others along with extension could assist with. Asked how to connect those dots to work together for the strong need.

Barrett added branding with the new department to be key to gaining trust to get outreach. Mike Kroon agreed to the intention of the small woodland foresters to do that, Kaola Swanson added hope that OFRI could add more help with the work and leveraging assistance in funding and central locations per area and how the setup could look like and think about.

Julie followed up on a few things including the strategic plan, contacted stakeholders, and see where that went, OFRI pushed their idea that they could extend and wanted to mention to the committee to get more boots on the ground, she also touched on my blue mountain woodlands.

Amanda asked if the incentives program field coordinator position filled and if that part of the division is to be a part of the small woodland owners, also if a discussion was talked about the All-lands part of the division to split into its own division looking at the organization chart. Nick answered that question and the intent of the agency with the department adding additional managers to add capacity and we will know more with the Private Forest Accord.

Kate talked about recently hosting a couple of workshops led by a master woodland manager who volunteered she had recently for women in forestry and just outreach intent and as a new forest landowner her experience, connections on building relationships, recognizing that some people can be intimidated to ask for connections and she advised them to get to know the local stewardship forester.

Maurizio asked about a point of entry or a web-portal to direct a woodland owner to one person or place compared to multiple, also if there could be an acronyms glossary for the new owners as there is an increase lately – Kaola agreed to work on what similar and hope to bring in others to assist and make sense as a resource. Wendy added the potential to have links to other resources, templates for plans,

applications for grants, the tax credit for small woodland owners, etc. Barrett agreed with Mauricio, the intent of the SFO legislatively aligned with that and maybe add to an entry portal for resources. The concierge concept interfaces between an entry portal compared to lists of resources that could be harder for entry owners to find the right resource for themselves by region, so interest isn't lost. Deputy Chief Hennemann relayed intent from the agency to set long-term solutions and share with others the vision from the Private Forest Accord.

Amanda mentioned her work with the logging contractors who work on small woodlands to understand the incentive programs and other things to be additive services they can provide to the small forest land community to help develop a relationship with consulting foresters. Julie said OFRI just helped with a directory like that to help promote landowners looking for those resources, Kaola asked about those lists and add more to increase the outreach resources in volume, how that could look, and simplify the process. Glenn added that associations would be a good outreach starting point like AOL. Ben Deumling spoke about legislative items, suggested adding information about agencies with foresters for assistance, and agreed on a centralized location to direct landowners. Nick clarified what the state agencies must consider regarding hosting this type of directory.

Amanda clarified she was speaking on behalf of AOL and mentioned the idea of a repository where companies could voluntarily sign up and maintain their information in another way since AOL has something similar. Kate spoke on her experience going through the process and the feeling of intimidation which other newer landowners too can feel when starting, acknowledged the need could be exponentially high for the small new landowner's foresters and relationships would be key.

Chair Gerlach asked about the May meeting to be the first in-person meeting as the state agency offices re-open, Nick offered it to be in-person with a virtual attendance option and the meeting adjourned.