

## **Polk County Forestland Classification Committee Meeting**

### **Meeting Minutes**

September 20, 2010

9:03 – 11:27 pm

Oregon Department of Forestry, Dallas Office

Meeting called to order by Terry Lamers (Chair) at 9:03 a.m. on September 20, 2010, Oregon Department of Forestry, Dallas Unit, 825 Oak Villa Rd., Dallas, OR.

Members in attendance: Don Duhrkopf, Terry Lamers, Tom Parsons, Jeff Classen and Bill Hahn.

Quorum present.

Guests: - Mike Totey, District Forester for the West Oregon District, Oregon Department of Forestry.

### **Agenda**

1. Minutes from last meeting.
  2. Welcome Chief Hahn to committee and spend some time briefing him on committees work to this point.
  3. Update on progress with hearing in Benton County and those in NE Oregon.
  4. Update on progress determining number of added and dropped lots as a result of our draft classification work.
  5. Review letters from Polk County Assessor and Polk County Commissioners
  6. Review Falls City letter to Committee and then plan for having one final meeting with the Falls City, City Council.
  7. Begin planning process for our public hearing.
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1. Jeff reported there were no Minutes from the March 9, 2010 meeting to review at today's meeting. Brad has gone on an 8 month sabbatical starting September 1, 2010 and Jeff did not get the minutes from Brad before he left. Don suggested the committee try to get in touch with Brad to get those minutes as it will be several months before he returns. Jeff said he would work up minutes for this and following meetings till Brad returns.
  2. Terry and committee welcomed new Forest Classification Committee member Bill Hahn who is representing the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Bill is Fire Chief for the City of Dallas and SW Polk Rural Fire Department and currently the County Chief for the Polk County Fire Defense Board. Time was spent sharing with Bill some of the work the committee has done to this point. Bill was also provided a committee member notebook with information on forest classification and copies of minutes from all the past meetings.

Approved Minutes 10/14/10

Don asked with the addition of Bill to the committee will the committee also need to add an Urban Member as mentioned in the rules? Mike Totey explained that the rule Don was referring to was one that applies to Wildland Urban Interface Committees not Forestland Classification Committees. Jeff reminded of the copies of SB 189 he passed out at the last meeting which changed a few of the Forestland Classification rules and added the sixth member to the Forestland Classification Committee (representative from the Office of the State Fire Marshal).

Jeff provided committee members new copies of ORS 526 which have the changes that resulted from SB 189.

Jeff mentioned he had worked with Leslie at Polk County to do a few updates to our web page making sure all our minutes were posted, added some links to rules and other information and fixed a couple links that were no longer working. These few additions should make it easier for the public to learn about Forestland Classification from our web page. Jeff asked committee members to take a look and let him know if they saw other changes that should be made.

3. Mike Totey provided an update on Benton County's progress with their Forestland Classification Work and that they were now preparing for their second public hearing which should be this November.
4. Jeff gave an update on progress determining the actual number of tax accounts added and dropped as a result of the committees draft work. Jeff reported Allison is still in the process of correcting a lot of errors that occur with the meshing of different data layers. It is a slow process learning how to work with the data and correct errors but Allison hopes she will have most of the work done by the committee's next meeting. Mike said figuring out the exact number of added and dropped lots has to be completed before our committee will be able to set a date for our hearing.
5. Jeff handed out copies of a letter sent to our Committee by the Polk County Assessor and one from the Polk County Commissioners asking the Classification Committee keep the boundary of forestland tied to tax lot lines to keep the Assessors process simpler. The committee discussed this and Jeff said he will ask Allison if she could work up a map showing all boundaries snapped to tax lot lines. This map will be brought to the committee and they can make a decision if they want to comply with the request. This should only have a minor effect on the classification work the committee has done.

A question came up in this discussion about the Polk County Assessor and how they would implement the classification work once it becomes official. Mike explained the assessor would receive from ODF a list of all the tax lots Classified as Forestland with the number of acres each lot needs to be assessed for fire.

6. Jeff handed out letters each classification committee member received from the City of Falls City signed by the Mayor and the City Council members. The letter was asking the Forestland Classification Committee to not classify any land within the city limits as forestland. The committee discussed issues brought up in the letter and decided it would be best to get on the agenda for the next City Council meeting to try and better explain forest classification and what it means if the committee does not classify any land as forestland within the city limits of Falls City. Terry said he would contact Falls City and try to get on their next meeting agenda.
7. Planning for the public hearing was deferred till more GIS map work is completed by Allison and Jeff and the committee is able to meet with the Falls City, City Council.

The meeting was recessed at 11:27.