

Polk County Forestland Classification Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2008

1:00 – 5:15 pm

Oregon Department of Forestry, Dallas Office

Meeting called to order by Don Duhrkopf (Vice Chair) at 1300 on 7/17/08, Oregon Dept. of Forestry. 825 Oak Villa Rd., Dallas, OR

Members in attendance: Don Duhrkopf, Tom Parsons, Jeff Classen and Brad Withrow-Robinson.

Quorum present

Changes to agenda...No

Approval of minutes: June 13, Approved

June 25, grammatical changes made and then approved

Items in draft By-Law document reviewed:

Various grammatical and punctuation changes made.

I – statutes listed are correct per Jeff, but that statutes go to 526.332 (correction made)

II – Don asked if note was needed at bottom of paragraph stating no grazing lands in Polk County...consensus that it was not needed.

III – delete term “in their absence”.

IV – Discussion regarding “filing with State Board of Forestry” and wording for choice to resign from Committee if so desired. Result of discussion; delete rest of the paragraph after “appointing agency” and place period there. Add sentences from June 25 meeting notes regarding resignation from Committee.

VI – Add term “Quorum” to section title (Meetings/Quorum).

VII – Bullets 4 & 6 – Combine and number the bullets.

#9 Add word “Member” to participation.

#10 Okay for Committee info to be posted on Polk County website.

- Jeff reported on his conversation w/ Dennis Day, Polk County Assessor, and Dennis' concern for the amount of work the reclassification would put on the assessors office. Dennis to be invited to next meeting and put on agenda.

Don called for a motion to approve by-laws, Brad moved, Tom seconded. All approved.

Approved 8/7/08

Review of Forestland Classification criteria:

Jeff presented a 3 page document for classifying forestland taken from the 2007 Oregon Forestland Classification Review's Final Report. Jeff passed out photos of a township for Committee to look at and try to use for classifying forestland.

The Final Reports Criteria – Don felt Committee shouldn't change way of classifying from what was outlined in document. If necessary to deviate, should be clearly documented as to why and what was changed. Brad pointed out an obligation to make that guidance, and the Committee's interpretation of that guidance (more) clearly understandable to public audiences.

Time was spent working through classification flow chart with the photos of several sections to see how decision criteria would work. Jeff is working on computer program for marking areas in a single step as assessment, rather than in two steps first to paper, then to computer. Hope to avoid recording errors. The process bogged down at margin of forest and agricultural land uses, with challenges of recognizing and delineating contiguousness while looking at each 16th section.

Don raised question about streamlining decision to classify all industrial lands as forestland. Discussion followed regarding fairness to small landowners if Committee doesn't look at all land involved. Protocol is to look at land and make determination. Industrial land should follow same protocol. Consensus to treat it all the same and look at industrial land as well.

Jeff distributed corrected roster to Committee members. All okay.

Action Items:

Jeff to talk to local fire departments.

Jeff and Brad to meet with Leslie Friesen (Polk County information services) about process to build a page within County website for Committee information.

Agenda for next meeting – August 7th 1:00 p.m.

- Have discussion with Assessor about process, managing workloads.
- Continue to test and review the classification criteria, look at coarser scale maps and photos.
- Determine if a field visit is needed at future meeting.

Meeting adjourned 17:15

Approved 8/7/08