

Polk County Forestland Classification Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2008

9:00 – 11:00 pm

Oregon Department of Forestry, Dallas Office

Meeting called to order by Terry Lamers (Chair) at 9:05 a.m. on November 3, 2008, Oregon Department of Forestry, Dallas Unit, 825 Oak Villa Rd., Dallas, OR

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

Quorum present.

Guests: Allison Blair, Oregon Department of Forestry, Dallas Protection Assistant (9:50 to 11:00).

August 22 minutes accepted with corrections.

An agenda for this meeting was passed out and included the following items:

1. Bring Terry up to speed from his absence.
2. Update on status of press release work and web site.
3. Try to finalize review criteria and review flow chart.
4. Selecting meeting dates for the next 3-4 months.

Agenda items were agreed upon by committee and none were added.

Brad reported on the webpage. A draft was sent to Leslie Friesen. She is busy with elections and new tax statements, so likely not get a draft for the Committee to review for a couple weeks yet.

Jeff Classen reported that Rod Nichols at ODF has prepared a draft press release. Jeff will edit, making reference to the webpage on County website and email to committee for review. Discussed ways to get the Committee's work announced as required. Steps:

- Complete press release and hold.
- Brad and Leslie will finish website draft, make available to Committee to review and comment on. Once revised, will be made live.
- Press release will be sent out to local papers and Capital Press.

This should make Committee's activities public and transparent, so the Committee can proceed with its work. Goal is to have the website active and press release available by the next meeting.

Approved 12/5/08

Discussion on Decision criteria and flow chart.

Committee reviewed highly simplified flowchart presented by Brad. Jeff updated Committee on Benton County Process which has produced a very complicated process. This reflects a more complicated rural urban interface situation in Benton County than in Polk County, including high investment and involvement of other fire fighting agencies. Jeff expressed concern that the process not allow creation of islands of non-classified lands within classified areas.

The Committee suggested revisions to the decision criteria and flow chart. Brad will make edits and send to Committee.

Jeff handed out a copy of a memorandum addressed to the Polk County Forestland Classification Committee. The memorandum recommends that all West Oregon Forest Protection Association membership lands within the West Oregon Forest Protection District Boundary be classified as forestland. Memorandum is signed by Steve Laam, District Forester - West Oregon District and Tim Tompkins, President - West Oregon Forest Protection Association.

Dates for next meeting were established.

December 5, 9:00-11:00 (local Fire Marshalls will be invited)

January 5, 9:00-4:00.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00.