

Polk County Forestland Classification Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2011

9:14 – 10:35am

Oregon Department of Forestry, Dallas Office

Meeting called to order by Terry Lamers (Chair) at 9:14 a.m. on April 7, 2011, Oregon Department of Forestry, Dallas Unit, 825 Oak Villa Rd., Dallas, OR.

Members in attendance: Terry Lamers, Tom Parsons, Frank Pender, Bill Hahn and Jeff Classen.

Quorum present.

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

Agenda:

1. Review minutes of January 5, 2011 meeting.
2. Review final public meeting.
3. Review Public Hearing.
4. Review mapping issues for Assessor.
5. Review Hearing Officer's initial report.
6. Review written and oral testimony from Public Hearing and determine if committee needs to consider any changes to the draft work.

Meeting:

1. Jeff handed out draft minutes from January 5, 2011 meeting for committee members to review. After review of minutes only a couple typing errors were found and corrections made. Frank moved the January 5, 2011 minutes be approved. Tom seconded the motion and committee unanimously approved the January 5, 2011 minutes at 9:23am.
2. Terry asked committee members how they thought the last public information meeting had gone. The general consensus of the committee was that it was productive for the 4 people who attended but that even after mailing out about 1200 post cards we still couldn't get people interested enough to come attend our information meeting.
3. Terry asked committee members what they thought about the March 10th public hearing. In the Committee's discussion they thought the 14 people who attended the hearing was a pretty good turnout since the 3 public information meetings had such poor landowner attendance. Of the oral testimony heard the main issues seemed to be the definition of forestland was too broad and landowners felt they were already protected from wildland fire by their rural fire department so it was unfair to be assessed for wildland fire protection by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Also one landowner felt it was a

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conflict of interest to have a Department of Forestry employee as a member of the forestland classification committee.

4. Jeff provided update on progress of GIS map work. Allison has been using Polk County's most current tax lot layer to see that the draft forestland classification boundary follows tax lot lines wherever possible to avoid generating additional work for the assessor's office to implement the committee's classification work. Map work is nearly done so the next step is to generate a list of all the tax lots that the committee has classified as forestland. This list, when draft classification work is finalized, will be recorded as part of the written order at the Polk County Clerk's office. Jeff explained the map work is hard because we are using multiple layers of data that don't line up well in some areas (protection district boundary, tax lot maps, section lines, city limit boundary, etc.) Since these data layers don't line up perfectly it is hard to make a boundary line that is perfect. Jeff asked the committee if they were ok with him making very small tweaks in the classification boundary, to make it fit tax lot lines, to avoid making huge amounts of work for the assessor to implement the Committee's classification work. Consensus of committee members was that tiny tweaks to the boundary would need to be made as a result of data layers not matching perfectly.
5. The Hearing Officer's final report has not been received so decision made to move further discussion of this agenda item to the next meeting.
6. After some discussion on the final agenda item the Committee decided to schedule a field trip to look at the parcels of the people who had provided testimony at the hearing. Decision made to move further discussion of this agenda item to the next meeting.

Meeting was recessed at 10:35am.