

Polk County Forestland Classification Committee Meeting

Minutes

December 19, 2013

9:30-11:20am

Oregon Department of Forestry, Dallas Office

Meeting called to order by Chair Terry Lamers at 9:30am, on December 19, 2013, at the Oregon Department of Forestry office in Dallas.

Members present: Bill Hahn (retiring), Terry Lamers, Tom Parsons, Jeff Classen, and Brad Withrow-Robinson

Quorum present.

Guests: Don Duhrkopf, Jason Rayburn (ODF), Tom Brateng (Assessor's Office), Fred Hertel (Incoming Fire Chief for SW Polk RFPD).

Meeting Agenda:

1. Review minutes of October 4, 2012 meeting and approve.
2. Committee update-All.
3. Review of current forest land classification.
4. Bill Hahn retirement and need for new committee member appointment from office of the State Fire Marshall. Status of other members?
5. Web Page.
6. Discuss classification work for remainder of Polk County.

1. Minutes reviewed, moved (Bill) seconded (Brad) and approved with minor spelling revisions.

2. At beginning of the update, Jeff and Terry gave an introduction of the Committee, its work to date, with discussion about process, development of Committee's decision making activities, etc. Some CWPP grants and prevention work completed northwest of Dallas. Anticipate similar work in the Falls City area beginning in the fall of 2014. Assessor's office is now linking the assessment into automated tax lot tracking.

(Don Duhrkopf had to depart for another meeting at 10:00am)

Minutes Approved 2/5/14

3. Committee reviewed current classification map.

It was determined that there were no new situations requiring Committee's attention, either by direct contact to ODF or Assessors. This includes annexation south of Dallas, no change in status. No request for review of classification since last meeting.

4. Bill Hahn retires December 23, 2013. Fred Hertel will assume role of Chief for City of Dallas and South West Polk RFD. Upon receiving a letter from Fire Marshalls office, Fred will become a member (by next meeting). Committee thanked Bill for his service and welcomed Fred.

5. Web Page, hosted at the County Page. No pressing issues now. Jeff will review and make changes consulting with Committee as needed.

6. Discussion on classification of the remainder of Polk County. What is our justification? An administrative role charged the Committee to consider the whole county. Eola Hills will be main area now outside of current Boundary that would likely have classifiable forest lands. This area is seen as a challenging area in which to respond to wildfire. ODF would be very instrumental. Jeff noted ODF is not able to cover with current staffing. Also challenging as a forestland classification issue. Christmas trees and vineyards will be issues there too.

Preliminary classification would be similar situation as past process. Need to do draft classification and upon completion, the draft work will be held until District decides to proceed with a review of its protection boundary.

A prelim assessment would surely sit on the shelf for a long while. Coverage to areas now outside would require many steps, including public hearings. District wants to wait until all counties in the district have completed the full county review (probably years). May involve decisions if will expand or reduce boundary.

Committee wants to do a preliminary classification soon, while many of original members are still involved.

Do we not have a county wide, mutual aid agreement? Pointed out that there are some areas in West Salem Hills (recent developments) not covered even by a RFPD.

Based on Committee member availability, will target an initial scoping meeting in late January to look at areas, issues. Jeff will do some pre-work on maps, Fred will look for data on fire starts for W Salem Hills. Jeff will schedule.

Meeting recessed 11:20pm.