

# Lane Small Woodlands Association Quarterly Minutes: 1/19/2023

**Meeting Time:** 5 PM -9:00 PM **Location:** Eugene Elks Club

**Board Members Present:** Gary Jensen; Dick Beers; Wylde Cafferata; Gordon Culbertson; Dan Kintigh; Kate McMichael; Rick Olson; Lauren Grand

**Guests:** Lindsay Reaves; Theresa Hauser; Steve Cafferata; Becca Fain; Senator Dick Anderson; Representative Charlie Conrad; +/- 70 Members of LCSWA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Introductions
3. Meeting Presentations
4. LCSWA Business Meeting
5. Open Floor for Membership Input
6. Special Thanks to Board and Officers
7. Adjourn

1. Gary Jensen called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM after a social hour and buffet dinner beginning at 5:00 PM

## 2. Introductions

- Gary welcomed the group, introduced all the Board members; Lauren Grand, OSU Extension; and Dan Menk, ODF Representative
- Gordon Culbertson introduced Senator Dick Anderson and Representative Charlie Conrad.

## 3. Meeting Presentations

- Tami Jo Braz, OSWA Co-Membership Committee Chair
  - Tami Jo created and shared a list of Lane County members who are 10, 20, 30 and 40 year members, and urged us to honor their commitment. A copy was placed on each table. She also welcomed new members.
  - Tami Jo gave a heartfelt presentation on why we should all be OSWA members and recruit our neighbors.
  - Tami Jo dramatically recited Bob Mealey's famous poem about why he plants trees. You can find the poem on-line by Googling Robert Mealey.
- Nicole Wood, OSWA President:
  - Nicole shared her background as 4<sup>th</sup> generation small woodland owner from Yamhill County, daughter of Leland Payne.
  - Nicole explained OSWA's motto: SAFE= Stewardship, Advocacy; Fellowship; Education
  - Nicole explained the importance of volunteers; the great job our lobbyist Roger Beyer does for small woodland owners; the change from the former Government Affairs Committee to the Government Affairs Team, led by Roger Beyer and Mike Barsotti, and how essential growing our membership so as to increase small woodland's voice state-wide. The GAT will meet every other Wednesday to learn about bills under consideration. E-mail Rick Zenn at [rick@oswa.org](mailto:rick@oswa.org) to get the zoom link to the meeting. Mike Barsotti will also chair the legislative strategy group which meets separately.
  - Nicole informed the group that OSWA's goal is to help chapters interact more with each other.
- Rick Zenn, OSWA Executive Director
  - Rick introduced himself, mentioning that he replaced Jim James approximately a year ago.

- Rick mentioned that Lane County is well-represented at the State level, with Gordon Culbertson as OSWA's President-Elect and both Gary Jensen and Kate McMichael representing small woodland owners on the Committee for Family Forests. Additionally, Steve and Wylda Cafferata are Co-Chairs of the Oregon Tree Farm System.
- Rick told the group that more information on the Private Forest Accord would be forthcoming during the year, particularly regarding its impact on small woodland owners. He led a Question & Answer session on the consequences of the new rules.
- Rick stressed the importance of OSWA's partnering with other organizations such as OWIT (Oregon Women in Timber); ODF; Oregon Tree Farm System etc. These partnerships, as well as building relationships with neighbors and others with no forestry backgrounds, will help create a general public who understands the value of sustainable forestry and the work it involves.
- Rick reminded the group that the Family Forest Convention will be held at the Estacada High School on June 22-24
- Tom Snyder, NRCS
  - Tom explained that NRCS began in the 1930s in response to the Dust Bowl, and was called the Soil Conservation Service, later changing its name to the Natural Resource Conservation Service. He explained that while the federal government is an "unwieldy beast", the goal of NRCS is to emphasize local control through Watershed Councils.
  - Tom's role is to meet with landowners, discuss their priorities, and explain cost-share opportunities. He mentioned two programs: EQUIP which is a forest resiliency program (pre-commercial thinning, pollinator habitat; invasive species control etc.) and the Conservation Stewardship Program which is concerned with "higher level management." He encouraged LCSWA members to explore the NRCS website for more information and/or e-mail him. Phoning is not a good option since he is often in the field, the part of his job he likes the most.
  - Tom mentioned that his funding has increased dramatically for the coming year in order to promote climate-smart forestry. He also mentioned that income from cost-share programs is taxable.

## **5. LCSWA Business Meeting**

- A. LCSWA Activities 2022: Wylda Cafferata, Secretary, listed six activities for 2022: Quarterly Board Meetings; ZOOM Membership Meeting; Seedling Sale; Tour of Dan Kintigh's nursery and forest; Forest Field Day at the Bauman's tree farm; and tour of the Sierra Pacific Mill. Additionally, several of our members attended the Family Forest Convention in Corvallis and the OSWA Membership meeting in Eugene. She noted that LCSWA made donations to Oregon Women in Timber (who fund and manage Project Learning Tree), ONREF (Oregon Natural Resource fund that contributes to forestry education in high schools and has a special OSWA sub-fund to which chapters and members may contribute) and FTT (Forests Today & Forever that provides forestry education in Lane County to several age groups with an emphasis on middle schoolers.)
- B. Outreach: Kate McMichael demonstrated the new LCSWA website that she designed for us. It includes several links to organizations helpful to small woodland owners as well as our Chapter events and photos of our activities. She provided everyone with a sticker giving the website address: [lanesmallwoodlands.org](http://lanesmallwoodlands.org).

C. Treasurer's Report

- Gordon Culbertson reported that our ending balance as of November 30, 2022 was \$34,586.51. Our beginning balance as of January 1, 2022 was \$ 30,878.18. All transactions for 2022 are reconciled and balanced.
- Gordon noted that the chapter has invested \$15,000 in CDs at the Umpqua Bank.

D. Membership Report: Dick Beers reported that although we lost some members during the last few years, our numbers are rebuilding, and we have 163 members currently. He encouraged all members to ask those they know to join OSWA. He reminded the group that there is strength in numbers.

E. Directors Election: Gordon Culbertson was unanimously elected to another term on the Lane County Small Woodlands Association Board, and Timothy Gurton was elected unanimously to the LCSWA Board.

F. Partner Report from Oregon Tree Farm Association

- Wylda Cafferata, Co-Chair of the Oregon Tree Farm System, explained that OSWA and OTFS share a mission of promoting sustainable forestry in Oregon, but go about fulfilling the mission in different ways. OSWA emphasizes political advocacy, and OTFS emphasizes working with individual tree farmers to certify that their forests meet international sustainability standards.
- Steve Cafferata, Co-Chair of OTFS explained the certification process, which includes writing a management plan and having a visit from a professional forester to inspect and help landowners meet the standards. OTFS is an all-volunteer organization and there is no charge to the landowner for certification. For more information, Steve suggests calling him at 541-797-9734 or e-mailing [wyldac@gmail.com](mailto:wyldac@gmail.com).
- Steve and Wylda explained that OSWA and OTFS partner to select County and State Tree Farmers of the Year. They presented the 2020 Lane County Tree Farmer of the Year Award to Sara Leiman, and the 2022 Tree Farmer of the Year Award to Diane Kaldahl and her daughter Kaye. Both Tree Farmers of the Year described their tree farms and thanked those who have helped them. Our 2021 Lane County Tree Farmers of the Year are Darrick and Shannon Salyers, who could not be present.

**6. Open Floor for Membership Input:** Members had input during the earlier parts of the meeting.

**7. Awards**

- A. Dick Beers: Dick Beers is stepping down from service on the LCSWA Board after 20 years, many of which as Vice-President and Membership Chair. Many board members expressed their appreciation of his participation. He was presented with a certificate, a coffee mug and card, and a pair of Tree Farm suspenders.
- B. Gary Jensen: Gary is stepping down from the President's role as of the February board meeting, but will remain as a board member. Gordon thanked Gary and presented him and his wife Cindy with a dinner gift certificate.
- C. Kate McMichael: Gary thanked Kate for her tireless work on our webpage and social media outreach and named her Lane County Volunteer of the Year.

**8. Raffle:** Rick Olson and Beca Fain conducted an outstanding raffle with many

enticing prizes claimed by exuberant Chapter members.

**9. Seedling Sale:** Lindsay Reaves announced that the seedling sale will be held on February 4, 2023, at our usual location in Alton Baker Park at 8:00 AM. She warned members that seedlings sell out rapidly and come early for best selection.

**Adjournment:** Gary adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM

**Plans for Next Meeting:**

- Planning for 2023 Events
- Election of Board Officers