

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING: APRIL 20, 2024



**Meeting Time:** 10:30 AM-11:30 AM

**Location:** HJ Andrews Experimental Forest

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

**Guests:** Steve Cafferata; Becca Fain; Lindsay Reaves; Mark Swanson; +/- fifty LCSWA members.

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. LCSWA Volunteer of the Year
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Membership Report
5. LCSWA Annual Report
6. OSWA Report
7. Introduction to Succession
8. Introduction: Mark Swanson, Starker Chair
9. PFA Update
10. Adjourn

1. Welcome/Introductions

- Kate McMichael, President, opened the meeting with a song and welcomed the members.
- All Board members stood to be introduced.
- Kate announced that Wylda Cafferata and Rick Olson's terms were expiring, and that both were willing to continue on the Board. Member Malcolm Wilson moved to reelect them to the board, John Dugan seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Kate invited all members to attend board meetings and to consider becoming a member of the board.
- Kate announced the Board's intention of rotating locations of annual board meetings since our county stretches from the mountains to the sea.

2. Volunteer of the Year: Kate announced that Chuck Volz is our Lane County Volunteer of the Year. Steve and Wylda Cafferata presented Chuck with a framed certificate and mentioned Chuck's long-time service to the Chapter. He will be further honored at the Oregon Family Forest Convention on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Gordon Culbertson announced that our Chapter is in sound financial condition. For further details, see the Annual Report (attached.)

4. Membership Report

- Vice-President Rick Olson reported we have 184 members. We lost members during COVID, but are rebuilding, and would like to build back to 200 members.
- Rick encouraged members to take our new LCSWA Information Cards and distribute them to potential new members.

5. LCSWA Annual Report

- Kate created an Annual Report with the following categories: Board of Directors; Financial Snapshot; Membership Snapshot; Activity Highlights
- Kate highlighted the creation of our by-law revision.
  - Kate noted that because we are a chapter of OSWA, much detail in our by-laws was merely repeating what was already in place.
  - Kate noted that our by-law committee followed the Benton County model which was vetted by an attorney
  - Kate noted that our new bylaws are only two pages long, and are posted on our website. Additionally, every member received a copy by mail.
  - Paula Warkentin moved to approve the new by-laws, Rebecca Fain seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

6. OSWA Report

- a. Rick Zenn, OSWA's Executive Director thanked all of OSWA's many volunteers, he welcomed new members especially, and also the old-timers, and announced the Oregon Family Forest Convention June 13 -15 that includes a choice of four tours, and 9 workshops, an Awards Luncheon, and the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year tour on Jim Merzenich's tree farm. He encouraged all members to attend.
- b. Rick reminded members that OSWA employs a lobbyist who in these political times helps prevent bad things from happening to small woodland owners. Our current lobbyist is retiring, and Rick urged members to let him know if we have potential candidates for the position.
- c. Rick announced that OSWA now has 1600 families who are members and encouraged our membership to join him in recruiting new members.

## 7. Introduction to Succession

- Kate announced that our membership survey revealed that succession is one of our top concerns. LCSWA is planning a full workshop on the topic, but to start our thinking we had three brief presentations.
  - Gary Jensen spoke on “What is at Stake” and emphasized that our tree farms are asset. It is important to understand various ownership possibilities and the tax consequences of each. He encouraged members to visit with their attorneys and discuss alternatives with their families.
  - Steve and Wylde Cafferata spoke about the difference between “intending” and “intentionality” when planning succession. If we want our family to inherit the land and manage sustainably, we need to take intentional steps to make that happen. They mentioned several of these steps including inculcating a love of the land, having and sharing a comprehensive written management plan and developing a governance structure such as an LLC.
  - Theresa Hausser spoke of challenges of keeping forests as forests when there are no heirs. Many non-profits do not want land; there are zoning concerns; it is necessary to have an attorney that understands forestry issues to assist with the planning. She noted that while troublesome, making the arrangements is essential to achieve the goal.

## 8. Introduction: Dr. Mark Swanson, Starker Chair

- Kate introduced Mark Swanson, who joined OSU in December as the new Starker Chair. OSWA served as members of the hiring committee.
- Mark explained that the OSU position is funded by the Starker Family. He has teaching and research responsibilities, management of the Cameron Tract of OSU’s experimental forest, and outreach to small forest landowners.
- Mark sees many challenges to sustainable forest management including invasive species, climate change, loss of infrastructure, succession concerns and more, but that small woodland owners have the knowledge and passion to be part of the solution. He is eager to be joined with us in these efforts.

9. Private Forest Accord Update

- Gordon Culbertson, in his role as OSWA President, reminded us that we all need to be cognizant of the PFA Post-Disturbance Rule. As an example, he cited Western Lane's loss of 40,000 acres of very severe ice storm damage. Storm clean-up is a key part of sustainability in order to reduce fire danger, insect damage, and loss of productivity. The rule allows some salvage within stream buffers. Gordon emphasized getting notifications turned into ODF soon because the rule may be altered or eliminated.

10. Adjourn

- Kate announced that after the conclusion of the meeting, HJ Andrews Director Mark Schultz will give members an overview of the forest's goals/history and lead us on a walking tour.
- Kate adjourned the meeting at 11:30.