

LANE COUNTY SMALL WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION MINUTES

October 3, 2024



Meeting Time: 2:00-4:20 PM

Location: ODF Eastern Lane Office

Board Members Present: Kate McMichael; Rick Olson; Gordon Culbertson; Wylde Cafferata; Becca Fain; Tim Gurton; Theresa Hausser; Gary Jensen; Dan Kintigh; Lauren Grand; Dan Menk

Guests: Lindsay Reaves; Dave Sullivan; Jo Von Dolen

Agenda

1. Welcome and Check-in
2. Review, amend, approve agenda.
3. Review, amend, approve August meeting minutes.
4. Treasurer's Report: Review, approve + discuss current funding requests.
5. Old/In-Progress Business
6. Working Groups: Reports and updates
7. New Business/Discussion
8. Updates
9. Announcements/Partner news & notes/Other
10. Recap/Action Items

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- President Kate McMichael welcomed all present and introduced two guests: Dave Sullivan from Marion-Polk SWA Chapter and Jo Von Dolon, Lane County SWA member who is volunteering to be LCSWA treasurer. Dave explained he was visiting us to show us Polk-Marion's digital newsletter.
- Kate reviewed the agenda. Becca Fain moved to approve the agenda and Dan Kintigh seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- The minutes from the August 8th meeting were approved unanimously.
- Gordon Culbertson presented the Treasurer's report. Our total balance as of September 30, 2024, is \$42,832.82, with our checking balance \$27,262.01 and our CD accounts \$15,570.81. Gordon pointed out that we are almost \$7000 ahead of where we were last year. He added that our CD at 4.89 % interest matures this December 31, and we are unlikely to receive as favorable an interest rate going forward. Rick Olson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Dan Kintigh seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Board members discussed the need to establish a funding policy to use for evaluating both requests for donations and other donations we might want to make. After discussion on affordability, Becca moved that we create a fund within our budget for charitable donations to further forest education, to be seeded this year with the proceeds from the 2024 Seedling Sale, and in future years to a percentage of the seedling sale proceeds as determined by the Board. Theresa Hausser seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The Board further agreed to grant \$1000 each to Forests Today & Forever, OWIT, and ONREF. Wylda Cafferata so moved, Becca seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. Old/In-Progress Business

- Board members discussed the draft of our new Operations manual. The following changes were suggested:
 - Change the name of the document to “Policy & Procedures Manual.”
 - Add a financial Working Group to the list of working groups.
 - Add a section on voting electronically and by proxy.

Wylida will make these changes and forward them to Kate and Becca for review. The new draft will be presented at the December 2024 board meeting.

- Gordon Culbertson is stepping down from the LCSWA Treasurer position due to the press of OSWA responsibilities. Jo Von Dolen volunteered to replace him. Becca Fain moved that we appoint Jo to the Board; Theresa Hausser seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Becca Fain moved that Jo Von Dolen be appointed treasurer of Lane County Small Woodlands Association with all the rights and responsibilities pertaining to that position including signature authority over all Lane County Small Woodlands financial accounts. Dan Kintigh seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- The Budget sub-committee has not finalized the LCSWA budget but will have a draft for discussion at the December board meeting. Jo Von Dolen was added to the committee.

6. Working Groups: Reports and Updates

- A. Communications: Yamhill SWA will be discontinuing their newsletter, The Snag, and potentially would like to be a part of the Quarterly Bark. After discussion, our Board sees no problem with this. Kate will contact the Presidents of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln for their opinion, and Wylda will contact Darcy Davis, Yamhill's President, after we hear from the other three OSWA chapters.
- B. Membership: Rick Olson reported that our membership stands at 187, including three new members, up from a low of 142 during COVID. Wylda has sent welcome packets to our three new members.
- C. Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Nominating Working Group
- Board members discussed our criteria for nominating tree farmers for this award: it was generally felt that nominating smaller tree farms provided a healthy contrast to the usually large farms nominated by many other chapters.
 - It was suggested that we reach out to ODF Stewardship Foresters as well as to OTFS Inspectors for recommendation.
 - Tim Gurton suggested three possibilities for our 2025 nomination: The Jones' tree farm in Lowell, Swanson Brothers; and Mary Lou Peterson's.
 - It was suggested that the working group visit all three, and potentially more, and provide a recommendation to the Board.
- D. Program Working Group
- Kate reported that the Tailgate Tour at Malcolm Wilson and Mary Jaeger's tree farm went well, with attendees staying on well after the tour to socialize.
 - Kate reported that the Dugan Tree Farmer of the Year Tour went well. We spent \$827.89 and took in \$480, with the shortfall due in part to no-shows for the lunch.
 - October 17th from 7-8:30 at the Lane County OSU Extension Office will be our "Evening with Clint Bentz" workshop on succession. This is an introduction to a more extensive Ties to the Land program co-hosted by Lane and Douglas Extension, which will be a hybrid of on-line and in-person sessions.
 - Plans for our Willamette Forest Replanting Party are moving forward.
 - Kate has contacted Darren Cross, the District Ranger for the Willamette National Forest McKenzie District and Three Sisters Wilderness. He is enthusiastic about the idea and after fire season, will provide more help in terms of people to contact, location etc.
 - Board members discussed when best to hold the event. This will be further discussed at our December meeting.
 - Kate reminded the Board that we will present the remaining

7. New Business

- Kate reported that OSWA member Jamie Ure, a mycologist and truffle master, would like to reach out to small woodland owners to research the kinds of truffles to be found on their woodlands. After discussion, including a report from Rick Olson and Becca Fain that Jamie visited their farm and harvested several types of truffles responsibly, board members agreed that Jamie could write up his proposal and it will be distributed to our members.

8. Updates

A. OSWA

- Gordon Culbertson, OSWA President, reported that the September Annual Meeting in Redmond was successful. Dan Newton was elected President-Elect, and Paul Harlan and Connie Battles were elected to the Executive Committee.
- Gordon announced that the new OSWA Forest Policy Committee welcomes OSWA members to join. Currently he, Dan Newton, Seth Barnes from OFIC, Amanda Astor from AOL, and Kate McMichael and Theresa Hausser constitute the committee.

B. OSU Extension

- Lauren Grand reported that she and Alicia Christensen from Douglas County will be providing a Ties the Land Workshop beginning in November and consisting of several in-person workshops and webinars at a cost of \$50/participant. Tammy Cushing, former OSU Starker Chair, will be instructing.
- Many other workshops will be offered upcoming. Check the *Canopy News* for more information.

C. ODF

- Dan Menk informed the Board that rumors of an impending ODF budget crisis are unfounded, and that the Oregon Legislature has provided funds to defer some of the immense wildfire costs.
- There is a shortage of stewardship foresters.

9. Announcements/Partner News/Other

- Registration for the OTFS Annual Meeting on November 16th, 2024, is now open. Check the OTFS website for details.

10. Recap/Action Items: Kate reviewed the action items from the meeting.