

Lane Small Woodlands Association Minutes: June 6, 2023

Meeting Time 1:30 PM-3:30 PM **Meeting Location:** Siuslaw Public Library, Florence

Board Members Present: Kate McMichael; Rick Olson; Gordon Culbertson; Wylda Cafferata; Tim Gurton; Gary Jensen; Dan Menk

Guests: Steve Cafferata; Gail Culbertson; Becca Fain; Theresa Hausser; Lindsay Reaves

1. Welcome
2. Review, Amend, Approve, Adoption of Agenda
3. Review, Amend, Approve Minutes from February 2023
4. Review and Approve Treasurer's Report
5. Old Business
6. On-Going Business
7. Updates
8. New Business
9. Announcements/Partner News & Note/Other
10. Recap/Action Items
11. Adjourn

1-4

- Kate McMichael called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and welcomed everyone, thanking Becca for arranging the library venue.
- Kate reviewed the new format for the agenda and its content, and it was approved unanimously.
- The minutes from April 21, 2023, were approved unanimously
- Gordon Culbertson presented the Treasurer's Report
 - Total Lane County SWA funds as of May 31, 2023, are \$38,568.44, of which \$23,560.85 are in our checking account, and \$15,007.59 are in our CD account.
 - Gordon reported that our finances are stable over time, with last year's balance at this time being very similar to this year's
 - Gordon reminded Board members that OSWA has funds to help chapters with tour events; a simple application is all that is necessary.
 - In the context of the Treasurer's report, the group discussed charitable donations. It was agreed that we should set a yearly budget for charitable and political donations, and that discussion will be on a future agenda. The group voted unanimously by consensus to approve a \$1000. Donations to Forests Today & Forever; \$1000 to ONREF; and \$500 to OFS (Oregonians for Food and Shelter.)

5. Old Business

- Working Lands Tour: On May 10th, a successful tour was held on Gordon & Gail's and Wylda & Steve's Penn Road forests for Alex (from AmeriCorps.)
- McKenzie Watershed Tour: LCSWA partnered with Lane Families for Farm & Forest (LFFF) to hold a successful tour of the McKenzie Watershed on June 1, 2023. It was attended mostly by personnel from many agencies as well as Lane County Commissioner David Loveall, and featured stops at Giustina Land & Timber's forest land overlooking the 2020 firescape, T and Kate's Elk Ridge Tree Farm, and Goodpasture Farm, a filbert farm.
- LCSWA's Family Forest Convention Donation: Becca will pick up Dave Rankin's cigar-box ukelele and deliver it to Ilene Waldorf at the Convention; Kate is donating afghans as well.

6. On-Going Business

A. Committee Reports

- Communications Committee

- The Bark will be issued digitally. Kate is the master compiler and will be paid an honorarium of \$125/issue. Advantages of the digital production include lower expenses, no word limits, and color photographs. It is recommended that we conscientiously photograph our events.
- Kate sent letters in support of OFRI and the Statewide proposals to the Oregon Legislature on behalf of the Board.
- Wylde sent a "Save the Date" email to our membership for the 2022 Lane Tree Farmer of the Year tour on July 15.

- Membership Committee

- Rick reported that 31 of our members have not reupped their membership. OSWA has just sent out renewal notices so Rick expects more members will renew.
- Rick will notify Kate and Wylde of renewals and new members on the 15th of each month.

Program Committee

- The Program Committee suggests that we hold more frequent events, and that they need not be elaborate, and that they include highlighting smaller tree farms, and that we investigate shared sponsorship of events, similar to sharing the Watershed Tour with LFFF.
- A proposed schedule of events is as follows:
 - June: Family Forest Convention, June 22-24
 - July: Diane Kaldahl's Lane County 2022 Tree Farmer of the Year Tour, July 15
 - August: Parsio's Tree Farm Tour: 1.5 hour tour of a small shady tree farm
 - September: Sue Zeni's Lane County 2023 Tree Farmer of the Year Tour; OSWA's State Annual Meeting including Swanson Brothers Tour and Steven Beda's book signing in the evening; September 22
 - October: Forest Products Month-potentially USFS Dorena Genetics Lab tour
 - November: Dark-sky dessert Potluck/star gazing at Elk Ridge Tree Farm + OTFS Awards Program November 4.
 - December-holiday forest products event
 - January 2024: LCSWA Annual Meeting/Dinner
 - February 2024:Seedling Sale February 3rd
- Events as yet unscheduled: PFA/FPA Update meeting; dates for the Parsio and Zeni Tours; the Dorena Tour; Star Gazing; Holiday event; and LCSWA annual meeting.

Tree Farmer of the Year Nominating Committee

- Tim reported that Lane County's nominee for State Tree Farmer of the Year, Sue Zeni's application has been submitted.
- A pre-tour of the 2022 Lane County TFOY's forest has been scheduled for June 15th with the tour on the afternoon of July 15th.

B. Chair Kate McMichael requested that any Board member not yet serving on a Committee notify her of which Committee they will join. .

7. Updates.

A. Legislative Update:

- Kate submitted the LCSWA letter opposing HB 3019 and is support of the Statewide proposal.
- LCSWA is concerned about the forthcoming “Watershed Bill of Rights”, a Lane County initiative about to enter the signature-gathering process. The Board opposes this initiative and considers its wording misleading and its content an affront to private property rights. Gordon informed us that OFS is working to inform the public of the danger inherent in the initiative. The Board voted to support this effort (See Treasurer’s Report above.)

B. OSU/Extension

- The MWM/WOW/Net Coordinator Search is nearing completion
- The shared Lane County Forestry/Small Farms Extension position has been filled, so Lauren Grand should have a part-time assistant soon.
- The Starker Chair position is not yet filled but we should have word about it soon.
- Tree School East will be held June 30th in Baker City.

C. ODF Update:

- The Board of Forestry will meet June 7-8 in Sisters, Oregon, with the Committee for Family Forestlands to meet June 9th.
- Dan Menk updated the Board on local ODF issues:
 - The recent fire near Lowell burned 41 acres
 - The Veneta area fire burned 350 acres and started near a woods operation. The cause is under investigation, as is that of the Lowell fire.
 - East Lane started fire season June 5th, and West Lane and Western Oregon will start June 9th.
 - There will be three trainings on the PFA rules for steep slopes in different parts of the state.
 - There has been an on-going shuffling of ODF positions, including western Lane’s Stewardship Forester Tim Moss leaving to fill a position in Salem, and many others.
 - Many uncertainties remain concerning the PFA rules. Dan has had many classes which provide some clarity.

New Business: See Program Committee Report

Announcements/Partner News & Notes; Other

- Forestry Today & Forever Soiree is June 8th
- OWIT’s Summer Brunch is June 10th
- Association of Consulting Foresters Conference is June 11-13th
- LFFF Monthly Meeting is June 15th
- OSWA and OTFS Board Meetings are June 22 in-person at the Family Forest Convention..

Recap/Action Items

- Kate, Theresa, Becca, Norm Michaels, and Wylda & Steve will do a pre-tour with Diane Kadahl on June 15th.
- Wylda will contact Sue about a potential date for her September tour.

- Gordon will coordinate plans for the OSWA annual meeting.
- Gordon will send checks to FTF, OFS, and ONREF