



## Agenda for: 2013 OFHA Board Meeting

**Date:** Sunday, October 6, 2013  
**Location:** Home of Dave and Barbara Brazelton  
39938 McKenzie Highway  
Walterville, OR 97489

### **Call to order** 1:20 PM

***Present:*** Scott Letourneau, President from Elk Lake, Barbara Brazelton, Treasurer from Metolius, Jean Baecher Brown, Secretary from Crescent Lake, Bill Kennedy, Past President from Crescent Lake, Dave Hopkins, Winema-Fremont representative from Lake of the Woods, Todd Merriman, At Large representative from Fish Lake, Cliff Conner-Coash, Rogue/Siskiyou representative from Union Creek, via Skype, Jim Chapman, Umpqua representative from Diamond Lake

***Not Present:*** Donna McNeil, Willamette representative from Marion Forks

*We have almost a full slate of officers and potential Board members for the first time in years. We have identified potential forest representatives from the Mt Hood Forest and the Deschutes Forest and are awaiting their respective tracts' approvals. We have yet to find a representative for the Umatilla/Wallowa-Whitman Forest.*

### **--Introduction/Welcome new Board Members**

*The results of the July, 2013 election were announced and ratified with Scott Letourneau as President, Barbara Brazelton as Treasurer and Jean Baecher Brown as Secretary. New Board members recently appointed include Todd Merriman (At Large) and Jim Chapman (Umpqua)*

### **--Additions and/or corrections to agenda**

*The following topics were added to the agenda:*

*Billing Appeals*

*State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)*

*Fee Advocacy*

### **--Minutes from spring 2013 Board Meeting- Jean Baecher-Brown**

*No additions or corrections – Minutes were unanimously approved*

**--Minutes from the 2013 Annual meeting** – Typo change on page 2 which corrects the word “likely” to “unlikely”. The minutes were approved with one correction

### **--Treasurer’s report– Scott Letourneau**

*2013 income & expense report / Bills to pay*

*Budget 2013*

*Membership data base & invoicing*

*Scott’s report: There is \$21,500 in the bank. There have been no unusual or unexpected expenses and we are within our budgeted limits. We are expecting more income coming from the dues paid by tracts that pay as a whole. There are 1600 cabins in state with 550 on Mt Hood; 38 tracts; participation varies throughout the state (over 300 members are current with more to pay up).*

## Draft Minutes

OFHA is tax exempt under 501(c) (3). Our bank is with JPMorgan Chase with a checking/saving account. Scott will be working with Barbara to turn over the Treasurer duties in the very near future. Report approved unanimously. It was asked if we know how much more revenue is being generated to the federal government with the new fee structure. No one seems to know, but Scott said he will talk with Jim Sauser, (Western Region Forest Service) to include that topic when he gives an update at the annual conference or for our winter news letter.

## Old Business

### **1. Distribution and review of minutes from the spring Board Meeting and Annual Meeting –**

*Both minutes are approved with a slight adjustment in spelling to the annual meeting minutes.*

**2. Status of Board member recruitment:** *Amelia Wilcox is interested in representing Mount Hood and Caren Raisin, Elk Lake, would like to represent Deschutes. We still need a representative for the Willowa Whitman and Umatilla area.*

**3. Cabin Fee Act (CFA) update –** *Bernie Kosola, Diamond Lake and National Forest Homeowners Association (NFA) representative, sent an update to the membership regarding the CFA. As of 10/1/2013, we are still waiting for the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to rule on the current CFA bill. A hearing is scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup> if it is not delayed by the government shut down.*

*S. Wyden has sent a letter to the NFH in support of the CFA and it was agreed that it should be put on the OFHA web site. Doug Ganns (WA state) is a key player with the NFH, Coalition Two (C2) efforts and has information on where folks will fall in the proposed fee structure outlined in the bill. Cliff indicated that the Forest Service is saying the bill needs to generate \$32 million for next 10 years and NFH is saying \$29 million for next 10 years. It probably means that the CBO will come in someplace in between. Bill indicated that if the CFA does not pass this year, it probably won't happen. It is possible to not pass CFA and try changing the rules to the current law that dictates cabin fees (CUFFA). This could happen outside of Congress by looking at ways to modify the rules that were written by the Forest Service. Bernie indicated that although he is off the OFHA Board, he will keep involved with the C2 effort for the time being and keep the OFHA Board informed.*

### **4. State Legislative Issues -**

State Historic Preservation office (SHPO)- *If something is going on with a forest, then SHPO gets involved to determine if changes can be made or if there is a historical significance that could delay or waylay the changes/building. Norman Goetz, from Mt Hood is well-informed about the effects of SHPO....Bill thought it might be good to have him come and do a presentation on this program at the annual meeting in March.*

Possessory Interest Tax (PIT) – *There has been a situation in Klamath County where taxes on cabins are being increased significantly based on increases in the value of the property with improvements and/or if it is sold and reassessed based on the “real market value” (RMV) rather than the assessed value. The County was instructed by the state to do this as a means of increasing revenue. The RMV was based on local sales values. Brad Aspell, is appealing his tax bill from Klamath County, Lake of the Woods arguing that the increase goes against the PIT law.*

Water Rights – *The legislation regarding taxing of wells did not go anyplace this past legislative session, but it is thought it will resurface in a future session. This could result in the taxing of private wells in the future. It is unknown if smaller wells such as that at the cabins would be exempt.*

Wilderness areas expansion *is still an issue and this might limit use of areas near cabin tracts for use such as with snowmobiles or ATVs.*

## New Business

### **1. Date/Location for 2014 Annual Meeting. Suggestions**

*It is time to bring the meeting back to the Portland area. The tentative dates are March 8 or 15, 2014. Potential sites include the Columbia Wear Campus. Other sites need to be researched and Scott will contact the Mt Hood tract to see if they could host the meeting and suggest other site options.*

## Draft Minutes

*Meeting topics could include State/County issues such as: water rights, state historic preservation, county tax issue, C2 efforts (Invite Pete Bailey or Doug Gann from the NFH, Jim Sauser from the Forest Serve. It was agreed that we would hold the Board meeting the night before (Friday) the annual meeting which is always on a Saturday.*

### **2. Review of Bylaws and discussion for changes needed**

*There are several Issues that need to be addressed in a revision to the bylaws. Scott would like to address specific points that need revision. The last Bylaw revision was 1990. We need to find what was decided in that revision. The voting mechanism needs to be revised; and the forests' membership mechanism needs to be revised. Also, why do we need an executive committee with such a small Board? Scott, Bill, Jim and Barbara will work on the proposal for the Bylaws revision to get something ready for the next Board meeting and the membership meeting.). Jean will contact a person she knows who works with nonprofits to see if there is a better format for small nonprofit organizations' Bylaws..*

### **3. Newsletter- suggestions for content of winter newsletter**

*Update from Jim Sauser, President's message, Cabin owners and the need for emergency medical service information for the state, Jim's experience on rebuilding his cabin for the Timely Perspectives piece, CFA update, results on the fee appeals sought by cabin owners in the state, new board member bios were all suggested.*

### **4. Website update – what should be included**

*Jean will talk with Scott on the specifics for the web updates/t*

### **5. Billing appeals-**

*Cliff reported on his attendance at an appeal hearing for one of the cabin owners in his tract.*

### **Closing**

Board member perspectives

Meeting Adjournment – 4PM