



2015 OFHA Spring Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2015

Location: Marriot Courtyard Medford Airport Conference Room
600 Airport Rd
Medford, OR 97504

Call to Order: 7:30 AM

Present: Scott Letourneau, Barbara Brazelton, Jim Chapman, Bill Kennedy, Cliff Conner-Coash, David Hopkins,

Absent: Todd Merriman, Donna McNeil, Caren Raisin, Jean Baecher Brown, Amelia Wilcox

Guests: Steve Stewart, Bernie Kosola C2 Coalition

1. Review/Amend/Approve Minutes from last Meeting

It was moved to accept the Fall Board meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report/Report on the Membership:

We are on budget and continue to reach more cabin owners and family users of the cabins. The Newsletter circulation exceeds the number of cabins.

The last two years has seen an increase in membership interest and support and is reflected in our dues and in additional revenue from contributions beyond the \$10.00 annual membership fee.

Statistically we show OFHA receives its greatest support from those cabin owners who receive both the email newsletter as well as the hard copy. Also there are four tracts that have more direct administrative contact with OFHA – Diamond Lake, Metolius River, Crescent Lake, and Stahlman tracts and our information shows a higher support coming from these cabin areas.

Also want to note that the newsletters have been excellent -focused on the front burner issues and work to provide the information that cabin owners would consider helpful and important. Also there continue to be historical family cabin stories and photography.

Budget: In reviewing the 2015 budget there was an adjustment request to reduce the CFA support from \$1500 to \$1000 and to relabel the line item from “CFA” to “NFH support” for additional support NFH may need. Also 2 line items were added:

1. Lobbyist - \$500
2. Lobbyist Contingency - \$500

The discussion concerning this new line item was that although Oregon Forest Service cabins are currently exempt from possessory interest tax (paying property tax on the forest service

land plots that we lease from the Forest Service) – there is currently a budget short fall in Oregon and our exemption could be at risk. Investing in hiring a lobbyist could keep us informed and aware and provide the information necessary to help OFHA and the cabin owners of Oregon to contact their state congressional representatives for help if there was a move to remove our exemption.

It was moved to accept the 2015 budget as amended. Proposed budget passed with above changes.

3. Old Business: There was no old business discussion.

4. New Business

- a. Possessory Interest Tax: Bernie and Bill report: OFHA was originally created because of the possessory interest tax (PIT) threat to Oregon Forest Service cabins. Oregon Forest Service cabin owners got a permanent exemption in 2007. Many states do not have this – and they have to pay both the land lease to the Forest Service and also are assessed for property tax of the land their cabin sits on, although they do not own this land. It is vital that OFHA is vigilant for the cabin owners of Oregon. It was moved and seconded to hire a lobbyist to represent our interests in Salem.
- b. C2: Bernie reports: CFA will be moving to a sub-committee now that the CFA has passed. In the future they will engage the Forest Service as a general committee. OFHA will continue to support but will also now be able to turn its attention to some other areas such as the possessory interest tax. It was moved and seconded to adjust the budget from \$1500 to \$1000 to NFH.
- c. Dues: do we consider raising them? Discussion: not this year – possibly in the next year or two.
- d. Historic Designation Guidelines from the Forest Service: Cliff reports: This new document is from Montana (MTDC) and is dated April 2014. It can affect cabins that are over 50 years. There are some rigid standards and this may be difficult for cabin owners to maneuver through when trying to do a remodel or simply a repair on their cabin. One of the main concerns is that if a cabin owner falls under the historical designation requirement there may be multiple entities that the cabin owner will need to work with such as:
 - i. The county in which the cabin is located
 - ii. The general cabin guidelines that already exist
 - iii. And this new historical Designation document

In general Cliff said that it is important to start local if you fall under the historical designation. And then the local authorities will communicate their recommendations to (SHPO) the historical designation authority. One of the difficult issues that cabin owners may experience with a remodel or repair is that the different authorities and/or guidelines may not have general construction consistency.

Cliff was asked to write an article for the OFHA news letter concerning this new Historical document to get the word out to all cabin owners so they are aware of this new potential requirement for Forest Service cabin owners.

e. The agenda for the General Membership Meeting was reviewed by the Board.

5. **Adjourn:** 9:25 A.M.

