



Oregon Forest Homeowners' Association

OFHA 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, March 10, 2012

Time: 9:30 AM TO 12:30PM

Location: The Courtyard by Marriott, Medford Oregon

Call to order/Welcome

Additions and/or corrections to agenda - None

Minutes from March 5, 2011 OFHA annual meeting Jean Baecher Brown

Treasurer's reports– Scott Letourneau

2011 Budget Review – Account balance as of 12/31 – \$21,072
Income/Expenses – We spent \$1200 less than anticipated; but the income was less so we balanced. The Morgan Stanley account was closed and all money is now in the CHASE account.

Budget for 2012 – same projected expenditures for 2012 as 2011 planned
OFHA gave \$1000 last year to the NFH and is proposing to increase the amount this year to \$1500 for the C2 efforts. Another major expense includes the dissemination of the biannual newsletter. Most people like the hard copies and we have problems with sending it out via e-mail. (either addresses change; accounts block the e-mail as spam). Mailing the newsletter also allows us to include a donation envelope for membership.

Membership status – We have 400 paid memberships out of 1400 cabins in the state. We did not solicit more membership this year, but would like to increase efforts and reach out to other cabins to join. Our goal is to have ½ of cabin members be members of OFHA.

OFHA Status Report – Bill Kennedy

Goals Objectives – OFHA Board discussed the purpose of the organization and we are still meeting the purposes of the by-laws. We need more active older and younger members who are active in the organization. We need leadership and advocacy help.

Nominations for Board and Officers – we need people nominated to help run the organization and represent the Oregon cabin owners.

Our next annual meeting is March 9th or 16th, 2013. Set at March 9th.

FINAL MINUTES

O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Act

Mr. Rob Patridge, Southern Oregon Chief of Staff, Congressman Greg Walden

Relates to forest health. The Secure and Rural Schools Act provides funding to counties for dollars not earned by logging. The O&C lands are federal lands and because of environmental law suites very little timber is being harvested to support the economy of southern Oregon. Seventy percent of un-harvested trees are on federal land. Mills have shut down resulting in a loss from the local economy in Oregon of \$215 million. There is a need to create an opportunity to produce raw logs to support counties. The O&C will provide local jobs and thus reduce or eliminate the federal government pouring in support dollars. It is a long term solution, rather than a stop-gap.

The program would take 1.5 million acres of timber land and put it into a trust to be managed locally. It will result in a harvest of about 10% of the timber. The bill changes the dynamics so that the lands are managed as private land and will bypass the problems of litigation that have been experienced in the past. Harvesters will still need to meet fed laws for environmental impact. Harvested timber can not be over 80 yrs (no old growth). The rest of O&C lands will be managed by the US Forest Service (2.7mill). Logs from O & C lands can not be exported, so harvest will meet only US demands. Revenues will help with deficit reduction on the national level, because the federal government will not need to be pouring support dollars into the state. Right now it looks like an earmark because it is for Oregon only and that is not allowed under current Congressional rules. The web site <http://waldon.house.gov> has detailed information on the bill (10 page summary). There is also a myth and fact sheet on the O&C plan. The bill does set aside some additional wilderness areas (90,000 acres in the Rogue area and a few other areas) to off-set the harvested areas.

State of the Region

Mr. Jim Sauser, Regional Special Use Coordinator, USDA

Budgets in National Forest System have been reduced; especially in the recreation programs and in agency travel (which includes the cabin programs).

Robin Duarte- Diamond Lake – has a bug kill program through the timber sales. Most will be for firewood to eliminate the buggy trees. May have a stewardship program to have buggy/hazard trees around cabins removed but it won't happen until 2013-14 (before the timber is cut). The Forest Service will put up a contract for a private logger to come in and cut out those trees if cabin owners don't want the trees for firewood.

In Fremont/Winema, there is old growth (which has little market value) there that needs to come down (hazards) but there is no money to log out those trees at risk of dying.

FINAL MINUTES

Rocky point is having some hazard trees removed and they have a new concessionaire in the area and new boat ramp

Willamette working on forming a water association to deal with water rights.

McKenzie creek updating outhouses to septic systems.

Mt Hood has self-inspections and they have 100 of the 552 cabins who will do their own inspections. There are approximately 14,000 permits nationwide and FS starting this option due to budget cuts. A lot of jobs in FS are going unfilled. Will be longer and longer waits for processing of requests.

Mt Hood appraisals being implemented and appeals due by March 22nd
Project requests for the coming year in Mt Hood-must be submitted by May 1st.
The FS is starting to require deadlines in many of the tracts nationwide so that they can schedule inspections, etc with the available staffing.
Mt hood had 50 break-ins in their tracts. It is believed they have caught the people responsible and now they think this may have resolved this issue.
Another cabin getting close to edge of river in Mt Hood area...may be at risk of losing cabin. One Mt. Hood cabin is a dry cabin with no water or septic system. One cabin with historic status has been allowed to install metal shingles and it is very pleasing to eye, but expensive.

Willowa/Whitman – fuel reductions treatment; close to finishing up.

Deschutes – 4 cabins out of 72 without full-time permit; working with these cabins. Crescent Lake – finished fuel reduction project which was successful.
Odell – all water issues resolved. Have a fuel reductions project on-going.

C2 - CUFFA / CFA 2012 - Panel Discussion

Mr. Geoff Anderson, President, NFH
Mr. Bernie Kosola Director OFHA Chair Emeritus
Mr. Jim Sauser, Regional Special Use Coordinator
Mr. Brad Aspell, NFH Board

Geoff Anderson – CFA 2012 perspective: Purpose of the cabin fee act is to make sure that there are fair fees for cabin permit holders. We need to get rid of the appraisal system. The CFA puts existing appraisals into tiers via a bell-shaped curve as a percentage of the total. Each tier is assigned a set fee. The bill must be revenue neutral and we think we have reached that point with the current legislation. Doc Hastings (WA) has attached the cabin fee act to the Secure Rural Schools Act and this is not controversial in the House. It will probably pass on the floor. CFA will have a Senate hearing later this month. Then, there will be mark-up to work out final wording of the bill in the Senate and hopefully a passage on the floor. The FS has agreed to continue the fee moratorium, but this will be the last year. In order to get the Senate bill through the process, Wyden needs letters soon as the Senate bill is in his committee.

FINAL MINUTES

Jim Sauser – Once bill is passed and signed; there is then the rule making process to give the law a refining edge according to the law. This takes time and is fraught with politics. The FS will not talk much about what is going on while rule making is happening. The rule making process is open for comment via the Federal Register. The FS goes through public comments and this will assist them in determining the implementation rules of the law. A proposed rule is published in Federal Register and open to comments; this may happen several times. Eventually, the rule is analyzed, revised and a final rule is published.

Bernie Kosola – There are specific timeframes when public can be involved in the rule-making process.

Brad Aspell – Thanked Jim Sauser; he has been instrumental on getting the moratorium through each year. Asked folks to support the effort for NFH and/or OFHA to support this legislative process. There are 14,000 cabins and our Congressional people need to get letters and requests to support the permit fee change. Fee neutrality issue; there will be a tremendous savings in not doing appraisals. Will save about \$13million nationwide. The new legislation will also help save FS administrative time.

Question & Answer Session on CFA

Bill Kennedy urged folks to contact Congress and get family members to write their delegation.

Bill asked: Explain why this process is not completely transparent. Why will we not know exactly what the new fee will be? Geoff: Cabin folks in OR are meeting their responsibilities, financially toward this effort. The NFH have expenses when they go to DC to testify or meet with members of Congress. It is also costly to hire lobbyists.

The reason it is difficult to say what new fees will be is because of the Congressional Budget office standards for having a zero reduction in revenues. The bell curve will slot each cabin somewhere in the curve, but there are still appraisals that are not in the system yet. Some cabins will pay more, but most will see about the same or less. You will know what your fee is every year after the bell-curve is changed. Once cabins are placed on the curve, the whole appraisal system will go away.

Why use incomplete current appraisal rotation to set the “bell-curve”? Current appraisal rotation is being used because Congress and FS d/n want to use the last complete appraisals. There is an adjustment built into the bill so that the appraisal market variations will be evened out. Once the fee is set, it will go up with a rural land inflation index. Has a 5% cap per year.

Fabulous OFHA door prizes!

Next meeting: March 9, 2013 Bend OR

Meeting adjournment