

## DRAFT MINUTES

### 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2013  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM TO 12:30 NOON  
**LOCATION:** The Children's Foundation, Bend, Oregon

**Call to order/Welcome** – By Scott Letourneau at 10:04 AM  
Introductions of Board and around the room of attendees  
Scott introduced Barbara Brazelton, OFHA newest Board member representing the Deschutes/Ochoco National forest  
Additions and/or corrections to agenda – there were none

Minutes from March 10, 2012 OFHA annual meeting Jean Baecher Brown  
Minutes approved

#### **Treasurer's reports– Scott Letourneau**

2012 Budget Review – \$6,000 budget approximately; stayed pretty close to budget with anticipated expenses and C2 pledge \$1500. Actual expenses were \$5,394.

Budget for 2013 – The 2013 income is anticipated at \$6,200. Members have been sending in additional contributions to the \$10 membership fee. To date, we have received \$2,000 above and beyond or general dues. Categories of general expenses for 2013 are about the same with the following increases/changes: travel for meetings and an increased C2 donation to the NFHA of \$2,500. There is also an addition for an officer election budgeted for the June, 2013 ballot. It is anticipated that the web site management costs will increase and we have added expenses for Board member expenses for hotel and travel costs to the meetings.

Membership status - Scott is aiming for, and optimistic that, we can get 400 paying members this year. This is approximately 1/4 of the cabin owner names in Oregon.

#### **Nominations for OFHA officers**

President - open  
Secretary –Jean Baecher Brown  
At Large Position – open

Bernie asked that everyone talk to folks in their tracts and or consider for themselves about joining the Board. We still need representatives from the following forests: Mt Hood, Willowa/Whitman, Umatilla. We also have a position for member "At Large" which can come from any of the forests as long as they come from a cabin on Forest Service lands.

#### **State of Region Six Jim Sauser – Regional Special Use Coordinator**

NFH Association and various regional groups are very important for the local and national efforts of these programs.

Cabin permit bills – where are they? FS has been asked to use the billing systems that the rest of the USDA uses. There has been a problem getting the programming done for the cabin permit fees. Thus, the billing of the cabin owners is now over three months behind. The main reason for the holdup is due to the CUFFA system. It is really the problem (due to its complexity) and how to program correctly given the many variables in the system. When will the bills come out? FS does not know.

The moratorium that we have had in previous years does not apply this year. Cabin owners will be billed the full amount under the most recent appraisals unless the CFA passes and is retroactive. Permit holders will have 30 days to pay unless they make arrangements with the FS for a payment system. Permit holders must request a payment schedule from the FS; it will not be automatic. The current CUFFA billing system is a mess with different forest tracts being billed

## DRAFT MINUTES

differently.

The FS budget for this year is unknown due to the constant continuing resolutions in Congress. Once it is established, it will be pretty bad, but better than some FS budgets. The fire suppression will take precedence over most other FS budgets because of the high fire season risks from prior years.

### Tract Updates

**Diamond Lake** – Hazard trees; worse than Jim had imagined; FS is removing some trees now; Jim indicated that access via roads to some areas is very bad and if there is a fire, it is likely that fire engines enter the areas.

**Willowa/Whitman** – with issuance of new permits cabins will need to improve septic systems. There is a problem in getting the county on board for approving the septic permits. One-third of the cabins have not complied and the county has not pressed them. The FS may have to revoke permits because cabins are not meeting health and safety requirements required under FS regulations.

**Crescent** – this comment can be extrapolated over every permit in the country; please read the cabin permit rules periodically to be reminded of what cabin owners may or may not do with your cabins. They come across improvements that were not authorized and the permit administrator may require homeowners to remove any unauthorized improvements.

Another thing that has happened is that ownership addresses have not been changed with FS and/or the county. Cabins have sold and no one has updated the proper authorities. County taxes not paid can be subject to a lien by the county and could result in loss of the cabin. If cabin sells, make sure bill of sales says who will pay the taxes and make the change.

Washington Office Changes: Among the several new special use regional directors, we now have Gary Schiff as the new director of lands (use to be a district ranger in NV)

**Question by Bernie** – New law that FS must issue public notices before disturbing the land; Yes, there must a public notice in a local newspaper of record. It can cost as much as \$400 per notice. The FS does not have adequate funds to constantly issue these notices, so it might hold up the approval process for cabin construction or septic systems until enough notices are required for a single public notice in the paper.

Another question/response: If a cabin is damaged or destroyed and liability insurance is going to pay for a rebuild, the new cabin must be built to the required FS specs. There have been instances where the insurance company will not approve building a new sized foundation because the damaged cabin's foundation was still in tact. The cabin may not be able to rebuild.

### C2 - CUFFA / CFA 2013 Mr. Bernie Kosola

The efforts to pass the CFA failed last year and no bill passed. Bernie was shocked that the bill did not pass (right up to the last day) because it was passed by the House and failed to get passed in the Senate. Bernie passed out a summary from the NFH Association of what happened in the last Congress. (See Attached)

The NFH Association has now had a new bill introduced in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress: HR 1159 was introduced 3/15/13. It is a 10 tier bill with top fee at \$5,000 and again follows the bell curve for distribution of cabins over the tiers; Oregon will not see a lot of relief with this new bill; but the appraisal process will go away and there will be COLA annual increase. The bill calls for a 10 year review of the method used for fee assessment; it is anticipate that it will be hard to get it modified. This bill is also revenue neutral.

## DRAFT MINUTES

OFHA will email the bill out and post on web site as soon as it is available.

If the legislation passes both sides of Congress this year and becomes law, the FS must write the regulations (rules) to implement the law. This rule making process could take two years to implement. It is unclear if it will be retroactive to January, 2013

If there are Hearings on the bill...C2 will send folks back to DC to testify and they will be paying for 2 lobbying groups

C2 is collaborating with the FS as much as possible to get this legislation into law. Everyone wants this change to happen.

NFH Association believes that this will be the year to get it done or it won't happen. There is a transfer fee of \$1200 if a cabin is sold. It is unclear at this time that if a cabin is transferred within a family whether the \$1200 fee applies with those family members.

### **Oregon Legislation**

New Oregon State Legislation introduced recently – At least one bill has been introduced in the State Legislature with a goal to register private wells. It is unclear why this is being pursued, but there is a concern it is a precursor for the establishment of a fee system or charge for water, down the road. OFHA is in the process of researching the ramifications (if any) of this legislation has on cabin owners.

Jim Sauser – Cabins in Family Trusts: If you plan to put your cabin in a trust, go to the FS to make sure you do it correctly. If it is established and wrong, it will require increased attorney fees to get it corrected.

### **OFHA Status Report**

Goals Objectives - OFHA wants to be the information conduit between tracts and other entities (FS and NFH, etc). Is there anything else we need to do that we are not doing or that should be done differently. We invite any of the OFHA membership to communicate with us their thoughts.

**Next Annual Meeting** – In Portland, either March 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Fabulous OFHA door prizes were awarded!**

**Meeting adjournment 11:45 PM**