

DRAFT

Oregon State Stewardship Coordinating Committee Meeting

Minutes for August 8, 2018 - Oregon Dept. of Forestry
Tillamook Room, Building C, 2600 State Street, Salem, OR 97310

Members in Attendance:

Lena Tucker, SSCC Chair,
ODF Private Forests Chief
Jim James, OSWA
Morgan Holen, OR
Community Trees
CalLee Davenport, USF&W
Rod Krahmer, ODFW
Brad Siemens, USFS
Eric Hartstein, OWEB
Linda Lind, USFS
Nelson Mathews, Trust for
Public Lands

ODF Staff:

Josh Barnard, Field Support Mgr.
Susan Dominique, Admin. Support

Guests:

Jeremy Felty, Intern w/OSWA
Shreejita Basu, Sustainable NW
Phil Chick, Arch Cape Water District
Ben Dair, Sustainable NW
Josh Cling, Western Rivers
Conservancy

Absent:

Clint Bentz, Landowner
Jim Johnson, OSU Extension, Senior Assoc. Dean
Karl Dalla Rosa, USFS State & Private Forestry
Taylor Murray, USDA
Kelley Beamer, COLT
Gary Jensen, OSWCC
Jon Weck, Landowner
Dick Courter, Consultant
Scott Hayes, OTFS
Dan Logan, Landowner

Call to Order

Tucker called the meeting to order and thanked members for joining the meeting.

Introductions:

- Josh Barnard, Field Support Unit Manager
- Amy Singh, Forest Legacy Program
- Rod Krahmer, ODF&W
- Nelson Mathews, Northwest Land Conservation Director for the Trust for Public Lands
- Brad Siemens, USFS, Forest Legacy & Forest Stewardship Programs for OR & WA
- Linda Lind, Regional USFS Representative for the State of Oregon
- Morgan Holen, OR Community Trees
- CalLee Davenport, USF&W Service, OR State Coordinator for Private Lands Program Partners for Fish and Wildlife
- Eric Hartstein, Policy Coordinator for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Program
- Jim James, Exec. Director of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association
- (guest) Jeremy Felty, summer intern, OSU graduate program
- Phil Chick, Arch Cape Water District
- Susan Dominique, Exec Support to Private Forests

Review and Approval of January 2018 and May 2018 Minutes

Tucker called for Public Comment. Hearing none they moved on to Approval of the Minutes. She noted as one of our items of business that it had been a little challenging to get a quorum to do review and approval of our meeting minutes. With 19 member seats total that makes 10 a quorum. Quorum wasn't reached at this point. Minutes went unapproved and vote was postponed until a quorum was present.

Private Forests Updates – Lena Tucker

Tucker emphasized the importance of a quorum for the next meeting as there needs to be an official decision on the Forest Legacy Project recommendations. At this meeting the Forest Legacy project applicants will provide an introduction and overview for the members on their Projects and solicit member's feedback towards tweaks to the final applications. The decision meeting will be scheduled in September. Tucker then moved on with an update from the

Private Forests Division engagement with the wildfire efforts. She reported that a lot of Private Forest's program staff are out on fires as well as our field staff, Stewardship Foresters. Even if not at fire camp, the Division supports and engages the fire effort here from Salem. She reported some stats on fire season in Oregon. ODF provides fire protection to 16 million acres of land and to date (of the meeting), there were approximately 648 fires on ODF-protected land, which is 22% above the 10 year average. But initial attack forces caught the majority, 97 to 98% or more at 10 acres or less. She emphasized that the Large Fires are what make the news but the public doesn't hear the hundreds of success stories of catching the small fires with initial attack forces. To date there was 33,300 acres of fire on ODF-protected lands which was 55% of our 10 year average. She reported a Preparedness Level 5 Nationally. Level 5 is Red Alert. Level 5 is also means the resources that you have around in your region and your area, that's all there is, that's all you are going to get as resources are battling fires in many fronts across the country. Throughout the region use of fire resources are prioritized and resources can be shifted as risk priorities change. There had not been any huge lightning events since the big one in July. But there had been 648 fires, (that's fire starts, even if caught at a ¼ of an acre, it still counts). Lightning is the big critical factor as a cause for fire starts. But unfortunately Human-caused fires are a large concern as well. She voiced appreciation for the efforts of our partners, stakeholders and landowners and noted suppression support resources have been called in from around the U.S. and Canada and Australia.

Moving on, she reported on the July Board of Forestry meeting where the Department asked the Board for approval of the Agency Request Budget, that was approved and the Budget Package will go down to the Chief Financial Officers Office for presentation and see what funds will be available for Natural Resource agencies. The hope is that the Request Budget becomes a part of the Governor's Recommended Budget. The next BOF meeting which is September 5th. She also said there were indications that the Department would get 3 new Board members to fill the 3 vacancies! The Board usually has a retreat or a workshop in October which will help onboarding new Board members with an orientation and overview of issues to bring them up to speed. The new member's first official meeting would be in November.

Forest Legacy Program: FY2020 Applications and Project Presentations – Amy Singh

Singh began noting that the Project presentations the members will be hearing are the second step in the 2020 Application Cycle for Forest Legacy. She invited the Letters of Interest applicants to provide a Project presentation and be available to answer any questions so members could recommend what needs clarification in their final applications. Reflecting on the delay of the 2018 budget and application schedule she acknowledged that it made decision-making timelines difficult. The 2019 Project list had not been released officially from the Forest Service but their partners have been able to obtain a copy of the list and Brad had indicated that it looks like the right thing. So the list is typically is attached to the President's Budget when that is released and then it will go through different iterations to determine what the funding actually comes up to be. The Hood River Phased Project is on here at number 6 for \$2.2 million dollars. Which then would have rounded out our 2018 ask. But this isn't finalized yet. And she was quick to note that that was all she had seen on the list, but other projects may show up further down. If the Budget stays in the realm of the Continuing Resolution and Funding Levels stay about the same the Hood River Project is in a good place to continue to receive funding. And I think that the message is that it's faring well.

Siemens clarified that the reason this list is not official is that the Administration didn't officially put forward a funding request but the Appropriations Committee in their bill asked the agency to provide the list nonetheless. But somehow some of our partners got the list and circulated it. But he doesn't know until Appropriations actually passes it and it's signed by the President.

Singh went on to explain a little bit about Legacy strategies and nature of the funding. Forest Legacy is a program where State's ask for money before money is available. So we have to ask and we don't often know last year's results before we ask for this year's. It just gets more and more complicated. So one of the asks from her and ODF as we look to the Committee and its role in reviewing these projects is to remember that we are trying to do our best. Part of that is understanding how to be strategic and we might need to be nimble at different points in the process. Flexibility in the projects is beneficial. She offered that the Hood River project is on there for the second go-round. So now we are at the

point where we are seeing 2020 applications and adding in that we don't know the status of the 2019 applications makes it difficult. The Forest Service also hasn't released their official call for projects for 2020, which has also time-been timed later and later into the summer and then the deadlines are coming earlier and earlier in the fall. So we made the decision to keep our process and the time we have to give applicants to put the projects together. She doesn't anticipate any major changes in the scoring process and will be using the past scoring guidance to mock rank and score the projects before us this year. She advised members to use this guidance as a frame of reference, when posing questions to the applicants.

Siemens shared the other dynamics that will impact States across the board, (not just Oregon) is they are getting pressure from the Appropriations Committee to address what the Service calls 'old' money. He explained that within Legacy's authority they can have grants open for 5 years. Generally, the default for Legacy is to have them completed within two years. An extension can be granted under certain circumstances, but it is only up to 5 years. What the Appropriations Committee looks at is where the Program's old money is between two and half to three times the money on the books as we are asking for every year. So they are asking why you need another \$60 million dollars if you have \$120 or 150 million dollars as backlog so that causes some reluctance. We've done everything we can to describe that on any given project that there are reasons where it might take longer than two years. Landowner circumstances, a broad range of things that complicate projects on an individual basis and go out past the two year threshold. But, they continue to get that pressure. One thing that the Legacy program is doing to address that is actually putting some thresholds for consideration in the application process. The Call Letter for 2020 which will accompany the scoring guidance will be clearer in exactly what that means. He shared what he had heard was that the Federal review members are going to look at old projects starting from 2015 back and any State that has a project that old that is not complete, or doesn't have a good reason for not being complete will probably be moved to the bottom of the list in their new applications. So the 2020 cycle if a State has something from 2015 or older they would automatically drop down the list. The State of Oregon has only 2016 and forward so this year that won't impact applications coming in from partners. But, it's likely that next year there will be something similar in place. The other threshold that he thought might be a \$10 million dollar threshold for any existing grants. So regardless if they are 1 year old, 2 year old, 3 years old, if you have more than \$10 million dollars they are going to start moving down the list as well. So at this point for Oregon it looks like those thresholds won't impact this cycle of applications. But he emphasized that applicants need to be aware of them for the next cycle. The \$10 million threshold is funding is for projects that have the money obligated but not yet spent.

Singh agreed that this is the problem with the program across the board. Whatever that set number winds up to be and how that matches all those expectations is a complicated puzzle to try to piece together.

Nelson noted that the landowner challenge is that appraisals, especially on forested lands can be \$25,000 dollars. It's a very expensive investment. Siemens agreed that the cost/benefit of putting that money in up front without knowing where you will be on that list is a difficult sell. There is a lot of resistance from States and partners to making those investments not knowing how it's going to land. Singh added that it's not only the investment, it's the time lag. It could be two years, from this point on from when we get a grant so unless an appraisal can be updated and then at minimum we have to obligate it. So getting to what we have coming up for 2020, we did our Call Letter in May, received some Letters of Interest and we have three projects before us this year. The Arch Cape Project, The Hood River Fish and Forests Project (which was before the Committee last year) and then a new project Spence Mountain that members would hear about for the first time today. So the partners for the projects were instructed to give a brief presentation and questions and discussion with the members.

Determining the importance of a project and its value and quality, as local, regional or nationally important. The economic benefits of timber; economic benefits of non-timber; T&E Species; Habitat; Fish; Wildlife; plants and unique forest communities; aquatic habitat and watershed protections; public access; scenic; historic, cultural and tribal resources of the property. All those fall into the importance section. Then the next Section is on Threatened. This is about how the project is threatened by conversion to non-forest uses by lack of protection; landowner circumstances; adjacent use of the properties and ability to develop the property. And the last section is on the Strategic Nature, this is

how it fits within the larger landscape as complimenting other protected lands; or identified on national plans that these properties are important for conservation purposes.

- **Arch Cape Project**

Phil Chick, introduced himself as Manager of the Arch Cape Drinking Water District and was joined at the meeting by a couple of the project partners, Shreejita Basu, and Ben Dair from Sustainable NW. Another partner, North Coast Land Conservancy was unable to attend the presentation but Chick wanted members to know North Coast Land Conservancy was a vital part of this vision and their efforts. He noted that this project has been a decade in the making. Arch Cape Water District and the North Coast Land Conservancy are requesting funding to acquire 2100 acres of prime forestry/recreational/drinking watershed land on the north Oregon Coast which is a missing link to a 29 square mile conservation corridor that encompassed by two State Parks; Oregon's most visited stretch of coastline and 3500 million acres of forest habitat which will in the future hopefully be a match and in care of the North Coast Land Conservancy. The entire focus of this project has been about providing clean safe affordable drinking water to people. They envision the creation of a working community owned forest that is capable of sustaining and celebrating the Oregon Coast, which is an emerald jewel and a National treasure. He emphasized the many social, ecological and economic benefits of this property and went on to describe the attributes of the project: maintaining a healthy working forest and it's position within other conserved areas, Oswald State Park, Ecola State Park, the North Coast Land Conservancy Rainforest Reserve, and its unique and rare geology as part of the Coastal Edge Initiative. It also provides miles of Salmon habitat and habitat of Petal Tail Dragonfly. Forest fragmentation is a major concern. He then went into the project partners, supporters, personnel and communication strategies with the coastal communities.

Members asked questions and provided feedback.

- Member suggested more emphasis be put on the community forest model and a little more detail in how that is going to work.
- Add detail into what the forest plan is to maintain the working forest, the concept of a working conservation forest.
- Maps need to be more clearly defined as to the project area.
- Member asked about the restoration potential currently for streams and wildlife habitat. And suggested the application have some indication of the land's past, current and future. How was it left?
- Siemens suggested a better understanding of the easement versus fee title acquisition and describing that well in regards to the project. He shared it becomes confusing to the National Board panelists especially when going through 60 applications. Trying to dive in and understand the idiosyncrasies of one project can be a little bit risky. But he knows it gets challenging to get into the details of what that means with the limited characters allowed in the application.
- Member noted improvements to the project work since last year's application.

- **Spence Mountain**

Mathews (also a SSCC Member) had picked up the work that Owen Wozniak had begun called the Spence Mountain Project which is a proposed community forest in Klamath County. A 7600 acre property on the upper part Klamath Lake has promise to be a community forest with significant conservation and reparation elements to it. Klamath Trails Alliance (KTA) has been building trails on the property. The private landowner has specifically kept this piece of a larger holding for large development and/or a destination resort. Trust for Public Lands, Klamath Trails Alliance, and the community of Klamath County have a common interest in maintaining the ongoing timber and forest products base important to the economy as well as providing recreation and tourist destination for that part of the world. The big values are the public access, scenic beauty and timber economic value and jobs. He shared that the Klamath Mountain Ecoregion as one of the distinctive complex ecoregions in the Western U.S. based on its topographical aspects and habitat. The project borders on the Upper Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge, part of the bird area and an important part of the recovery of the Upper Klamath Basin.

There is significant development potential. The Trust for Public Lands doesn't want to pass up an opportunity to protect a pretty significant ecological link and still find a benefit for the timber industry, and finally a community forest to build their recreation and tourism economy and still protect the environment.

- James recommended that the project focus should be on the wildlife and the probability of development. Focusing on the unique, important ecosystem as it ties into the ODF&W Conservation Strategy rather than the recreation.
- Tucker agreed that would be good to emphasize the oak woodlands piece.
- And be even bolder about the risk of development.
- Suggestion to partner with the Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership, for endorsement. The Dept. of Forestry is really engaged in that as well as the Forest Service and several other agencies. And OSWA participates in that as well. Some of our members are part of that group. And so, they've got a good reputation down there getting them to endorse the project might be of value.

- **Hood River Fish & Forest**

Josh Cling, Conservation Director of Western Rivers Conservancy thanked the Committee once again for the opportunity to present the Hood River Fish & Forest Project for another round of Forest Legacy funding. They were successful with Phase 1 (FY 18) funding and optimistic about Phase 2 (FY19) funds. He spoke about the Western Rivers Conservancy conservation mission of land acquisition preserving outstanding rivers in the West. This ask would greatly expand current accomplishments. They are asking for funding to place a conservation easement on a tree farm that is owned by Weyerhaeuser, it's called the Mid-Colombia Tree Farm. It's a little less than 20,000 acres in total. The tree farm itself is bordered on three sides by Mt. Hood National Forest. It includes nine miles of the West Fork of the Hood River, which is about 50% of that total basin. As well as 12 miles on the Middle Fork. There is 42 miles of fish bearing streams that run across the tree farm. This project hits on really important points regarding: a) keeping working forestlands working; b) benefits for listed species; c) for recreation, d) for economic contribution to the local community.

This property has very important wildlife values and has documented habitat for Northern Spotted Owl, and also for Harlequin ducks. It provides 25% of the winter range for the area deer and elk herds. He went on to describe that the watershed supplies to the City of Hood River and agricultural use. And also emphasized the value to the Warm Springs Tribe.

He expanded on the recreation opportunities and economic support to the County supplying 3 area mills. He noted that Weyerhaeuser is poised to take advantage of the increasing development pressures to convert forestland. To be able to take this Tree Farm and remove the development potential, keep the working forest and expand stream setbacks would be a perfect complement to the other work that is ongoing across the Basin. This is a Tier 1 watershed designation.

He did a breakdown of all the Letters of Support and the broad coalition behind this. And then spoke to the current status, costs and appraisal outcome on this phased acquisition. Cling clarified that the first and foremost objective is to strip off all development rights, then protection of the watershed managed as a working forest.

- Siemens wanted members aware of the element of County land donation as a match, because technically the program is designed to protect private lands at risk. He thought that this Committee will be asked to weigh in on anything official that we submit for consideration nationally. So just awareness that will probably come back in more discussions with this Committee in terms of asking for an official recommendation or official policy support.

LUNCH

Details for Project Scoring and upcoming Conference Call

Singh reviewed the steps in the Legacy process. As part of the rank and review of projects by the Committee members, she usually holds a conference call. She asked members to use the provided materials to give a score to each of these projects and those results will be discussed on that call to make a recommendation to ODF on which project(s) should be submitted for a National Panel review and ranking for funding for FY20. She strongly emphasized that there is an absolute requirement to have a quorum of members on the call to vote. All SSCC meetings are open so anybody could come if they wanted to as a member of the public. But at that point no tasks are needed from the applicants for that meeting. Nelson will be asked to recuse himself from voting as he is party to the Spence Mountain project.

She provided one last update on Forest Legacy. She has been invited to sit on the National Panel this year. She felt that this opportunity could be really helpful as to be able to peel back a little bit of some particulars in the process and what's resonating with folks in the south? How are projects coming across at the National level?

Member asked if just from an interest perspective it would be good to see what a number 1 ranked project looked like.

The Program confines each State to a maximum of 3 projects can be submitted for a total of \$10 million and one single project cannot exceed more than \$7 million in the Forest Legacy ask. Phasing projects is one way strategize the overall asks for funding. Last year, the Committee members did a preference ranking between projects to allow as much money as possible for any one project to be as strategic as possible. And the balance of funding filling on other projects.

She will confirm that the September meeting dates work and whether there is a quorum of members committed to participating. Then in early September members will get scoring guides and the project briefs for each of the three projects as well as scoring sheets for each of the three. She instructed members to return the scoring sheets to her by September 5th.

Community Forests Program Update

Singh updated the members that since they last met, the Forest Service held their Call for Applications under the Community Forests Program and we (ODF) had a chance to review two projects that came in requesting Program funding. So one is in relation to the Arch Cape Project, and that was submitted by the North Coast Land Conservancy and that would then protect some additional Rainforest Reserve property that would complement the Forest Legacy Application to establish a community forest owned by the North Coast Land Conservancy called the Headwaters Community Forest. The other project submitted was the Eagle Creek Community Forest, currently a Weyerhaeuser property, that would complement the work done through the Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District and is a project in partnership with the Trust for Public Land. ODF did a review each of these two asks to ensure that they met eligibility criteria for the program. Then submitted them on to Brad where they are now waiting to move through the national rank and review process. Hopefully we will know something the end of the month. She noted the good success Oregon has had with this Program to date and there was more funding added this year which increased the maximum spending ask to \$600,000 dollars. The funding threshold had been rather low in the past so she is hoping this Program continues to grow and we keep seeing success with it this year.

Siemens added context that the amount of funding available had actually doubled this year. So with that we increased the maximum amount from \$400,000 to 600,000 as a cap on the asks. There were 28 total applications nationally, two of which are the ones that Amy just highlighted, so that is where we sit in terms of the national competition. These grants don't go through the State. The Community Forest Program, deals with the Land Trust and local community governments as well as tribal governments. So the end of August USFS will let applicants know whether their applications were selected for funding. And then we will have the month of September to get them in place before the funding fiscal year expires the end of the month.

Stewardship Program Updates – Josh Barnard, Field Support Manager

Barnard covered for Gordon and Whittington to provide the Stewardship Program Update. In regards to funding where we are at with the Forest Stewardship Program. The funding historically has been base level funding so to speak, we are having conversations regarding whether there is an add to that or not. Siemens confirmed that ODF should have received an official letter on that recently. But Barnard was unaware of whether it was received as Jeff Burns (who would normally be the one to receive it) had been on fire assignment.

Forest Action Plan Update – Josh Barnard

Staff started discussions on the Forest Action Plan, turning on the light for that subject for 2020. That has kicked off the internal process here for the Action Plan and they are assembling an internal work group on that. They also discussed it with the State Forester re-elevating the awareness. Barnard thought as we've had quite a bit of shift of personnel on all facets of our business not everybody is tracking what that is or what it could be used for. They are setting up folks from various programs to interface with that internal working group but it probably won't really get kicked off till after fire season. The goal is to look at that Plan in a new light and make it much more a part of our stated business considerations. That process will be underway soon and there will be interfaces with this Committee and specifically with partners. The official checklist lists this Committee and other folks that we have to coordinate with on development of that.

Forest Stewardship Committee Membership

Barnard led a discussion on Committee membership. He pointed out that the Committee did have one vacant seat for representation by NRCS. The second part was a question around how to solve the attendance problem in getting a quorum of members together to facilitate committee business and provided recommendations on the agenda.

Singh said that as she sees it there are a fair number of seats that are filled but representatives haven't been attending regularly. The Forest Service mandates representation from their list of important stakeholders. As far as filling Misty Seaboldt's spot for NRCS. Staff assumes that her position will be filled and possibly whoever fills her position will be the representative to the Committee. Tucker offered that sometimes it's as simple as reaching out to stakeholders for commitment to this Committee. If that person is unable to do that then get a recommendation of who should represent that entity at the meetings.

James noted that five of the members are also OSWA members. Scott Hayes was the Chair of the Oregon Tree Farm System, was the representative but now Rex Storm is Chair. So replacing Scott with Rex might be an idea. He also offered to do some outreach to those members. Davenport suggested organizations provide a proxy when the principle member is unable to attend. Tucker suggested that may be acceptable. She saw the only problem with that is there can be some lack of continuity in terms of ongoing business.

Partner Updates

Krahmer: Most recently ODF&W up listed the Marbled Murrelet and adopted some guidance. Which is actually been continuing. The Department had a lawsuit filed so they will get some final answers at some point, but they are actively going through public information requests now.

Siemens: So, the Forest Service continues to still be in some transition with the Administration. We have an Under-Secretary who has been proposed by the Senate and passed out of the Senate Committee that brings that nomination. But it still has to go to the Senate for a vote. That individual used to be the Deputy Chief for State and Private Forests, overseeing all the work we do. It's a really positive thing to have him in that position of agency oversight in that Department. He believes that will be first in the line of domino appointments that the Department sees. So he is feeling positive about the alignment of leadership that is coming into place especially in terms of our work in State and Private Forestry. They are also without a permanent Regional Forester. Jim Pena retired (in July) so currently they have Dianne Guidry acting in that position who brings a cross-agency perspective as well. We've been told for a couple of weeks that

an announcement will be coming out for the Regional Forester, and it hasn't yet. So since Dianne is acting as Regional Forester. And Karl Dalla Rosa is normally the Asst. Director and now Director of State and Private Forestry. So we have moving chairs.

Lind: Hopefully we'll get that announcement in a couple of weeks for the permanent RF. Lind as a new member of the Committee shared a little bit about her position as the Regional Forester's Representative for the State of Oregon. Her work is to liaise with the Governor's office and obviously the Natural Resources Office policy folks. Jason Miner and those folks over there. A liaison for the State Land Management Agencies, Natural Resource Agencies in Oregon and the State Legislature. An interesting position.

Holen: Oregon Community Trees did their Annual Conference at the World Forestry Center in June. She wasn't sure on the numbers but thought it was a record-breaking year. The conference set the tone for the annual Board meeting. That September meeting is going to be in the Ashland area where their current Board President is from. She wanted to mention at the conference they awarded their Annual Community Forestry Awards. That as part of our education, outreach and promotion is to recognize folks across the State doing great things with urban forestry. She reminded members that their nomination process is located on their webpage and anybody can nominate an individual or organization who they think should be recognized for their community forestry efforts. And those nominations are always open and we review those submissions annually then vote as a Board to decide who gets awarded. So the Individual Award went to Mary Harrell, office manager for Friends of Trees in Portland. Paul Hennon, retired from the City of Tualatin as the Community Services Director. And during that time he did a lot to help acquire and manage over 300 acres of parks, trails, freeways throughout the City of Tualatin. Casey Roland also won an Award. Casey is an owner of a tree service company in Ashland and on the City Tree Commission along with volunteering in the community so won an Individual Award.

For organizations we awarded Plant Oregon noting these folks have donated over \$50,000 dollars' worth of native trees to be planted all around southern Oregon. They are very involved in the community and engaging the public about tree selection, planting and care.

Our Vice President always gets to pick one person to give the President's Award to, so he gave that out to the Urban Forester for the City of Corvallis, Jon Pywell. And lastly, so on Oregon Community Trees we work very closely with the Oregon Department of Forestry, and we have Kristin Ramstad our liaison and Kristen each year gets to pick one Oregon Tree City, USA to recognize as the Oregon Tree City of the Year. This year Kristen selected the City of Lake Oswego to receive the Tree City of the Year Award. The City is very active in urban forestry, lots of consistent engagement. And their tree code is a really high ranking issue. If you know a person or organization that should be recognized please just go on our website, OregonCommunityTrees.org and fill out the nomination.

James offered to help with press releases in our newsletter in the spring.

Davenport: Didn't have a lot of updates per se but similar to other federal agency folk, their budgets were late in getting to us and as deadlines were fast approaching we had about a week to obligate all of our funding this year. He reported that it's been really difficult to get their funding and get it out the door in the meaningful places. In a similar tone we've had a couple of open spots in our office. Like you guys we actually don't have a Director over the USFWS and probably won't ever get one, at least during this Administration. Mainly, because they have to be a biologist, so guessing that won't be reappointed. That said, locally we filled our Forest Resources Division Chief job.

Hartstein reported that Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Adopted a new Strategic Plan at their June meeting. It is a good document which took about 18 months to develop with a lot of community outreach and engagement. Their Focused Investment Partnership Program (FIP) is soliciting for implementation initiatives. We received 10 proposals from partnerships around the State looking to do landscape scale restoration, conservation. They are seeking \$77 million dollars over 6 years. And they probably have budget for 2 to 3 of those Initiatives. This week started formal evaluations of those initiatives and continue that evaluation all summer and ultimately leading to awards at the January OWEB Board meeting.

James: OSWA had their Annual Meeting at the end of June. The theme was 'Managing Family Forests into the Future'. There was a really good turnout and on Saturday the 30th we had our Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Woods Tour at the Steve and Wylda Cafferata properties just east of Springfield. The Oregon Tree Farm System has the Annual Meeting October 27th at the Oregon Garden and that is where the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for 2018 will be selected and OSWA typically coordinates their Annual Meeting on the same weekend which will probably be sometime June of next year.

Beamer: Reported that one of our members, Pacific Forest Trust just opened an Oregon office. They've been doing increasingly more work in Oregon and about a year and half ago closed on the first working forest easement that OWEB funded in partnership with some federal funds on Jed Parsons property. They have a lot of expertise doing large scale private conservation easements on working forestlands.

Tucker adjourned the meeting reminding everyone that Amy will confirm the conference call date and scoring materials prior to that conference call.