

Agenda Item No.:	C
Work Plan:	Agency Administration Work Plan
Topic:	Appointment to Emergency Fire Cost Committee
Presentation Title:	Appointment of Kathryn VanNatta
Date Presented to Board:	September 6, 2023
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SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to recommend the appointment of one candidate to a position on the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC).

BACKGROUND

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 477.440 directs that the Board *shall appoint an Emergency Fire Cost Committee consisting of four members, who shall be forest landowners or representatives of forest landowners whose forestland is being assessed for forest fire protection within a forest protection district. At least one member shall be selected from each forest region of the state. Members of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee shall be appointed by the board for four-year terms.* In addition to the statute, the EFCC approved a membership policy (Attachment 1) at its March 7, 2023, meeting. The policy states: *It is the policy of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC) to follow the statutory requirements related to committee membership and to ensure an inclusive nomination and vetting process that results in the most qualified people serving on the committee.*

ORS 477.445 gives authority to the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC) to *supervise and control the distribution of funds from the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund.* The Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund (OFLPF), established by ORS 477.750, is used to equalize (reimburse) emergency fire suppression costs expended in protecting forestland statewide by forest protection districts, both state and association. The annual expenditure limit of the OFLPF is \$13.5 million which includes up to \$10 million for emergency fire suppression costs, up to \$3 million for statewide severity resources, with the remaining available for administration/operating costs and up to a fifty-percent contribution towards any annual premium for catastrophic suppression cost insurance policy. If there is any unspent authority the EFCC may consider strategic investments in the state's complete and coordinated fire protection system.

Due to Steve Cafferata choosing not to be considered for reappointment, the EFCC has one vacancy. The EFCC and State Forester recognized Steve for his twelve-plus years of service at the March EFCC meeting. Since that time Chair Garrelts, with support from the administrator, implemented the EFCC membership policy throughout the recent solicitation process. Communication and coordination occurred between the Chair and ODF executives regarding the final candidates and this recommendation. Kathryn VanNatta will represent all Oregon small woodland landowners. She is a small forest landowner, and she belongs to the Northwest Oregon Forest Protective Association. Kathryn VanNatta's brief biography is in attachment 3.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board make the following appointment:

Appoint Kathryn VanNatta to the Emergency Fire Cost Committee with a term expiring at the end of September 2027.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Emergency Fire Cost Committee Membership Policy
2. Emergency Fire Cost Committee Membership
3. Biography Kathryn VanNatta

Emergency Fire Cost Committee Membership Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC) to follow the statutory requirements related to committee membership and to ensure an inclusive nomination and vetting process that results in the most qualified people serving on the committee.

AUTHORITY

ORS 477.440 Emergency Fire Cost Committee; members; terms; vacancies

DEFINITIONS

Board means the Oregon Board of Forestry.

Committee means the Emergency Fire Cost Committee

Forest Regions mean forest practice regions that include eastern, northwest and southwest Oregon.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board shall appoint an Emergency Fire Cost Committee.

The Committee shall elect one of its members as the chairperson.

Committee Chairperson:

- Leads the recruitment with assistance from the EFCC administrator.
- Coordinates with the Oregon Department of Forestry executive leadership to make a recommendation to the Board.

Committee Administrator prepares Board staff report for committee appointments.

STANDARDS

Board: appoints four committee members for four-year terms.

Committee chairperson

Statutory requirements

- Chairperson shall hold office for a period determined by the committee.
- Whenever the office of chairperson of the committee becomes vacant, the committee at its next regular or special meeting shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy.

Committee membership

Statutory requirements

- Members shall be forest landowners or representatives of forest landowners whose forestland is being assessed for forest fire protection within a forest protection district.
- At least one member shall be selected from each forest region of the state.
- Members shall serve at the pleasure of the board.

Minimum experience

- Experience/participation on a forest protective association.
- Knowledge of wildfire policy and operations.
- Knowledge of forest management (on a large or small scale).
- Demonstratable insight into Oregon's complete and coordinated fire protection system.

Representation

- One member must represent a large, publicly owned private forestland landowner.
- One member must be an Oregon resident – small woodland landowner.
- Other members may include large or small forest landowner or rural resident.

Membership preferences that may be applied

- Experience serving on a forest protection association board and/or budget committee.
- Forest landowner or representatives of an Oregon-based forest landowner company.

Membership recruitment and application

- Notification of recruitments will include outreach to: Oregon's Forest Protective Associations (FPAs), Oregon Department of Forestry District Foresters and FPA District Managers, Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC), Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA), Oregon Forest Protective Association (OFPA), Oregon Tree Farm System, Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) and other trade associations as determined.
- EFCC Chair shall send formal solicitation letter to chairs, presidents, etc. of the entities listed above.
- Applicants shall submit a resume demonstrating they meet statutory requirements, minimum experiences, and representation requirements.

EXCEPTIONS, EXEMPTIONS, and CONDITIONS

- When filling a member vacancy, if there are no qualifying candidates that meet the representation requirements related to either a large, private forestland landowner and/or a small woodland landowner, the membership may not meet the requirement for one-term.

**EMERGENCY FIRE COST COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
September 2023**

	First Term Began	Current Term Began	Term Expires
Brennan Garrelts, Chair	1/20	1/20	1/24
Chris Johnson	7/18	9/22	9/26
Erik Lease	9/21	9/21	9/25
Kathryn VanNatta	9/23		9/27

*Position recommended for appointment is in **bold**. The appointment term would end September of 2027.

Current members

Brennan Garrelts, Chair

Southwest Region
Coos, Douglas, and Southwest Oregon Forest Protective Associations
Vice President, Lone Rock Timber Co.

Chris Johnson

Eastern Region
Eastern Oregon, Walker-Range and Klamath-Lake Forest Protective Associations
Executive Director of Operations, Shanda Asset Management LLC

Erik Lease

Northwest Region
Northwest Oregon Forest Protective Association
Director of Silviculture & Regeneration for Western Timberlands, Weyerhaeuser

Kathryn VanNatta biography

Kathryn VanNatta is a board member and budget committee member of the Northwest Oregon Forest Protective Association. She represents a small woodland landowner through Roman V Ranch, LLC (The VanNatta family's forestland) and Tie Cabin Tree Farm. Kathryn is a native fifth-generation Oregonian and a small woodland owner since 1985, residing in Hillsboro. She is a member of the Oregon Small Woodland's Association, Oregon Tree Farm System, and Oregon Farm Bureau Federation. Kathryn is the corporate managing partner of Roman V Ranch, LLC, and manager/owner-in-training of VanNatta Brothers Logging. She also formerly served as a regulatory affairs director and lobbyist for Oregon's pulp and paper industry's association. Most days you can find her teaching sewing, gardening or on the tree farm.