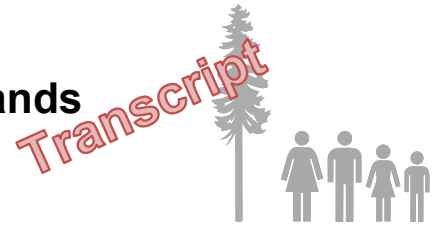




"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Committee for Family Forestlands

Conference Call October 11, 2019



Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a conference call meeting of the Committee for Family Forestlands [an advisory body to the Oregon Board of Forestry with authority established in Oregon Revised Statute 527.650] was convened on October 11, 2019 hosted in the Sun Pass Room of the ODF Operations Building, 2600 State Street, Salem, Oregon

CFF Committee members participating:

Evan Barnes, Committee Chair & SW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Josh Barnard, Deputy Chief Private Forests (Secretary)
Kaola Swanson, Conservation Rep. (Voting) (Pacific Forest Trust)
Rex Storm, AOL/OTFS Ex-Officio
Barrett Brown, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
John Peel, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio
S. Mark Vroman, Industry Rep. (Voting) Hampton Family Forests

ODF Staff:

Susan Dominique, Committee Administrative Support
Kyle Abraham, Chief ODF Private Forests Division
Bodie Dowding, Developmental Field Support
Coordinator
Ryan Gordon, Family Forestlands Coordinator

Members not attending:

Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio
USFS State & Private Forestry Rep. (Janelle Geddes)
Jim James, OSWA Executive Director Ex-Officio

Guests:

1. Welcome and Introductions/Roll Call

Barnes: I'll kick it off and we'll go around with roll call. I'm Evan Barnes, Chair of the Committee and the Southwest Oregon landowner representative. (Roll call see above.) So, how about the minutes? Any word on the minutes?

2. Review of Agenda

3. Approval of the September 2019 Minutes

Dominique: I had sent the minutes out with the agenda earlier.

Barnes: Any additions or corrections to the minutes for September? Anybody?

Peel: I would Move to Approve.

Vroman: Second the motion.

Barnes: All those in favor? Motion carries.

4. Public Comment

Barnes: No public comment? None offered. Any other comments from anyone? No?

5. Private Forests Division Update

Barnard: I'll keep this a bit briefer in case there's more discussion on the other items. So just for Private Forests this month. I thought I would mention to everyone one of the biggest items we are working on is we are working through our Operator of the Year process right now. We have all the nominations in and we are working on scheduling the field tours and setting up our RFPC meetings where they will select the Operator of the Year for each Region so that's probably where a lot of the staff and division's time is focused right now. At least on the Field Support side of it and then we are also prepping for the November Board meeting. Both in the sense of we do have an update planned for the Marbled Murrelet process which is basically going to be an overview of next steps and working with stakeholders.

Those are the only two things that have near-term immediacy between now and our next meeting in November. I don't know if Kyle had anything to add to that for the Division?

Abraham: We could talk about how many nominations we have received for Operator of the Year.

Barnard: Sure, right now we have 1 nomination in Eastern Oregon. And either 2 or 3 in Northwest. I'm waiting to get the final count. That is the last cycle through our different regions we are going to go through they are just finalizing that probably today. And then out of Southwest Oregon we did have 2 nominations for Operator of the Year and we actually had a 3rd nomination that is going to be moved over into a Landowner Recognition Program that ODF&W is restarting. We actually had 3 to start out with but it turns out 1 was a better fit for the other program, but it will still get a similar recognition and move through that program. That's kind of where that stands for this year.

Barnes: So you got a good sampling of nominations then? Is that more than usual?

Barnard: I would say last year was the highest year we had because we had multiple nominations in each region. It is good to see more than 1 nomination per region. So I consider that a positive thing. EOA only had 1 this year, but I think last year they had 3. So, I think we are doing okay at this point. It's nice to have some nominations to work through. So, I view this year as pretty positive.

Abraham: One of the things you guys are working on is changing the timeline a little bit.

Barnard: Yes, correct. We will also mention this at the Regional Forest Practices Committee meetings but one of the challenges we perceive with the current nomination process is all the nominations are due immediately after fire season and it takes a fair bit of effort to putting those nominations together. So what we would like to do is shift our staff timeline internally something along the lines of moving that deadline for nominations to be due. In June, somewhere around where we would perceive the start of fire season to be. So that there is more of an opportunity for us to pre-message around that and folks can begin to turn in nominations prior to fire season rather than trying to do that on the backside and pull all the information together. That will benefit us both on the work load for the field. And also help us in processing nominations. As I said we are just pulling together the package right now. We do this in a pretty tight time frame, because it all comes in after fire season and we have to turn it around and schedule all the meetings and tours by October. And then trying to capture video of all of this which is a whole other process. And in the past we've had very good video support but it's always challenging to find a nice weather day. I've been on multiple Operator of the Year tours where all you can see is fog and 100' of the unit when you are limited to a day or two to capture that sort of footage. We are thinking that by opening this up and moving that nomination prior to fire season we are hoping to get more nominations, improve the ability to get that video quality over the summer if we know where the nominations are and then it will, when you think about our timelines and us working with the Board of Forestry when we come out of October we basically need to prep all those videos and a staff report that has significant lead time for the Board so we've typically held this in March for most of these. And that kind of adds an odd sequence to how we award these to the Operators of the Year because they receive these in multiple venues. Both BOF, Oregon Logging Conference and then also...

Storm: AOL Statewide Forest Practice Seminar which is AOL/... co-sponsored.

Barnard: So we are hoping to realign that process a little better so that they can receive the official award with the BOF and then carry that with them through the rest of the venues that they are recognized in. Hoping to realign that a little bit better, alleviate staff time and have more time for better video quality. That stuff actually, I don't have the count now but in prior years some of those videos were getting significant counts for views on the web. We post those on YouTube. It's always good when you have high quality video to share some of the good work that is going on.

Barnes: Who is the Committee that makes the decisions on the final selection?

Barnard: That is the Regional Forest Practices Committees in each region. So, NW, SW, and EO each have a Forest Practices Committee and it is their job to select the Operator of the Year.

Barnes: Alright. Anything else from Private Forests?

Barnard: I don't have any other topics other than we'll cover the Board Retreat which is the other piece of information.

Brown: Josh before you leave that Private Forests topic, can you in the time available, give us an overview of the Marbled Murrelet process as it stands?

Barnard: Sure. As I mentioned before we are slotted at the November Board meeting. And the way that's been structured right now is we are presenting that as an update to the Board. And it's really around the plan and the process going forward with the Marbled Murrelet. In April, we quote, completed the Technical Report at least in terms of finalizing that with the information that was available and what we could compile in that report. There is still a couple of components outstanding that we need to determine those being. Those being, what would be the resource site for Marbled Murrelets and their associated protection strategies. So currently that is a pretty wide range of things that could be. It could range from the resource site being the actual 'nest' tree that they lay their egg in to something more along the lines of habitat protection. All those are currently options that are on the table. And then there is a host of protection strategies associated with each one of those. So, as we look ahead into the future and how do we move through this in terms of rule analysis and those sorts of things. Our thinking is we would like to get more information from stakeholders to help the Board in their decision-making. Up to this point, the Technical Report work was do we have the full range of options here? Do we have all the information that should be in the Technical Report? We do have that. And the information there suggest a wide range of alternatives is possible here in terms us moving forward in this rule analysis process. So what we would like to do is, go out, similar to working with focus groups, to get some feedback on what we think those strategies are at this point from the various stakeholders that we have. And maybe come out with a clear picture of what the top 2 or 3 options are from those folks perspective. We may or may not get it funneled down that closely but ideally that is what would happen so we can funnel the range of what we are looking at as the rule analysis process moves forward but, basically it's a focus group type set up where we would like to work with a facilitator to help us have those conversations and compile that information for their Board to help them with their decision-making going forward.

Brown: When do you want to try and complete that rule analysis process?

Barnard: So, that part with the stakeholders, we would see that playing out depending on how the November Board meeting goes. If we go forward with that plan as proposed, we could follow up after that meeting and start setting up some of those meetings and we envision that work once we get rolling to take somewhere's between 12 to 16 months. It really depends upon the scheduling right? So we are going to be coordinating with a fairly large number of groups. It will depend on how quickly that comes together or doesn't. So it will take a couple of months to do that work. It takes a couple of months to compile all that information at the end as well. And there is a couple of months lead time from us finalizing something and getting it to the Board. Each step has a couple of months associated with it.

Brown: Thanks for that!

Barnes: Okay, well we are doing really well on time. Any other comments there? We could move on to the update of the Board's retreat?

6. Update on BOF Retreat

Abraham: I can start that conversation. So the Board had a planning retreat this is what they usually do every odd year. Part of it is to review some of their self-evaluation decision-making processes and how the past year went for them. Getting some perspective from the Board members on how things are going. That material is available online in

terms of some specific questions the Board answered for their self-evaluation and if folks are interested we can get that to you. And the other purpose for this is to start setting the stage for the Agency more broadly about how do we set forth some of our strategic initiatives. And for those folks that were on the Committee a couple of years ago, Evan you'll remember I think when Doug presented around the Agency Strategic Initiative and the Sustainability of the Fire Program. That was the Agency Strategic Initiative. So that was one way that we have done it where all the Divisions were included in the Agency Strategic Initiative. Other ways we have done it in the past is the Divisions come up with their own strategic initiatives looking at capacity needs either through POPs or legislative concepts or internal initiatives that they need to start thinking about and get eventually get policy approval by the Board moving forward. The Retreat was on Wednesday, it's basically a time for the Board to reflect then also start to plan for their next two years. The other purpose was to get some feedback from the Board on part of the work that they will be doing in November that Josh alluded to there is going to be a two-day meeting in November. Part of that discussion is focused around revisions to the Forestry Program for Oregon and not sure how many folks on the phone and around the table are familiar with that document. It's really the Department and the Board's guiding document for how we operate as an agency what are the Board's vision and values for forestry in Oregon. The current version we have is from 2011 and as you guys all know, a lot of things can change in 8+ years so the Board is taking a look. I think part of the outcome on Wednesday and you guys can say that wasn't the case but part of it was a recognition that we do. The Board does need to take look at the vision and values and re-look at those in today's current context. There will be more discussion around that in November and thinking about basically one of the strategic initiatives from the Partnership and Planning Program are the revisions to the Forestry Program for Oregon so any questions, anything you guys are interested in?

Swanson: Is it a definite thing that they are going to be revising, I know that they talked about that a lot earlier this week that they will be making some adjustments?

Abraham: I forgot to mention specifically that the Board Retreat they cannot make decisions specifically. It's an information gathering session. But to me, there was a clear sense that they recognize that the current Forestry Program for Oregon needs some work. And so, I think the challenge in front of us and the Board is how much is that? Where is it going to live? And how are we going to shepherd that process through?

Swanson: One question that I had about it, that maybe you could help with is, it seems like the Forestry Program for Oregon, because the Board is meant to represent the public interest and Oregonians and the way that Oregon would direct the Department of Forestry right? The makeup and the purpose of the Board. And so the Forestry Program for Oregon is meant to reflect the values. They referenced the OFRI survey several times, I think. Thinking about and making sure they are consistent with the Forestry Program for Oregon so that those values are all in their heads as they are making decisions? But it is just sort of a principles document right? It's not, the implementation of it is kind of up to their own interpretation. There is not a direct line between that and how they would interpret statute or how they would make a decision on say, the Murrelet. Or something that they intend to do, make more links between it. I'm just wondering how much work to put into it. It's a great document having read it I think it's really useful but I don't know how much work you are going to be putting in something not being used on a regular basis.

Abraham: Yeah, that's a good question. I think from my perspective that the Forestry Program for Oregon sets the framework for how the Board operates but it's not the level of detail on how they implement their decisions or specifics on how they implement Division direction so...

Swanson: Right. It's not that they are looking at those values and saying oh, when we made this decision did we... check off every value?

Storm: Kaola this is Rex Storm. Something I might add from my couple of decades of history with this Forestry Program for Oregon, is the intention of that document is to be an overarching umbrella to lend a mission if you will for the Board of Forestry because the Board members cycle through in a political process of every few years there are new Board members and so every time there is a new Board member you can't create a new mission statement. The second thing I might add is, I would define that the Forestry Program for Oregon as being broader than the way you

described it. You described it as the values of the citizens of Oregon and I would add into that, that it is also the values of the, they have a long history of statutory and regulatory guidance created by Oregonians at large so the Board has that mission of implementing the legal authorities. But also the forest community that the Board represents. The Board truly does represent those folks that own, grow, and manage those forests in Oregon from the non-federal side of the equation. So, there really is a lot of goals that are wrapped up to that document. It's very complex.

Barnard: And I would say from a staff work perspective, when we have those and can anchor into those. I think of it as that one step where know where the Board is at that high we can at least use that as starting point in some of the areas that are much broader. If we were just to look back at the statute or whatever it is that we are working on so we've anchored to those in the past to help frame up particular discussions given those exist in the Board's documents. So it is useful in that sense as well to help steer things when we are in a very broad area and we are trying to support the Board.

Abraham: So more to come on that as Rex eluded to, is a complex document. The Board also will be changing perhaps in 2020 and so this is a process that will maybe start before that and will probably end after that. So, integration of new Board members into this may be a reality. It is a process that transcends the Board members as well. We just recognize that it probably hasn't been used, and I am thinking for myself as much as we would like in the recent past. We want to get back to that and get some more ownership and recognition of how the Department and the Board should be using that document. We need a refresh.

So, speaking a little bit about the November Board meeting, part of the day will be spent on a workshop. And the Board talked about this a little bit during the Retreat. And summarizing a little bit on the comments in the Board's self-evaluation. They said it was a struggle, this last year was a challenge for them in terms of making decisions and having information to help make those decisions and being in alignment with each other and having those relationships. So part of what November is attempting to do the second day is a workshop around mostly around their values and policy decisions but as those relate to science. There will be a couple of science topics for setting the stage for how they make decisions with inconsistent, incomplete information. What is their level of risk tolerance in making decisions? And how do they interact and get to a place where there's shared understanding of what their values are and they can appreciate and respect those values and still make a decision and move forward. So, after about an hour of discussion at the retreat about what the workshop will be, they finally got to a place that I think they are generally comfortable with the exercise in front of them and will be another sort of interesting discussion and I'm hoping for some open conversation and open dialog at the workshop.

Barnes: Okay, where was the retreat anyway?

Abraham: It was in West Salem.

Barnes: So just an opportunity, we've done it with our board is to get away from the office and have a free-flowing day where lots of topics get discussed? Is it a public meeting or not?

Abraham: It is a public meeting. There's no public comments. Like I said there is no decisions. But there were probably 25-ish people from the public stakeholders in the room. It was well-attended. And so the other part, part of it was like I mentioned. Some of it was time to reflect on the past year. Their evaluation, and trying to get alignment for the mission, vision and values moving forward. And then in the afternoon our Administrative Services, Deputy Director of Operations introduced a plan that we are undertaking right now as part of the Executive Team for an Agency Strategic Plan and we are using some of the same words as the Strategic Initiatives but the Strategic Plan is a six year sort of timeframe on where do we want to be as an Agency and what are some of the processes that transcend our biennial budget process to get us to a direction where we are more efficient and effective? A great example and you guys are probably aware of the Oregonian article is our finances and business systems that don't really speak to each other very well. So what's the plan? How do we get there? What are the agency's expectations and values for how the agency develops a plan and interacts with internal and external processes that effect our business? That was introduced. It's still very much under development given the scope and magnitude and something that we as an

agency haven't really done very well. So I am under no illusions that we are going to come out with anything that's near perfect, but it's going to be a process for us that is kind of broader than a two year view. So it will be very helpful. So that was introduced and then as I mentioned two years ago, you guys are familiar with the Agency Strategic Initiative that I would say morphed into the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response. And the Sustainable Organization. So we put together a large agency package that helps all the Divisions in that Sustainability mode idea with some of the resources that the Divisions would need to support the fire militia and also get our core business done. So that was a really broad package that had connections to all of the Divisions. This biennium we put together in Private Forests a list of strategic initiatives. One of those is related to sustaining family and Community forestry and our idea right now is to put together a Policy Option Package (POP) which is something the Board has to support, hence the Board connection in this for 12 wildland/urban interface (WUI) foresters. Since Ryan is here, he has mentioned a little bit about our partnerships with federal agencies, non-profits that are growing our business more than a little bit, probably a lot actually. We have very few positions that are dedicated to that. We've got a growing need and partnerships and we need the authorization and capacity to move forward. There is as you can imagine there is lots of work related to wildland/urban interface, community wildfire protection plans, and fuels reduction in those areas. So we are putting together a package that identifies what the purpose and objectives are. What our request will be and what outcomes we expect from that. The other strategic initiative we are putting forth is one around forest practices act effectiveness and implementation monitoring. And you all know we have lots of monitoring topics and we have been challenged to complete the work in front of us and in fact we keep getting new work before we can finish what is on the current plate so, we see this as an opportune time to get some support from probably lots of folks around our need for effectiveness and implementation monitoring. So that includes work on the Coho petition, providing additional capacity on the Compliance Implementation Study, formerly known as the Compliance Audit. Looking at our Siskiyou Streamside Protection Review. Lots of topics generally around monitoring and recognizing there is a big need and expectations there and we are not able to deliver as well as we would like. And so that puts a lot of people under a lot of pressure to get things done, but frankly we just need more capacity to be able to do that. And then the final initiative is a legislative concept around Harvest Tax. The same process we've done in past bienniums where we set the Harvest Tax Rate to match the General Fund at 60%/40% like we have done in the past. And other Divisions; State Forests, Protection, Administrative Services, Partnership and Planning all have strategic initiatives as well. And those range from Legislative Concepts to Policy Option Packages to internal initiatives. We put all of those things on the table for the Board to start thinking about, provide us feedback on Wednesday and the process looks like we usually get more input from them in January and try to finalize the information we will put forth in March or April. Sometime in the spring and then that information goes forth with our Agency Request Budget in the fall. So, while it seems like we just got a budget, which we did. We've got to start planning for the next budget cycle as well. That was a lot, I usually don't talk that much! I'm open to any questions, but just know this is a process and there are lots of other opportunities to provide feedback and ask questions too. So,

Barnes: As you were going through that and mentioned Doug's Agency Initiative for getting rid of the militia idea and boosting firefighting it seems to mesh with...the other day I heard a little spot on the radio for the Governor's response on the interim report of some kind and that more firefighting resources are necessary. That was a portion, not to jump ahead, Kaola and Rex's talk, but that was one of the ideas that came forward on the radio spot. But this is looking into the crystal ball for sure. Any questions or comments for Kyle's report?

Gordon: I have one quick question for Kyle. This is Ryan in the room here. I was just curious in terms of those policy option packages. So we are looking at putting those in for the short session but for the next long session?

Abraham: That's right. Yep. And I think there are some ideas floating around for the short session already from the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response recommendations but our cycle is for the two year Long Session.

Barnard: Were you going to cover any of the work plan items?

Abraham: Maybe not. So clear as mud right? Either that or it was perfect. No questions.

Barnes: In the last month we talked about the Committee's recommendations and the process for the Charter changes discussion. What, we could kick that around and see people that read that over and thought about it. What kind of comments do we have going there?

7. Process for Committee Recommendation and Charter Changes

Brown: This is Barrett, I think where we left off things were generally supported that draft we sent around and kind of get folks to digest and pass any notes around to Kaola or myself. Kaola you? Create some edits in person so we can work through it in November.

Swanson: Maybe we should re-circulate it.

Barnes: That sounds like a good idea. Are there any comments from what we initially saw last month?

Abraham: Is everybody familiar with the background and context around the proposal?

Barnes: I think I am but maybe for the benefit of the group, Kyle it would be good.

Abraham: I'm not doing it! Maybe Barrett, Josh or Kaola?

Brown: The context was at our June meeting I believe it was we began the discussion that we might formalize our process for how we make recommendations to the Board of Forestry. Either on topics that we derive or topics that we coordinate with their work plan. The topics that are in front of them, and also where our input is invited or requested. We wanted just some simple guidance from our group on how to proceed. And in the absence of anything to work with, Kaola and I discussed this back and forth for a few phone calls and emails and came up with a draft for your consideration. That I sent around, that was on the 19th. Like I said it's fairly general guidance and at this point we just looking for anything that jumps out at other folks that would make sense before we try and pin this down at the next meeting. What are your thoughts, Kaola?

Swanson: I think that summarizes where we are. I don't have anything to add. Maybe folks thought about it more and want to share or just put it on the next agenda?

Barnes: Well, I think it was great that you guys took the initiative and did it. And I think it's a great start, I've read it through a couple of different times. I don't see any changes that I thought about, besides the process of how we get to decisions and then how we explain our decisions. I think it's good to have that it is a making-sausage kind of thing. And that when we report to the Board of Forestry we have a tally of how we got there, that there wasn't always consensus. 100% is good. Not every decision is going to be ratified by everyone so. I think it's a great idea. Josh, would we move it forward to November when we are in person. And we can give it a final go-round. In the meantime if there are comments email them to Barrett and/or Kaola so they can incorporate them or at least italicize them so we can talk about them.

Dominique: Evan? This is Susan. I got a little confused I was asking Josh earlier when you get edits to the official Charter, if you want me to incorporate them? Or you are going to input them? But somebody on my end needs to have a copy so that can get brought to the next meeting? Maybe with track changes or if you send me the information I can put it in a draft. So we have a complete full draft to approve?

Swanson: If you want to be the editor-in-chief that would be awesome!

Dominique: Okay, I will need to get what you want in there and a contact if I have questions on the placement.

Barnes: Okay, that sounds great, Susan thank you for volunteering.

Brown: Let me take a flyer here. I think everybody is on the call, would there be any objection to pushing this forward a little bit, or is there someone who would like the additional time? No problem, we are not under a crunch and there is no obligation to finish. If there is nobody who wants to put more time in let's try to push it forward a little bit and I'll get this directly to Susan.

Peel: I would like more time. I would like to see any comments and have a chance to mull things over and discuss it when we meet in November.

Brown: Perfect that sounds great.

Peel: Susan will be sending this out sometime before the next meeting? That's right?

Dominique: Yes.

Storm: This is Rex. The only thing that I might add which is more a technical thing for our consideration since we are talking about the voting processes, is actually defining what a quorum is. Because right now we are in a situation where we have two vacant seats. So is a quorum 4 of the 7 total seats, or the majority of the occupied seats? Right now there are only 5 people in the seats. Just kind of a technical thing.

Barnes: That's a good point, because we are down 2? That's a good question.

Abraham: Right.

Barnes: Because it could narrow it down to a fairly narrow vote. Inferred a couple of different things and also work on filling the 2 seats. I'm not sure. I had an idea that signing of the HB2469 could bring some exposure in a paper. But it's fizzled badly for the reason that each of the legislators only have 1 or 2 opportunities to do a ceremonial signing and everybody ran out of their opportunities. Maybe as the new session starts the clock gets reset! And we can pigeonhole somebody to do this. And get some exposure to the Committee and the fact that you are looking to fill a couple of seats. I guess, when does the Session start? February up there?

Abraham: Yeah the Short Session. It would be good to brainstorm, sometime later to think of other venues as well where we can garner some interest in filling those vacant positions. I think I remember Jim mentioned trying to send something out in his newsletters.

Peel: The positions are: Landowner-At-Large, and then a member of the public, not a forestland owner right?

Abraham: Correct, John.

Brown: To back up and put a bow on this we will keep this process of recommendation on simmer for the next month. In the meantime I will make sure Susan has our latest version here that would go out with the meeting summary?

Dominique: Yes. As soon as I can get it put together I will send it out so you have plenty of time to look it over.

Brown: And then separately, structurally it would be smart to do separately we should have a discussion about our quorum issue. That will be important to everything we do.

Swanson: I think if we are really only going to have voting members vote on recommendation how do we also incorporate everyone's council reflected in the written recommendation the status of conversation. So like Rex and Jim are just about at every meeting and should have their voices heard if they are not able to vote how we make sure. We may need a template to make sure there is greater communication.

Barnes: Robert's Rules of Order is that if you don't have a full Board less than a full complement any decision has to be a majority of those remaining. I believe that is the case. In other words we've got 7 seats, we've only got 5 so anything voted on would have to be a unanimous decision of all 5. Is that the rules we generally follow, Josh or Kyle?

Abraham: Yeah we do and I am not familiar with them enough to know what that process looks like. Good question. We'll find out.

Barnard: We can dig that out before the next meeting a little bit and see. There are a couple of layers here we need to look at. Because this document it does say, the Committee may determine their operating procedures. But we also need to make sure the authorities that established this Committee and what they feed under wouldn't create and conflicts there either. We can check on that before the next meeting and see what the range of possibilities are there.

Brown: I just wanted to follow up on Kaola's comment that, I think the spirit that you have in mind there is looking at our work, our draft, is pretty well reflected there. We commit in this draft to reporting and describing the committee membership's discussion consistently throughout that draft. It's in the formal decision-making where we vote among the voting members and a quorum being necessary. But the rest does encourage us to reflect the report and pass on the discussions of the Committee as I read it. Non-voting members as included.

Swanson: Over-complicated is what you are saying?

Brown: Well hopefully it says what you are thinking it does. If it's not there we can definitely do more.

Barnes: Any other comments on that? Number 7 on the agenda?

8. Governor's Council Update

Barnes: Okay, how about we will move right into the update from Kaola and Rex on the Governor's Wildfire Response Council?

Storm: Kaola and I have not coordinated on how we are going to do this, but I'm fully okay with you starting out Kaola. Unless you want me to.

Swanson: Why don't you...

Storm: I'm going to talk at mostly broad levels. Because the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response is still a work in progress. It was originally intended to be concluded by the end of September. However, it has an extended life right now. The overall Council has completed its meeting schedule however, it still has more work on the agenda in terms of integrating the work of the three sub-committees that reside underneath the Council. And there is quite a bit of integration work and development of future legislative concepts as products of deliverables from the overall Council. So I did not attend the last Council meeting, so maybe Kaola you may have more on that.

Swanson: I think that is right, it was clear. They expected the original timeline showed the last Council meeting so the Governor was there to take photos and cheer everyone on. But it will be extended a little bit farther. There is currently a Drafting Committee working to integrate recommendations from all three sub-committees and their hope is to have that complete for Legislative Days in November so that they can go to the Legislature and start thinking about the funding piece. And there is also a Funding Committee that being pulled together and they should be working in tandem to have some ideas for November which is awfully quick but I'm sure they are working hard. I think the hope is that most of the work is done in November however the Mitigation Sub-committee's work is going to continue through February. So there is still, I think a lot of the high level issues and funding needs have been identified and can be used to carry forward the most immediate action and some of the more, if we know we need \$4 billion dollars but then how would you prioritize and fund 4 billion on the ground is the more detailed work and framework for decisions that can be developed in the meantime. And that number did come out of the Mitigation Committee but I think there is still a big question on what is the most concern about is the return-on-investment. Which makes sense, how much

goes to suppression, how much goes to Adaptation and how much goes to Mitigation is still a very open question. And what are we, on what timeline are we working for each of those things and I think that generally there is consensus that you need funding for suppression right now. Adaptation and home 'hardening' is probably the most effective way to reduce risks to human health and forest health work is still needed. So some amount of funding should be appropriated for mitigation work but maybe not all of it. That number is certainly higher than anything we fund currently in the State, so...

Barnes: So was the \$4 billion spread around there? Was there a sampling of how that is supposed to work?

Swanson: That's a really high level number, just based on if you take all of the acres in need of treatment across the State and assume that you treated 40% of them which is based on best available science to the point where you start to see actual reduced wildfire risk. You have to treat at least 40% of the total acres. So if you put, I don't remember exactly I think Chad helped with this analysis I don't know if he said for treating those acres one time and that's what got us to 4 billion? Or if he also rolled in many acres needing more than one treatment. I can't remember exactly what his assumptions were but a lot of it was based on the cost-share from NRCS with the expectation that we would, and he did separate between east and west side treatments and assumed some level of cost-share with the federal government. It's a ball park number to enable a larger conversation and to give I think everyone a sense of the scale that's needed so that any money that is requested in this short session for this issue is understood to be a piece of a much larger pie would not be a final solution.

Barnes: It was just treating acres or thinning. Really there was no fire suppression, is that a different number then?

Swanson: Well the Suppression Committee had their estimates of suppression needs and I think that they estimated about 100 million and that was in this biennium to create a wildfire fund that could help carry some of the cash flow during fire season and also to fund some of the most immediate needs. I do think that that number continues longer than the next two years also. So how is it replenished over time? I think it's still part of the Finance Committees work.

Storm: So continuing with a high level overview the overall council appointed three other working groups, working committees underneath the Council and they are Suppression, Adaptation/Response, and Mitigation. Each of those three committees is at a different stage of completion, progress. The Suppression is pretty much done. Their product the Adaptation still has some work to do. And then the Mitigation Committee which Kaola and I are on that committee still has a significant amount of work to do. So this maybe the inequity in the rate of progress or posture of completion has created openings for misunderstanding, and misinformation and it is one of the very common mis-statements or misconceptions that are floating around out there. That this Council is all about Suppression only and that is an unfortunate artifact because of the difference in progress and work product progress of those three Committees. The Suppression Sub-Committee is done and so that's the one that has been talked about the most by the Council. And so, I think the Council's imperative is not exactly to not have suppression be the only part of this. The work products and deliverables is all three of those committees. I wanted to assure everybody there is quite a bit of work to be done. It's complicated and ultimately it will have to be, the work of all three of those committees will have to be integrated with guidance by the Council. So that's probably not going to happen until after the first of the year, I'm guessing. That being said how does all this fit into the interests and concerns of the family forestland owner? The small landowner who has less than 5000 acres per ownership in Oregon's forest landscape? And I guess there is representation on all three of those committees and the Council. Carol Whipple represents small landowners on the Council. On the Suppression Committee, Mike Barsotti was the small landowner representative on that committee. Adaptation I'm not sure there is. I apologize, but I haven't paid much attention to that committee of who this family forestland representative is. And then on the Mitigation, that is supposed to be my role on the Mitigation Committee and I think Kaola has some interest there too. So the two of us. I guess from a family forestland owner, I think we, right now I will reserve judgement of whether this will be positive or negative towards the family forestland owner. This whole Council product. Right now, it's not done. There is still a lot of work and decisions that need to be made. But the family forestland owner is I think a very important part of the forest wildland community and has a very strong vested interest in the protection and mitigation and adaptation for wildfires across the landscape. But at this point I'm a little concerned that possibly the family forestland owner interests are a little bit being pushed aside, but I

should probably reserve judgement but the reason I say that is because some of the indications are moving towards a very high level priority focused towards addressing the WUI, which is the Wildland Urban Interface. And the WUI is viewed as a very high cost, high risk, and high priority for protection. And also a high priority for further regulation and further assessment. Just more of all the above. And unfortunately much of the family forestland community overlaps and resides and is part of that WUI and so, insofar as the WUI is viewed as something to be fixed on the landscape that ends up by default saying that the family forestland owner component of the landscape needs to be fixed. And that potentially has negative consequences on the family forestland owner in terms of regulation, taxation assessment, and restriction or future changes. But that remains to be seen. Right now I would say that my concerns are preliminary and should not be taken as having valid substance yet because this is an unfinished product and I don't want to be prejudicial in saying that. But I think both Kaola and I, Mike Barsotti and Carol Whipple are very cognizant of the important values and contributions of family forestland owner community. So we will be doing our best to represent the small forestland owner. I've said enough.

Barnes: Well, I didn't mean to dwell on the fire suppression bit while the State moves a warp speed to address this problem. A Severity Program could be instituted to go after these things more aggressive manner. I know that the overreaching goal is that we need to do some more thinning and we need to cut fire breaks and need to keep people out of the WUI and they need to build houses that they do have there that are resistant to fires. You know the family forestlands, in the movie we are the next ring, perimeter outside, not really in the interface but half...

Storm: I would just add that in this WUI discussion many of the family forestland owners reside on their property so, they are intertwined with the WUI community. And you can't separate them. Some are undeveloped parcels others are not. It's not a black and white situation. It's a grey area.

Brown: You mentioned Rex, that this WUI discussion, I guess I'll start with a question about the type of discussion as it relates to the residential, social, behavioral components in the WUI, which I think is a more complicated and more central to the zone for improvement, at least in my estimation. It's this semi- quasi- residential use in these zones that is so problematic. Because it has so many tentacles into that, it's not a community, it's not a cohesive unit we can speak to. It's more of a broader social question. Can you describe the discussions to date about that population?

Storm: I guess I'll just, there's no simple answer to what you say but the WUI is a component of all three committees work and so the WUI influence, outcomes and deliverables have not been determined yet. The three committees aren't done. Only one of the three committees is done. And then the integration process of WUI amongst all three of those has not been concluded.

Brown: I was thinking specifically about the Mitigation side. But understood.

Storm: And then the definition, there is currently no common definition of WUI. And so when I say WUI and somebody else says WUI we most likely are talking about two different things. I think that is part of that integration. The work of the additional committee work plus integration is going have to do some work there.

Brown: I wanted to emphasize that we on the call all understand this but this seems like we have a unique role to play. The role you and the others are playing as to our experience in the small woodlands world...

Swanson: I think what you are trying to get at is sort of like at what point can this Committee or individuals on it engage with the process and recommendations. And I think as they are finalized and become legislative concepts or budget requests that's the place where the Committee for Family Forestlands could testify or individuals could and say we support this, or we have concerns or depending on how you feel about it and what comes out. And another quick bit that might be useful is some of their Governor's Wildfire Council he's going to have hearings during legislative days and I think there will be opportunity for public comment during, I would expect that there will be opportunities for public comment during that time and I think what he is trying to do is inherit a lot of the work from the wildfire council and drive some of those concepts forward a little bit more quickly than they might otherwise move. Or as the Wildfire Council is making some initial requests now, that he would be complimenting that. Like if

they are requesting a wildfire fund as a first step then Golden might consider a small grant program for communities. I have no idea, I'm just giving examples not suggesting that that is exactly what he is working on. I just know he's also trying to build on this momentum. So I think that's both places where this Committee would want to engage.

Brown: Sure, I'll just conclude my comments on that process just to encourage you, and I know you 'all understand we are in this unusual position of being really well-suited to talk about mitigation in particular and suppression sure, but mitigation in this area because as small forestland owners we occupy a lot of this WUI space and we have the subject matter expertise, but we are not the biggest part of the solution. We just may be because we are the only reachable community on this we may end up by accident carrying too much of this burden, which is what Rex is describing. And I want to make sure we are leveraging our legislative representative community that these are questions for their constituents to be partnered on and we need to be thinking hard about social, behavioral changes, communications, incentives for this kind of general rural/residential... that is so hard to reach. But that is no excuse not to reach them because it's hard. I'll get off of that soapbox for now.

Barnes: Okay, thanks.

Peel: That's great we'll have to remember that!

Barnes: Rex said something really interesting, that we don't really have definition of the WUI. Maybe to what Barrett said, we are the ones that live it and are in it mostly even if just at the fringes. Maybe the committee could take a stab at helping some of our elected officials or whoever, here is a definition of what we say the WUI is. And not just because we have it by opinion, but by fact. And I think it is part of this whole bigger issue is that it seems to me that needs to be addressed on a mapping and inventory basis so that it can be addressed and brought into the whole picture but I think there are some pretty common threads to the WUI. It's the steep out of the urban growth boundary, no roads, less water supply, varying topography, sparse residential. Fire hazard area. Maybe that is something that we can do. What do you think?

Swanson: I think it's great to have more engagement from this Committee. I do think that is part of the ongoing work of the Mitigation Committee is to sort of pull together the existing definitions because there are many, state, county, local level definitions as well as definitions that Oregon State Extension is using and that have been used in the modeling so how do we reconcile all of those into one? Simplified definition that doesn't necessarily dictate how communities engage in wildfire preparedness but at least enables us to have a statewide understanding. I think it could be used for some high level purposes but not effect or limit the implementation on the ground necessarily. I think there is still a recognition that communities should be able to do that on their own as they see fit. I think that definition is going to come out of the modeling. And there is a mapping exercise that has been a big effort of the mitigation committee and I think the Adaptation too highlight areas that need investment. So you could go about it two ways: the Committee could provide recommendations in advance that could be submitted to those two committees and/or review their product and comment on it. Or you can do both. Do you agree with that Rex?

Storm: Yes, I think the Mitigation Committee still has that work ahead.

Swanson: But if you want to put a list of criteria together, hey, this is from folks living in this space, and from across the State, here is some criteria we would like you to consider. If we were to put that into writing and submit it I think it is constructive and to provide feedback on the committee's recommendations would be great.

Barnes: That's good, I like that idea. So, are you continuing Rex did you have anything to add?

Storm: I've said way more than enough to provoke you to question!

Barnes: Well I want to say I appreciate both of your input and volunteering to go up there and do this. And serving the committee like this. It warmed my heart the other day, I was driving and heard this come on the news and here's the Council and I thought I knew two people Rex and Kaola are on this and they are putting their heart in it and it was

really warming to me to have that happen, so thank you for doing that work for sure. So Kaola do you have more to add?

Swanson: I think Rex did a good job and thanks for letting me chime in. We were a little scattered next time we will coordinate.

Barnes: It's a big project.

Brown: Thanks for the extra work.

Storm: I appreciate the Committee's comments. That's good feedback.

Barnes: It's an all hands on deck thing and I think everybody participating however they can it's a huge task and just looking at the news this morning PG&E shut down a bunch of lines, discriminately and indiscriminately to try to arrest fire hazards now. Southern California huge fires started up even last night and this morning. It's we got a little respite this year here but it's still a dry area out there, it's not going to go away. Any other comments on the report on the Governor's Wildfire Response Council?

Abraham: I'll just add one thing, it was a good discussion for folks that will be around and interested on November 6th Matt Donegan will be coming before the Board and talking a little bit about the summary from the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response. The recommendations to the Governor and discussing next steps so maybe we can make a specific effort to summarize that information for folks at the next CFF meeting.

Swanson: Just so you all know I'm going to have to jump off the call at 11:30, I apologize.

Barnes: So we have had a couple of topics come through for our next meeting. Which is scheduled for November 21st, a Thursday here in Salem in the Santiam Room.

9. Topics for Next Meeting

Barnes: Any other topics to move forward?

Barnard: I captured some here, maybe we should run through and recap. The additional one that I have been talking with Ryan about is we are thinking it is worthwhile to plug in a revisit to the Seedling/Seedling Availability topic. We've come across some different, new information and could provide an update on that work with you 'all at the next meeting.

Gordon: And tie in a little bit with Post-fire restoration, it's a good nexus where those two intersect.

Ahrens: I think the Seed/Seedling topic is good to revisit.

Barnes: Anything else? Josh?

Barnard: Nothing new but what I heard about today was trying to find a summary maybe of the Donegan presentation at the Board meeting, finding a way to bring that back to you 'all. Need to have a slot to revisit the process for the Committee's recommendation and Charter. And then part of that we can bring some information around the quorum piece as well. And then a question for you 'all, it came up again. Whether or not we need to have any discussions about the couple of items around the vacant positions. If we need actual time allocated at the next meeting or not. And the other thing I heard you 'all mention was you were trying to figure out how to get more of the word out about HB2469. Just a mention if there is time enough on our part that we want to include the two topics on the agenda.

Barnes: I think it was a great move to get HB 2469 passed, it would be really interesting to see how the counties pick it up. But the other was tying the items in together to HB 2469 and moving on to the Committee and the sort of pleading or looking for members. That would be a great topic to have I think.

Brown: Let's see how this stacks up timewise but I'm trying to digest a proposal for the group that we see if we can't generate some relevant comments for each BOF meeting. I would invite the group to think personally over the next 30 days maybe at the next meeting we can discuss, if that makes sense. It seems to me that we could do our community some good and the Board some good by being present at every Board meeting. Maybe that's a little bit much, I wouldn't encourage pro or con about that.

Swanson: That sounds productive, that may mean between our meetings that folks need to connect with their local... ensuring that this committee is trying to do. But I don't know how you all connect with your stakeholder groups in your regions for example. If we knew what the agenda items were and wanted to comment on them, that we also have done the ground work to represent some of that to the Board? Like southern Oregon Siskiyou stream rules for example what is the woodland owner perspective on that? I think it would be useful to hear from this Committee directly especially from the membership in that area. But it seems like it would take a little bit more legwork than what I currently do between our meetings. I don't know how you feel about that.

Brown: Sure I would just jump in and say that I was definitely thinking high level and my thinking has not gotten down to subject specific just generally finding a way to get in front of the Board every meeting and that we may look for volunteers and rotate who goes, or who can press for their moment to go speak. Just to solidify the connection between the Board and our Committee to raise the visibility of the Committee a little bit in the public sphere should help with recruiting.

Swanson: I like that idea and I am going to run, but before I do I'm going to ask a question of Kyle knowing how much suggestion there was, your thoughts on the time and capacity in a Board meeting to hear from CFF every time? I don't know if that's possible or reasonable? But I'm going to ask and then hang up before I hear the answer. Thanks guys!

Barnes: I think it's a great idea, even if it's something we pass through a paper. A personal presentation is the very best. If I could borrow the ODF 'jet' on a monthly basis, I'll be there! If there is some rotation I think the personal touch works. We've all been over there a few times and I think if you get their attention in person and it has much more gravity than just another piece of paper in their Board packet. It's a good idea.

Barnard: One other option in addition to that or jointly depending on the timing as we go through the year that we could consider is an invitation to the Board Chair or certain members throughout the year to have that one-on-one conversation as well in our various meetings we hold in person. I don't know what that schedule would look like but we could also structure in if that was of interest as well or maybe try to balance that with the other alternative we could try and target things that are more decision-related versus.... So maybe half the Board meetings we have comments the other part we are trying to get a Board member in or something. That could be another option to think about.

Storm: I think that is a good idea.

Peel: I like that. It's worked nicely in the past when we have had Board members come to our meetings. Yes I think we should actively pursue that.

Barnes: So Josh will you add that to our agenda for the next meeting?

Barnard: We can put some time on there to flush that out a little bit more and see what we think. We could even talk about what Private Forests at least has for the year on the work plan and talk about what the highest importance or at

least as a starting point as we roll into it. We could try to put some information around that to help figure out how you want to interact there. If that makes sense.

Barnes: Sounds good.

Storm: Another informational item that may be useful to put in the agenda for the November meeting is there's a group called the Partnership for Forestry Education they are meeting November 5th so maybe just an update of what that, and it's a group that only meets once per year. An annual meeting. Just an update of that.

Brown: What was the name of that group again?

Storm: Partnership for Forestry Education. CFF is a member of that committee, I'm on the committee representing Associated Oregon Loggers. I'll be there. Julie Woodward will be there representing OFRI and she's also on this committee.

Gordon: I'm happy to have that invitation sent to this Committee if interested.

Barnes: Where is that meeting?

Storm: The primary education thrust of that workgroup is the family forestland owner community. If not the sole target of the educational effort.

Barnes: Anything left on the agenda?

Barnard: No that's everything we got. We've got topics and the date is set.

10. Meeting adjourned 11:50am.