

# Board of Forestry Planning Retreat Minutes

October 14, 2015

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*Items listed in order heard.*

OREGON STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY  
October 14, 2015 Planning Retreat Minutes

In accordance with the provisions of ORS 526.016, a meeting of the Oregon Board of Forestry was held on October 14, 2015 at Chemeketa Community College Northwest Viticulture Center, 215 Doaks Ferry Rd. NW Salem, Oregon.

Chair Imeson called the public meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

*Board Members Present:*

Gary Springer	Tom Insko
Nils Christoffersen	Tom Imeson
Cindy Deacon Williams	Mike Rose

*Board Members Absent:*

Sybil Ackerman-Munson

*Others Present:*

Doug Decker, State Forester  
Nancy Hirsch, Deputy State Forester  
Kevin Birch, Resources Planning Director  
Peter Daugherty, Private Forests Division Chief  
Liz Dent, State Forests Division Chief  
Doug Grafe, Fire Protection Division Chief  
Tara Sell, Board Support  
Satish Upadhyay, Administrative Division Chief  
Chad Davis, Project Leader  
Dave Lorenz, Southern Oregon Area Director  
Travis Medema, Eastern Oregon Area Director  
Ross Holloway, Senior Advisor  
Abbey Driscoll, Agency Website Administrator and Eastern Oregon Area PIO  
Jonathan Herman, Human Resources Director

Attachments listed below are available on the web at [www.oregonforestry.gov](http://www.oregonforestry.gov)

- (1) Fire Program Review Committee Draft Charter, October 2015

## WELCOME, PURPOSE, AGENDA REVIEW

State Forester Decker welcomed the group and summarized the day's purpose of strategic planning through looking at the goal of where the Board and Department are going and how to get there, focusing on the Board's planning systems, discussing the Board's self-evaluation responses, connecting with the executive team, and reviewing the 2016 calendar.

State Forester Decker reviewed the dates for the 2016 Board meetings and tours, highlighting the tour in April to the Tillamook Forestry Center to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the November tour, potentially in Ashland, and the possibility of a joint meeting with the EQC at the November meeting/tour. He then reviewed the planning matrix for 2016, outlining the topics that may be brought before the Board at each of the meetings.

Ross Holloway, Senior Advisor, facilitated introductions and provided an overview of the agenda for the day.

## PLANNING PROCESS, BOARD WORK PLANS, AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Kevin Birch, Resources Planning Director, reviewed the Board's planning process and the work plan timelines in relation to the Board work for 2016. State Forester Decker discussed the difference between a strategic initiative and a work plan.

Each of the Department Division Chiefs provided brief summaries of the timing expected to bring forward deliverables within the Board's work plans, focusing on completed, ongoing, and new initiatives within their Division, with brief highlights including the following:

- Protection from Fire Division:
  - completed initiatives:
    - implementing the Wildfire Protection Act,
    - Rangeland Protection Associations,
    - Smoke Management Plan,
  - ongoing initiatives:
    - firefighter legal defense,
    - Forest Protection Association Agreements,
    - Fire Prevention Rules update,
    - annual and ongoing topics,
  - new initiatives:
    - 2015 Fire Program Review – Sustainable Fire Organization, including a review of the draft charter for the Fire Program Review Committee (Attachment 1) and Board discussion,
- Private Forests Division:
  - Water Quality Topics (ongoing),
  - Forest Practices Act Rule Policy Review (ongoing),
  - Oversee implementation of Private Forests related budget notes (completed),
  - Implement legislative direction,
  - Strategic initiatives
    - Continuous Business Improvement in FPA (FERNS project) – completed,
    - Water Quality Monitoring – continue with the change to “Water Quality Partnership”,

- Forest Biomass and Bio-Energy – unsuccessful,
- Family Forestlands – new, and
- Urban and Community Forests – new.

### LUNCH AND WEBSITE REVIEW

Abbey Driscoll, Agency Website Administrator, presented the new Oregon Department of Forestry website and gave a brief tour of the new site layout during lunch.

### PLANNING PROCESS, BOARD WORK PLANS, AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (continued)

The remaining Division Chiefs provided brief summaries of the timing expected to bring forward deliverables within the Board’s work plans, focusing on completed, ongoing, and new initiatives within their Division, with brief highlights including the following:

- State Forests Division:
  - Gilchrist acquisition (completed),
  - Long Term Sustainable Management of Oregon’s State Forests Strategic Initiative (ongoing)
    - Evaluate and adjust business model,
    - Forest management plans alternatives,
    - Improve business practices,
  - Managing and Protecting Threatened and Endangered Species (new), and
  - The Elliott State Forest land transfer, not a strategic initiative but periodic updates to track progress and identify critical junctures will be brought before the Board;
- Chad Davis, Project Leader, provided an overview of the Federal Forests Initiative, including discussion of the primary components and biennium goals of the Federal Forest Health Program;
- Emerging and Overarching Issues:
  - In order to save time on the agenda, Board members agreed to provide feedback to the Department before the next Board meeting in November on whether or not to add these items to the Board work plan,
- Administrative Division:
  - Development of legislative concepts (ongoing),
  - Agency budget development and request (ongoing),
  - Board governance self-evaluation (ongoing),
  - Key Performance Measure review (ongoing),
  - Financial status checks (ongoing), and
  - HR Dashboard (new).

### BOARD SELF-EVALUATION FOLLOW-UP

Satish Upadhyay referenced the summary responses provided on the Board’s 2015 Best Practices Performance Self-Evaluation Input Forms to initiate a conversation focused on improvements to the Board’s performance and evaluation.

### WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

The Board engaged in discussion with Staff surrounding the working relationship of the Board and Department with comments summarized as follows:

- the Department recognizes the efforts and involvement of the Board members and does not take the time spent for granted,
- the Department recognizes and appreciates the collegiality of the Board,
- is there too much being asked of Board members in terms of preparation and if so, what can be done about that?
- is the level at which the Board operates the right level?
- the subcommittee process,
- a more regular process to provide monitoring and feedback on policies that are in place,
- the idea of modest change,
- the topics that come before the Board deserve more time and the formation of subcommittees is often necessary,
- can a system be structured that allows for more adaptive management, possibly through the formation of committees and the concept of “local people making local decisions”,
- appreciation from the Board on the superb job done by Staff and the time that has to be taken to prepare the work needed by the Board,
- the possibility of delegating work to committees such as the Regional Forest Practices Committees,
- difficult to be on one subcommittee and not others when you care about all the issues,
- the level of respect within the Board among its members is very important and a key component of making the best decisions possible for the state, and
- tours are a valuable tool to get out and look at the issues in the field, would be nice to incorporate more as time allows, as well as add tours directly related to the topics being brought before the Board when that is an option.

#### SCIENCE AND VALUES

State Forester Decker provided context on this topic, referencing an executive team meeting where the connection between science and values was discussed.

Ross Holloway listed some resources available to help facilitate this discussion.

Board and Staff discussion ensued with comments reflecting appreciation that this is a topic, the possibility of this topic showing up as an emerging issue in the future and how to operationalize an adaptive management strategy, and the mention of a gentleman that works for the EPA that would be a valuable guest speaker on this topic.

Board Member Gary Springer spoke about the Oregon Water Summit to gauge the interest of the Board in possibly participating in the future.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Imeson proceeded with the formal executive session announcement:

The Board of Forestry entered into executive session for the purpose of conducting the State Forester’s Annual Performance Review [ORS 192.660(2)(i)].

No decisions were made during the executive session.

The Board exited the executive session.

With no further business before the Board, Chair Imeson adjourned the public meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Doug Decker



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Doug Decker, State Forester and  
Secretary to the Board

SP