

**Crook County Forestland Classification Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
March 6, 2014

**Call to Order:** 3:17 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:**

Tim Deboodt – OSU Extension Service Representative  
Kevin Benton – Oregon Department of Forestry Representative  
John Morgan – Crook County Representative  
Ken Fahlgren – Crook County Representative

**Committee Members Absent:**

Chuck McGrath – Crook County Representative  
Casey Kump – Oregon Fire Marshall Representative

**Guests:**

Pat Ryan, George Ponte, Matt Smith, Boone Zimmerlee, Laura York, and Gordon Foster.

**Review Minutes:**

Tim Deboodt called the meeting to order and asked Committee members to review the January 27, 2014 meeting minutes. There being no changes, **a motion to approve the January 27, 2014 minutes was made by Kevin Benton and seconded by Ken Fahlgren. VOTE: FOR – UNANIMOUS.**

**Public Comment:**

An introduction was made of Pat Ryan, former Oregon Department of Forestry employee, who was present to provide background to the Committee on the ODF boundaries prior to 1998 when they were last changed. No public comment given. **Tim Deboodt closed the public comment period.**

**Old Business:**

Pat Ryan described for the Committee the reasoning behind the placement of the current ODF protection boundaries, stating that in the late 1990's the Attorney General found the Central Oregon District of ODF out of compliance because there were no

written legal descriptions to define the District's protection boundaries. Pat further stated that the discussions, at that time, were based on improving management on the ground, commenting that ODF was given much latitude in determining where the boundaries should be in order to provide the best protection on the ground. Pat said that many of the old boundary lines were running through the centers of sections and the protection boundary didn't include all the classified land. The major changes were made to the southeast side of Crook County and involved moving the boundaries to run along section and township lines. However, at the time the boundaries were moved, some of the areas that were included in the new boundaries were unclassified, and ODF was not authorized to assess protection fees even though they were providing protection to those areas. As a reference during the discussion, ODF showed the Committee a map indicating the pre-1998 protection district boundaries overlaid with the post-1998 (current) protection district boundaries.

Kevin Benton commented that he had met with Chief Smith, Crook County Fire/Rescue, regarding a proposal to extend COD's boundary down into the Crook County Fire & Rescue's fire protection district. The outcome was that the Chief wants to keep the boundary where it is.

Kevin Benton also commented that it was his understanding that the Committee would be getting some feedback from landowners around Ochoco Reservoir as there was concern that they would be dual-assessed if included in the ODF protection boundary. Chief Smith mentioned that the vacant lots would not be dual-assessed if included in the ODF protection boundary. George Ponte commented that either he or Kevin Benton would be willing to come and speak to the CCFR Board and answer any questions or concerns.

Ken Fahlgren raised a question about the reclassification areas directly on the water, around Ochoco Reservoir, suggesting that the Committee deal with these issues before the public meetings and hearing. George Ponte said that as the Committee moves through this process and into the public meetings and hearing portion, there will be many comments, written and oral. The Committee will need to look at those properties on an individual basis and decide whether the classification that was made needs to stand or be modified.

Following a discussion, **a motion was made by Ken Fahlgren to change the classification to 0 (zero) the lots in the area from the shoreline (south of Highway 26) of the Ochoco Reservoir up to Highway 26, from the Dam to Mill Creek. The motion was seconded by John Morgan. VOTE: FOR – UNANIMOUS.**

Further, a motion was made by Kevin Benton to keep the remaining proposed district protection boundaries as they are, and the motion was seconded by Ken Fahlgren. VOTE: FOR – UNANIMOUS.

**New Business:**

The Committee next turned their attention to finalizing dates and locations for the Crook County Forestland Classification public meetings and hearings. Kevin Benton suggested that all the meetings be done within a two-week timeframe, so that information stays fresh in everyone’s mind, and he proposed that the meetings be held during the weeks of May 12<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>. He stated that there should be two public information meetings in Prineville, either at the Crook County Library, Crook County Fire/Rescue or at the 4-H Building, which holds 200 people, and one public information meeting in Paulina at the school, and that the meetings should be held in the evenings at 6:00 p.m. Tim Deboodt suggested that the meeting in Paulina be held on a Thursday, as they are on a four-day school week—closed on Fridays.

After discussion, a motion was made by Kevin Benton to go forward with the proposed meeting dates, as shown below, and the motion was seconded by Ken Fahlgren. VOTE: FOR – UNANIMOUS. Locations to be determined based on availability of meeting facilities.

- May 13, 2014, Tuesday – 6:00 p.m. Prineville Public Information Meeting
- May 15, 2014, Thursday – 6:00 p.m. Paulina Public Information Meeting
- May 20, 2014, Tuesday – 6:00 p.m. Prineville Public Information Meeting
- May 22, 2014, Thursday – 3:00 p.m. FLCC Committee Meeting
- June 3, 2014, Tuesday – 6:00 p.m. Public Hearing for All Crook County

Kevin Benton reviewed with the Committee the draft news release and postcard and asked for comments and/or suggestions from the Committee members. George Ponte added that we may need to provide more information both in the news release and on the card or letter that better explains what this process really means to landowners and how they would be impacted. George said that, based on experience from previous forestland classifications in other counties, the postcards are less desirable than the letter, but it should also be effective and cost efficient while providing enough information to those impacted. Tim Deboodt suggested that the letters should say something that addresses the dual assessment, especially to those who would be directly affected.

**Topics for Next Meeting:**

- Review Updated Tax Lot Information from the County Assessor
- Review Presentation Materials for Public Hearings

**Next Meeting:**

Following a discussion about the remaining work of the Committee prior to the public meetings and hearing, **a motion was made by Ken Fahlgren to cancel the April meeting and have the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 1, 2014, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the motion was seconded by John Morgan. VOTE: FOR – UNANIMOUS.**

**Good of the Order:**

None

**Action Items:**

- ODF to update tax lot information from the County Assessor and analyze information to determine those impacted.
- ODF to provide samples of presentation materials for public hearings.
- ODF to finalize letters/postcards to send to impacted landowners.

**Closing:**

There being no further business to discuss **a motion was made by Kevin Benton to adjourn. The motion was seconded by John Morgan. Vote: FOR – UNANIMOUS.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.