

## **Linn County chapter of OSWA board minutes**

Meeting of June 1, 2017

**Site:** Oregon State University Extension office, Tangent

**Host:** Brad Withrow-Robinson

**Attendance:** President Bill Bowling, Larry Mauter, Henry Wolthius, Lee Peterman, Mary Brendle, Sherm Sallee, Katie Kohl, Jim Merzenich, Dan Thackaberry, Shirley Holmberg, Joe Holmberg

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. by board President Bill Bowling

**Minutes:** Minutes from the March 2, 2017 board meeting were approved without corrections. Lee Peterman move Dan Thackaberry second. Motion approved.

### **Treasures Report**

Information presented at the meeting has been omitted, but is available by attending a meeting or by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

Treasurer, Linn County Small Woodlands Association

c/o 39980 Mount Hope Dr  
Lebanon, OR 97355-9426

Please allow 1 week for delivery.

**Forest Protection Assessment** : Discussion of Forest Protection Assessment. Landowners charged 17 cents per acre for protection. Board has paid \$150/year assessment to allow members access to forest deputy. Motion by Jim Merzenich, second Henry Wolthius to keep board assessment at \$150. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

**Oak Basin Upland prairie tour:** Jim Merzenech reported on OSWA tours held at Oak Basin Tree Farm in May and The Wood Castle in April. About 35 people attended the tour of the Wood Castle on Hiway 34 in Corvallis. The business buys local hardwood to make furniture. Another 30 or so people toured the Oak Basin tree farm May 13 to observe upland prairie management techniques.

**Broom Magic tour:** Jim Merzenich has scheduled the Eugene field trip for Wednesday, June 14. Broom Magic buys local hardwood sticks and creates high-quality brooms for sale.

**Articles for Bark and news groups:** Sherm Sallee noted deadline for next Bark is June 15. John Westall still looking for someone to take over business elements of the Bark. Upcoming stories for July Bark include Wood Castle tour (Jim), Oak Basin tour (Larry) summer picnic preview (Sherm) and president's message (Bill).

**Tree farmer of the year:** Joe Holmberg reported that he and OSWA exec Jim James met with Ivan Wolthius. Wolthius family rehabilitated severely abused land that had been used for the Foster mud races. July 8 is date set for tour of Wolthius farm. OFRI will pay for portapotties and food. Activities include speakers, a walking tour and thinning demonstration by Mike Melcher. Publicity on the event is upcoming.

**Robert Mealey Committee Update:** Bill Bowling reported that he, Rick Fletcher and Mary Brendle met and talked about Bob Mealey's vision for funds he left behind. He said a review of original documents created with the

Mealey gift show our OSWA board is supposed to elect two members to manage the funds. Board to address that issue in future meeting. Bowling displayed Sweet Home park proposal that is adjacent to new city hall site. Mary Brendle described the 3-acre park property and noted Mealey was a Foster resident so site is appropriate. Possible improvements with the Mealey funds include a kiosk, pine planting and educational/interpretive signs relating to forestry. More information coming following the June 19 meeting of the Sweet Home Park Commission. Jim Merzenich move, Bonnie Marshall second a motion to work with the city of Sweet Home on the development of the city hall park using the Mealey funds . Motion approved.

**Membership Committee:** Jim Merzenich reported that this year's membership renewal rate was 95 percent. Efforts to contact individuals with lapsed membership has been successful. Also, the group continues to get new membership from the Howdy Neighbors tours.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Treasurer's supplies: Shirley Holmberg asked the board cover expenses for ink and a Quick Books program. Jim Merzenich move, Lee Peterman second authorizing \$300 for treasurer's supplies. Motion approved.

**Small Woodlands scholarships 2017-18:** Katie Kohl reported that there are four and possibly five scholars for this year's scholarship. All candidates are "very active, enthusiastic kids," have 4.0 grade point averages, are studying natural resources and live in Linn County.

Motion by Sherm Sallee, second by Lee Peterman to add a fifth scholarship (on a one-time basis) for this upcoming school year. Motion carried.

**OSWA annual meeting:** Bill Bowling reviewed details of upcoming annual meeting, scheduled June 15-17 in Florence.

**Summer picnic:** Discussion of site for annual summer picnic. Sherm Sallee offered use of Happy Valley Tree Farm along Bellinger Scale Road. Event will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or later. Activities will include tours of the property, plant identification challenges and other

educational opportunities. Grilled burgers, dogs and potluck dishes are menu items.

## ADJOURNMENT

Next board meeting scheduled for Brendle residence along Calipooia River in Holley. Meeting is scheduled for Thursday Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. Motion to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. by Bill Bowling. Motion seconded by Henry Wolthius. Motion approved.