

Calapooia Watershed Council

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Mission: Providing opportunities for membership to cooperate in promoting the health of the watershed and its communities.

Calapooia Watershed Council Meeting Minutes

Calapooia Watershed Council (CWC) Board of Directors and Council members held their monthly meeting at the Brownsville Community Room, Brownsville, Oregon, on September 8, 2010 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Present at the meeting were the following members of the Board of Directors:

Bud Baumgartner	George Pugh
Mark Running	Dee Swayze
Connie Burdick	Matthew Fiorito
Dave Furtwangler	Roger Ruckert

Absent from the meetings were the following members of the Board of Directors:

John Perry
Frank Lamb
Jason McAfee

Also present at the meeting were:

Tara Davis	Brian Tenbush
Denise Lott	Peter Mazzini
Peter Jensen	Christine Pitto
Julie Whalen	Erika Lang
Tom Parsons	Donny Nealon
Kim Kagelaris	Jim & Audrey Cota

On behalf of the CWC Secretary, Operations Coordinator, Denise Lott recorded the minutes.

AGENDA ITEM: Introductions, Announcements

Tara Davis introduced Peter Mazzini and Christine Pitto, who came from Shady Cove, Oregon representing the Upper Rogue Watershed Council.

Julie Whalen of OPRD attended with Tom Parsons, who is the new ranger for Thompsons Mill. Tom has a background in Hydrology and Natural Resources.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment/Board of Directors Comment

AGENDA ITEM: Decision: Approved July 2010 Minutes.

AGENDA ITEM: Presentation

Jim Cota, Fun Forest Tree Farm. The Farm won State and Western Regional Tree Farmer of the year Awards in 2009. They went on to the final four in national competition but did not win.

Jim Cota, Scott Melcher and Robbie Melcher started the farm in 1999. They purchased a 320 acre parcel of land and converted pasture into timber. Today The Fun Forest has a total of 1500 acres, growing mostly a mix of conifers. Most of this land was heavily grazed causing soil compaction but now has been converted into timber by the group. They use a method called ripping the soil (3ft. deep) before planting tree seedlings to increase survival rate. The trees are rarely fertilized because the root systems have such a healthy start with this process. It cost approximately

\$700 to \$800 an acre to reforest. Grass is the biggest problem for seedling survival due to water uptake. Large areas are treated with herbicides using aerial application and small areas are treated using a backpack sprayer.

The Fun Forest also focuses on education in the Linn County region. They have created a Forestry Scholarship fund at the Sweet Home High School and have helped to redevelop a forestry program. Currently one forestry class is offered and another field class is scheduled to start next year.

A half mile restoration project along Hamilton Creek required removal of blackberries and brush and was replanted with conifers. Large trees were pushed over keeping root wads intact to deflect the creek flow away from the bank. ODFW put in a fish structure.

Jim addressed the Oregon Underproductive Forestland Conversion Tax Credit which provides a 50% state income tax credit for qualified reforestation projects. Eligible costs include the application fee (starting with projects planted in 2008), materials, labor excluding self-labor, and maintenance costs. Financial assistance from any incentive program must be deducted from reforestation costs. Continuation of this tax credit program is unknown.

The Fun Forest also welcomes visitors for tours. Within the forest are campgrounds, fishing areas and a 40 ft. tree house. A 190 acre parcel (600 ft. elevation) has large fossil beds where many school children have taken field trips and enjoyed digging in the sandy beds.

AGENDA ITEM: Upcoming Events: Tara Davis, CWC Executive Director discussed the Weyerhaeuser Tour (95% of Calapooia River headwaters) scheduled for Saturday September 25th at 10am. Matthew Fiorito will be the guide and says it will take about 5 hrs.

AGENDA ITEM: Tara Davis recognized Mark Running for spending numerous days on the river helping with data. Kim Kagelaris was also recognized for her help.

AGENDA ITEM: The OWEB Biennial Watershed Council Self evaluation forms were handed out to members to be filled out and returned at the October Council meeting. The Facilitation session will take place at the October 13th meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Update: Middle Reach 3, clear to move forward. Logs and root wads will be delivered to staging sites next week, weather permitting.

AGENDA ITEM: Update: Erika Lang gave an update of the Regional Model Watershed Program. 75% of the designs are complete. Applications are being submitted for additional funding. In her outreach work, she continues to do workshops, tours and regional landowner recruitment.

AGENDA ITEM: Introduction of new Operations Coordinator, Denise Lott

AGENDA ITEM: Reviewed Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Budget.

Decision: Correct the allowance in Fiscal Management and then it will be approved.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 pm. The next Calapooia board meeting will be October 13th in the Brownsville Community Room at 7pm.

READ AND APPROVED by the Board of Directors on _____, 2010

Secretary