



**OREGON FOREST RESOURCES INSTITUTE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Thursday, April 17, 2025  
9:30 a.m.**

Chemeketa Community College, Eola  
215 Doaks Ferry Road NW, Salem

**Members Present:**

Jennifer Beathe, Starker Forests, Inc.  
Paul Betts, Miami Alternatives, LLC  
Gordon Culbertson, Whitewater Forests, LLC  
Tom DeLuca, Oregon State University  
Daniella Giustina, Giustina Land and Timber Co.  
Courtney Griesel, Sierra Pacific Industries  
Mike Hicks, IAM-AW District W24  
Dan Newton, Newton Forestry LLC  
Kristin Rasmussen, Hampton Lumber & Family Forests  
Madeleine Thompson Rudolph, Thompson Tree Farm

**Staff:**

Inka Bajandas  
Jordan Benner  
Rikki Heath  
Jenna Mendenhall  
Joni Nebril  
Jim Paul  
Kathy Storm  
Julie Woodward

**Guests:**

Sara Duncan, Oregon Forest Industries Council  
John Horvick, DHM Research  
John Plymale, Gard Communications  
Jennifer Ward, Oregon Department of Forestry  
Alexis Wong, Gard Communications

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Paul Betts at 9:35 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: Gordon Culbertson moved to approve the January 16, 2025, board meeting and public hearing minutes, and the March 13 board video call minutes. The motion was seconded by Courtney Griesel. Voting for the motion: Paul Betts, Jennifer Beathe, Gordon Culbertson, Daniella Giustina, Courtney Griesel, Mike Hicks, Dan Newton, Kristin Rasmussen and Madeleine Thompson Rudolph. Motion passed.**

**REPORTS**

John Horvick, senior vice president of DHM Research, reviewed OFRI's Values and Beliefs survey conducted in January and February. Discussion followed.

Director of Communications Jordan Benner introduced Alexis Wong and John Plymale of Gard Communications to report on focus group testing for four ads. The top two new spots were "Forests For All" and "What We Can't See." Board members agreed to move forward with production of the two ads.

Director of Business Operations Kathy Storm reviewed board member eligibility requirements for compensation. She will work with human resources personnel to establish board member Workday accounts.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Director of K-12 Education Programs Rikki Heath reviewed a \$13,000 proposal to update Oregon Women in Timber's *Talk About Trees* curriculum. To date, \$92,120 has been approved in the New Opportunities budget. If this proposal is approved by the board, a balance of \$94,880 for other opportunities remains this fiscal year.

**MOTION: Dan Newton moved to approve \$13,000 from the Fiscal Year 2024-25 New Opportunities budget for the Oregon Women in Timber curriculum update. The motion was seconded by Courtney Griesel. Voting for the motion: Paul Betts, Jennifer Beathe, Gordon Culbertson, Daniella Giustina, Courtney Griesel, Mike Hicks, Dan Newton, Kristin Rasmussen and Madeleine Thompson Rudolph. Motion passed.**

Executive Director Jim Paul reviewed the current legislation granting OFRI's board authority to adjust the maximum rate for the forest products harvest tax annually, in an amount equal to the previous year's

increase, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index, West Region. The current rate is \$1.17 per MBF, and the current maximum rate is \$1.82 per MBF. The index increased 2.6% over 12 months, and based on this increase, the new maximum harvest tax rate would be \$1.87 per MBF.

**MOTION: Jennifer Beathe moved to approve increasing OFRI's harvest tax ceiling of \$1.82 per thousand board feet by 2.6 percent (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index, West Region) to an adjusted rate of \$1.87 per thousand board feet. The motion was seconded by Dan Newton. Voting for the motion: Paul Betts, Jennifer Beathe, Gordon Culbertson, Daniella Giustina, Courtney Griesel, Mike Hicks, Dan Newton, Kristin Rasmussen and Madeleine Thompson Rudolph. Motion passed.**

Executive Director Jim Paul addressed the minor changes to Fiscal Year 2025-26 discussed in the March 13 board meeting video. The forest products harvest tax projections from the Oregon Department of Forestry were originally based on 3.292 billion board feet of harvested timber, now forecasted at 3.186 billion board feet. Other minor additions were added to the following budget categories: telecommunications, professional services, and agency services and supplies.

**MOTION: Dan Newton moved to adopt OFRI's Fiscal Year 2025-26 proposed budget, based on a harvest tax projection of \$3,727,503 in revenues from timber harvest projections of 3.186 billion board feet; \$4,851,371 in expenditures; and a projected carryover from Fiscal Year 2024-25 of \$2,883,578; and to authorize the executive director to implement budgeted programs, including any necessary contract and agreements, with the approval of the board chair. Daniella Giustina seconded the motion. Voting for the motion: Paul Betts, Jennifer Beathe, Gordon Culbertson, Daniella Giustina, Courtney Griesel, Mike Hicks, Dan Newton, Kristin Rasmussen and Madeleine Thompson Rudolph. Motion passed.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS**

### **Executive Director (Jim Paul)**

- Oregon's House Bill 3489 proposes a new severance tax on timber harvest and replaces the current harvest tax. The bill is scheduled for a public hearing.
- Asked for feedback on adjusting future board meeting start and end times. Board members asked that the start time remain at 9:30 a.m., with adjournment no later than 3 p.m.

### **Board Chair (Paul Betts)**

- The Oregon Forest Industries Council has made a movie using virtual reality headsets. The movie will be featured at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry on May 13 and 14, and a panel discussion will follow each viewing.
- Encouraged members of the board to further review the findings presented by DHM Research earlier in the meeting. These findings can provide valuable insight into future topics.

### Board Member/Partner Organization Updates

- Gordon Culbertson announced that Mike Cafferata has been appointed as the executive director of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association and will begin his full-time position on July 1. Mike will present during OFRI's July 17 board meeting.
- Jennifer Ward, Oregon Department of Forestry, updated the board on current vacancies, legislation, the Private Forest Accord and upcoming events.
- Tom DeLuca, Oregon State University, commented on DHM Research's presentation and encouraged a future discussion on how to effectively communicate with the general public about the ecosystem services the forest sector provides.

### K-12 Education (Rikki Heath and Jenna Mendenhall)

- **Forestry Educators Networking (FEN) and other professional development:** This winter, we focused heavily on professional development. Each year, we host the annual FEN meet-up, bringing together forest education partners from across Oregon. The event offers valuable professional development opportunities for attendees.
- **Workforce:** Rikki has participated in monthly workforce meetings with the Western Forestry & Conservation Association. These meetings explore ways OFRI can support workforce development in the forestry sector. This year Rikki helped identify \$50,000 in career development funding for students.
- **Envirothon planning:** OFRI coordinates the Oregon Envirothon, a statewide career development event that will take place on Friday, May 2, at The Oregon Garden. This annual competition challenges high school students to demonstrate their knowledge in forestry, soils and land use, wildlife, and aquatic ecology, as well as a new environmental issue. This year's theme is "Roots and Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change." The event involves coordinating 35 volunteers, over 22 advisors and 200 students. We're excited for another successful year! If you're interested in attending or volunteering, please reach out to Rikki.
- **Natural Resources Education Program:** The first field trip of the season was on April 3! There are currently 27 programs scheduled for the spring, including four days of nonresidential outdoor school. Many of the schools are from the Salem-Keizer school district.

### Public Education (Jordan Benner and Inka Bajandas)

- **Oregon Forest Facts 2025-26 Edition:** The newest edition of *Oregon Forest Facts* has been published, and a copy was placed in your supplemental packets. The 2025-26 edition includes an emphasis on sustainable forestry aligning with our *Sourcing from Sustainable Forests* special report. New charts and graphics in the newly updated *Oregon Forest Facts* highlight forest carbon storage in Oregon's forests, rising wildfire suppression costs and the percentage of forest sector employment in Oregon by county. Now that it's been published, we'll start promoting the new *Forest Facts* in early May in our newsletter and on social media, as well as through outreach to our partners.
- **Wildlife special report:** Our contract wildlife biologist, Fran Cafferata, and Public Affairs Manager Inka Bajandas are amid copywriting OFRI's next special report on the contributions of Oregon's private working forests in providing wildlife habitat. They recently wrapped up interviews with wildlife biologists, foresters and landowners to learn more about their efforts to support wildlife conservation on the forestlands they manage. We'll share the insights we gained from those interviews in a series of case studies and profiles in the report. We've also been working with an illustrator on a couple of illustrations that will be part of the report.

- **Mass Timber Conference:** Executive Director Jim Paul and Public Affairs Manager Inka Bajandas attended the International Mass Timber Conference last month at the Oregon Convention Center. Inka staffed the OFRI booth, where she handed out copies of *Sourcing from Sustainable Forests* and other OFRI materials to attendees. She had a lot of good conversations about Oregon's forests and sustainable forestry with design-and-build industry professionals who stopped by our booth. Attendees were encouraged to buy Oregon wood products for their projects. Staff also heard positive feedback from those who attended the conference's forest tour, for which Julie Woodward was a speaker.
- **Educational advertising:** The spring campaign of OFRI's educational advertising is currently in the field. The campaign started on March 10 and is slated to last until June 6. We are currently running our SIGNS campaign on a statewide buy, with both broadcast and digital placement. A report will be in your July board packet.
- **Hood to Coast relay:** Sponsorship was approved and activated for the Hood to Coast relay August 22-23. We're currently developing marketing materials for the event, including a commemorative poster we'll hand out at the finish line festival.
- **OFRI tote bags:** New tote bags have been created to use on our tours and for various landowner events. There is a limited supply, so we're not providing them to outside partners at this point, unless there is overwhelming demand.

#### Landowner Education (Julie Woodward)

- ***Oregon's Forest Protection Laws: An Illustrated Manual***
  - Launched on March 22 at Tree School
  - ODF distributed over 1,000 copies to offices
  - Marketing and promoting underway for orders
  - Introductory online seminar scheduled for April 22
- **Tree School Clackamas:** March 22
  - 800+ attendees and volunteers
  - Distributed publications and over 400 copies of the *Illustrated Manual*
  - Provided several presentations
- **Associated Oregon Loggers event and Oregon Logging Conference:** January 24-25 and February 20-22, respectively
  - OFRI staffed booths at AOL and OLC to provide educational materials.
- **Joint meeting for Oregon chapters of Society of American Foresters and The Wildlife Society:** February 5-7
  - OFRI sponsored the event, hosted the display table, and hosted and moderated two sessions.
  - Margaret and Julie were on the organizing committee.
- **Forestry Tour for International Mass Timber Conference:** March 25
  - Provided presentation on Oregon's forests, sustainability and laws for 120+ attendees
  - Hosted at Port Blakely Forest in Molalla
- **Starker Lecture Series:** Spring 2025
  - OFRI sponsored three lectures and tours in partnership with OSU College of Forestry
  - Series title was "Watershed and Landscapes — and the Needs and Values of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"
  - Available in archives: Starker Lectures, College of Forestry

- **Wildlife in Managed Forests program**
  - Primary attention to the special report
  - Sponsored the OSU Confluence Symposium on April 11
- **Landowner publications**
  - Margaret updated *Managing Logging Slash Piles in Western Oregon* before she went on leave. Staff are finalizing the publication and expect to have a print version out in May.
- **Upcoming educational programming and events**
  - Oregon Women in Lumber event, May 12 — leading and facilitating
  - Oregon Community Trees convention, May 15 — tabling
  - Oregon Family Forest Convention, June 19-21 — sponsor, facilitating and tabling
  - Oregon Society of CPAs Forest Products Conference, June 24 — presenting
  - Forest Wildlife Research Summit at OSU, October 30 — OFRI event

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Director Kathy Storm reviewed the November 2024-January financial reports included in board packets.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joni Nebril  
Executive Assistant