

Yamhill County Forestland Classification Committee
Yamhill Fire Department
Yamhill, Oregon
March 5th, 2024

Committee Members in Attendance:

Eric Perkins, Oregon Dept. of Forestry---*Secretary*
Tom Bernards, Yamhill County landowner
Jim Straub, Yamhill County landowner
Chief Trampas Bergstrom, Yamhill Fire Department
Lorelle Sherman, OSU Extension Service

Unable to Attend:

Rodney Jacobs, Yamhill County landowner, professional forester---*Chair*

Also in Attendance:

Commissioner Lindsay Berschauer, Yamhill County Commissioner
Mike Cafferata, Oregon Dept. of Forestry
Andrew Bird, Oregon Dept. of Forestry
Eric Jacobs, Oregon Dept. of Forestry
Jeff Classen, Oregon Dept. of Forestry
Matt Mackey, Oregon Dept. of Forestry
Michael Curren, Oregon Dept. of Forestry

Meeting Minutes:

- Mike C. provided brief welcome to the group (1:00 p.m.)
- Eric P. called meeting to order (1:03 p.m.)
 - Led round of introductions of all attendees
 - Provided background on committee role and procedures/expectations
 - Provided reminder of committee's agreement at last meeting to meet annually
- Mike C. led overview of the meeting agenda to include:
 - Background
 - Agenda
 - Review of previous minutes
 - Status of incomplete tasks
 - Eric J confirmed meeting minutes have been posted on county website
 - Committee reviewed county forest land classification map (11x17) provided in binder and agreed as sufficient for needs
 - KML package was provide by Mike C. and agreed as sufficient by committee members
 - Statewide fire funding update
- Eric P. opened floor for public comments (1:14 pm)
 - No comments presented
 - Will accommodate second option of members of public arrive late
- Eric P. provided recap of meeting with ODF /Yamhill County Assessor office (1:16 pm)
 - Identified areas where FLC (forest land classification) process could change
 - Identified subdivisions in Gaston
 - Had been deemed early development/no infrastructure
 - More infrastructure (per Mike C. from visual observation today 3/5/24)
 - Plan to get information from Assessor office in February rather than July

- ODF better able to review information and respond timely to Assessors office
- Commissioner Berschauer arrived – discussion opened to identify Areas of Concern for evaluation and or change in assessment consideration (1:20 pm)
- Tom Bernards – no new Areas of Concern
- Chief Bergstrom – agreed that focus should be to identify developing areas (subdivisions)
 - Noted not much new development to the west side of county
- Michael C. - no suggested Areas of Concern
 - Noted the importance of including the local Fire Protection Districts in these decision and review periods
 - Also recommended on focusing on properly identifying the primary care of the property in order to better determine delineation of forest land and non-forestland
- Jim S. – recalls discussion around Gaston development, would like to “watch” this area for future determination. Otherwise, no new areas of concern.
- Commissioner Berschauer – no significant areas of concern
 - Potentially West Valley?
 - Utilized Google Earth for all members to review
 - General assessment was that all areas have been brought down to ODF or Fire District line where needed
- Lorelle S. – concurred/no new areas of concern
- Eric J. provided imagery review using Google Earth to evaluate areas brought up as concern - committee deemed no changes were necessary (per 2023 decision) (1:32 pm)
- Matt M. – no additional suggestions or recommendations for determining areas of concern
- Michael C. provided update on Statewide Fire Funding
 - Handed out recent letter from Governor’s Office regarding forest land classification
 - Discussed concerns with cost in certain parts of state not being manageable with current fire costs
 - SB762 helped but increased rates for forest land owners
 - HB4153 update but difficult due to it actively changing as it is developed
 - Fire chiefs association and funding for structure protection is a top concern
 - Bill was amended to pause forest land classification processes until work group could be developed through 2025
 - Bill has not passed but is currently being developed
 - Forest land classification committees can still meet but are asked not to pass and changes
- Commissioner Berschauer – noted that discussions with other commissioners has shown that counties are divided between and “all residents” versus “forest land owner only” development of covering future costs
 - March 10th is expected decision date for the HB4153
- Mike C. let discussion on committee members, positions and terms assigned
 - agreed upon by committee members
- Eric P. opened floor for comment or discussion by good of the order (1:52 pm)
 - None presented
- Mike C. opened discussion for next meeting to take place March 4th 2025 (generally agreed on by committee) and any needs from the committee (none presented)
- Eric P. motioned to adjourn (1:56 pm)
- Tom B. second motion to adjourn

Action items for next meeting:

- none

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m. and will reconvene on 3/4/25 at a time TBD at Yamhill Fire Department.