

**Oregon Forest Research Laboratory Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2008
Richardson Hall 107 – OSU College of Forestry, Corvallis, Oregon**

Attendees: Catherine Mater, Jerry Brodie, Rick Brown, Lisa Freedman, Gary Hartshorn, Lee Miller, Jim Paul, Jennifer Phillippi, Hal Salwasser, Ed Shepard, Barte Starker, Kim Titus, Cynthia West, Carol Whipple, Rich Winger, Ken Faulk, Jim Geisinger, Craig Hanneman, Zak Hansen, Darius Adams, Tom Adams, Roger Admiral, Barbara Bond, Steve Hobbs, Ed Jensen, Jim Johnson, Claire Montgomery, Tom McLain, Steve Tesch, Fred Kamke, Randy Rosenberger, Lisa Gano, Katherine Morris

Welcome and introductory remarks

Chair Mater convened the meeting at 9:30 by welcoming attendees and inviting self introductions. The agenda was reviewed. Minutes of the April 8, 2008 meeting were approved.

Hal Salwasser provided his welcome and set the stage for discussions about revising the College of Forestry (COF) strategic plan. He briefed the committee on recently approved revisions to the OSU strategic plan that collapsed the previous 5 thematic areas into 3 – simply described as healthy planet, healthy people, and healthy economy. Forestry and natural resources are very prominent in this new version. The College's strategic plan is now dated and will be revised to reflect the COF realignment after the reorganization, to ensure consistency with the university plan, and to relate better to emerging issues in natural resources and forestry. Steve Hobbs will chair the plan revision process for the College. A primary focus of this meeting is to conduct a SWOT analysis with the committee to obtain input for the process. There will be additional efforts to solicit input from other groups around the state.

Strategic planning overview and SWOT analysis

Steve Hobbs reviewed the planning team membership, timeline, and framework. The goal is to have a draft plan complete by March 2009, in time for some use with the Legislature prior to the key budget build-up process. The plan will have an initial focus on the next 3-5 years. Steve then introduced a World Café process to seek input from members on perceived strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the COF going forward. The conversations were rich and spirited. Input

from individual tables was discussed with the entire group for clarity and consolidated onto flip chart notes for transcription.

Financial update and preparation for the Legislative Session

Hal provided an overview of the financial status of the COF/FRL and reviewed the preparations for the upcoming session of the Legislature. The Governor's budget was released the day of the meeting and provided insight to the starting point in conversations. The general mood was that this would be a session to fight for the status quo and minimize losses, rather than to be aggressive in seeking more funding. Concern over declining state revenues associated with the building recession raised fears of rescissions within the current biennium that would need to be covered by June 30, 2009. COF/FRL policy options packages for new funding in support of urban forestry, carbon climate, water research and wood innovation that had been advanced from OUS were not supported in the Governor's budget. One bright spot in the Governor's budget was support for a major COF proposal advanced through the Oregon Innovation Council for a comprehensive wood supply chain project that would include forest productivity, harvesting, transportation, and innovative product development and marketing. Hal thanked all those who had helped support the proposal to this point and asked their help in keeping it alive in the tough environment ahead.

Hal noted that the COF/FRL financial picture was likely to deteriorate after gains in the previous session. The declining harvests from the COF forests and reduced harvest tax receipts would likely add a \$2-2.5 million per year draw on deteriorating reserve funds until harvests recover and we can reduce costs on our forests.

Hal also summarized the emerging federal picture, including formula funds such as McIntire Stennis and competitive grant funds. The WSE Department reported outstanding success with recent NRI competitive grant proposals, with 3 of 4 proposals being funded.

During the following conversation Hal stated that the FRL AC members could be helpful by being politically supportive. Some members will be needed for testimony. Others can communicate with legislators personally and through letters.

Capital Campaign

Hal Salwasser and Zak Hansen from the OSU Foundation provided an update on fundraising. Last year was outstanding with \$7 million pledged or received. For FY 08-09, \$3.5 has been pledged to date with a goal of \$4 million. The strengthening recession is likely to have an effect on some anticipated major gifts. COF is making good progress toward goal of \$31.5 million, with commitments to date of about \$23 million.

Committee Feedback

The committee was invited to offer comments about the SWOT process or other observations.

Barte Starker: Change in forest ownership type remains a concern.

Jennifer Pillippi: Tends to be resistance to change in forestry and academia. Pleased that today faculty showed adaptability.

Ken Faulk: Referred to new effort by OSWA to sell carbon credits. Would like more support from COF faculty to help meet woodland owners needs in this area. Expressed some frustration that Harvest Tax funds are not targeted adequately to meet OSWA needs.

Rick Brown: Struck by emerging interest in carbon and carbon credits.

Carol Whipple: World feels very chaotic... but good to hear about opportunities. How do we put our best minds together and be a part of the world that moves ahead. Don't want to miss this opportunity. Looks to the University to lead this, believe all here are looking for this.

Gary Hartshorn: Thought the SWOT process worked well today. Recommend doing this same process with other groups, specifically with students.

Rich Wininger: Back on the change theme. Companies, state and federal agencies are all facing changes. Today discussed some resistance to change at the University. Sometimes it's time to end some things. I believe next year will be worse than this year.

Lee Miller: Enjoyed process and thought it was valuable today. On edge of real opportunities; sometimes need a crisis to get through things that weigh us down. Tough work ahead, but also an opportunity. Interested in the concept of forestry

being relevant in increasingly urban settings and with a changing population as outsiders move into Oregon.

Kim Titus: Good ideas today. Encourage more strategic relationships between BLM and sister universities in areas like silviculture, etc. We can leverage expertise and not have to do it all ourselves.

Lisa Freedman: As planning process moves forward be very clear about what completion of goal or movement toward it would be. What behaviors would change? This step is rarely taken.

Ed Shepard: Change is inevitable. However, as planning process unfolds be sure to keep core strengths.

Jim Paul: SWOT process was interesting. Good process for candid conversations.

Steve Hobbs: Today's conversations reinforced strong point, we have to be adaptable and flexible. We at the College and University don't have a corner on all the good ideas. In an environment that will likely become increasingly challenging, need to be good listeners and take suggestions from stakeholders.

Hal: Good day! FRL AC more engaged today than ever. Surprised by some criticisms of UG curriculum; need to take a harder look at this aspect as we go through the strategic planning process. Appreciate your time and energy to make this work.

Catherine Mater: Thank you to Hal an outstanding job as Dean for COF in difficult times. Direction is right on target. Three thoughts to close the day:

- Perception is reality, as much a fact, as the fact itself.
- If it was easy, it would have already been done.
- From President-elect Obama, "we are really here to define the times and not let the times define us."

Chair Mater adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.

Prepared by Steve Tesch 12.02.09