

**Marion County Farm Bureau
Board of Directors Meeting – May 13, 2015
MINUTES**

President John Zielinski called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. A quorum was present:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

John Zielinski, President
Troy Hadley, Vice President
Greg Bennett
Kathleen Carl
Roger DeJager
Bob Dettwyler
Troy Hadley
Stuart Olson
Connie Young

Guests:

Jenny Dresler
Jonathan Sandau, Congressman Schrader
James Hutches, Country Financial
Kevin Loe, Triangle Farms
Duane Eater, East Valley Water District/Eater
Bros. Farms
Mark Dickman, Grass seed farmer, Mt. Angel
Jana Jarvis, Oregon Trucking Association
Lon Young

Not Present:

Keith Ditchen
Brenda Frketich
Joe Sherman

Staff:

Jessica Carpenter
Genoa Ingram

Consent Agenda: Minutes and Financials

The Board reviewed the minutes of the March 11, 2015, meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Kathleen Carl and seconded by Greg Bennett to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2015, meeting as presented. **Motion passed.**

Staff reviewed the financial statements, noting no significant changes from the previous month.

MOTION: Moved by Bob Dettwyler and seconded by Roger Dejager to approve the financial report as submitted. **Motion passed.**

Membership Approval

Board members considered the following membership applications:

- Peter and Rochelle Koch – Voting

MOTION: Moved by Troy Hadley and seconded by Bob Dettwyler to approve Peter and Rochelle Koch as voting members. **Motion passed.**

Guest Speakers

Diesel Retrofit Jana Jarvis, President, Oregon Trucking Association President, provided an update on the Challenge to the Diesel Retrofit legislation, including overviews of two pieces of diesel retrofit legislation:

HB 3310 Requires retrofit or replacement of on-road and off-road by January 1, 2020.

SB 824 Establishes Task Force to Investigate a Clean Diesel Program.

Jenny Dresler noted that agriculture was exempt from SB 824 so OFB would not be included on the Task Force. Jana added that in the event SB 824 does not pass this session, it will be back in a future session.

Legislative Update OFB Lobbyist Jenny Dresler reported that, due to complaints from residents regarding goose cannons, Rep. Evans is considering legislation that would remove goose depredation from the Right to Farm statute. She also alerted Board members that they may be asked to weigh in on paid sick leave negotiations.

Jenny also provided an update on labor issues including:

- Minimum Wage – likely will not pass but expect a ballot measure in 2016.
- Flexible Work Schedule – Will not pass this session.
- Mandatory Paid Sick Leave – Will happen; just a question of working out the details.
- State-managed retirement account for employers who do not provide a 401-k funded by employee contributions.

On a positive note, SB 341 (agri-tourism) passed the Senate unanimously and is now in the House. The bill provides relief of liability for farm festivals, etc. Jenny also shared the consensus package negotiated with Sen. Edwards and Rep. Witt regarding pesticides (HB 3549).

Drift Creek Reservoir Mark Dickman provided some history of ground water in Marion County, including development of irrigation systems and water rights. He noted that storage of water in the Drift Creek area is not a new idea. The cost to build the reservoir would be approximately \$20 million. Pipe system would be approximately \$30-40 million. The group is looking at partnering with municipalities or possibly grant money. The group has condemnation rights but would prefer not to use it.

Old Business

Scott Miller Scholarship Jessica Carpenter reported that the Scott Miller Scholarship application is out. Both the driver's ed scholarship and higher ed scholarships are on the MCFB website. The due date for driver's education is June 5; the education scholarship application is due July 15. Information regarding the driver's ed scholarship is being disseminated, first to members, then to non-members. She is also investigating the large magnets for on-the-road farm equipment. The Board agreed that the magnet signs might be a better use of funds.

MCFB Movie Night President Zielinski thanked staff for their efforts and noted that there was a good turn-out.

Testimony on Minimum Wage President Zielinski reported on testimony provided against minimum wage legislation. He was also interviewed by Channel 12 News and participated in OPB's *Think Out Loud* segment. It appears that legislation will not move forward. Bruce Chapin added that the aggregate legislation was gaining traction again. The proposal before the Rules Committee would take farmers out of the equation with regard to aggregate mining.

Harvest Festival Code Update Laureal Williams reported that the codes relating to harvest festivals was moving out of subcommittee and to the Oregon Fire Codes Council May 26, 9:30 a.m. at the Office of State Fire Marshal. The goal is to develop a common language checklist to be used for events.

Tribute to Oregon Ag The Tribute will be held at Volcanos Stadium and one evening will be dedicated to honoring Scott Miller as a fallen farmer. The event is scheduled for June 26 – 30 and

June 28 is honoring Scott Miller. Staff was asked to make inquiry into securing a block of tickets for the Board.

25 Fields Greg Bennett report that the proponents had renewed interest in advocating for the 25 Fields project and is putting together an agricultural coalition for the purpose of going to the legislature to seek a one-time exemption to build on EFU land. Board members agreed it would be beneficial to send a letter to agricultural concerns advising them of MCFB's opposition.

New Business

Estate Tax President Zielinski reported that Common Sense for Oregon has another initiative to repeal the estate tax. Oregon Farm Bureau has suggested that counties move cautiously before expending political capital. Action deferred.

Advisory Committees

Wildlife Committee Bob Dettwyler reported that the Committee held a short meeting on Friday, May 8. Primary issues discussed included:

- Goose cannons;
- Lack of funding for check stations during hunting season. The federal government is being asked to extend hunting season without check stations;
- Movement to split out goose cannon issue from OFB wildlife groups.

OFBF District 15 Director's Report Bruce Chapin reported that OFB Board will be meeting on May 20 and 21. He asked for issues to take to the Board. The Presidents Conference Call is scheduled for May 22.

- Troy Hadley suggested adding a Reader Board of "Ag Facts" in front of the OFB building.
- Bob Dettwyler asked if anyone had been contacted by companies wanting 13-acre blocks of land for solar farms. He questioned whether OFB had a policy on putting solar farms on EFU land.
- Regulations on kill permits for deer (must be antlerless).
- Drift Creek Reservoir.

YF&R

No report.

Women's Report

Connie Young reported that no one had mentioned the "price per mile" proposal to fund roads. She noted that Ag Fest was a success.

Agenda Items for June

None suggested

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2015, in Salem.

Adjourn

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.