

**Marion County Farm Bureau
Board of Directors Meeting – March 19, 2014**

MINUTES

President John Zielinski called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. A quorum was present:

Board Members Present

John Zielinski, President
Greg Bennett
Jeff Butsch
Kathleen Carl
Bruce Chapin
Roger DeJager
Bob Dettwyler
Brenda Frketich
Dan Goffin
Troy Hadley
Scott Miller
Joe Sherman
Connie Young

Guests:

Lon Young
Brad Avakian, Oregon Labor Commissioner
Jack Holpuch,, Associate Director of Development,
OSU College of Agricultural Sciences

OFB Staff:

Dan Heibel

Staff:

Laureal Williams
Genoa Ingram

Guest Speaker

President Zielinski introduced Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian who discussed restoration of shop and agriculture classes in high schools and middle schools across the state. He also reported on his trip to Washington D.C. to intercede with the U.S. Bureau of Labor on behalf of Marion County Farmers on the hot good issue. In response to questions, Commissioner Avakian provided information on the Portland family leave issue.

Consent Agenda

Minutes: Board members reviewed the minutes of the February 19, 2014, meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Greg Bennett and seconded by Dan Goffin to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2014 with clarification in Bruce Chapin's report to the effect that the assessor in Jackson County is threatening to revoke farm deferral status due to bee-keeping operation on the property which, in the assessor's opinion, does not require 20 acres; and correction to the Young Farmers and Ranchers report. **Motion passed.**

Financials: Staff reviewed the financial report, discussed the changes in the dues billing process with Country Financial, current membership dues and Country Financial Program income.

MOTION: Moved by Dan Goffin and seconded by Troy Hadley to approve the financials of the February 19, 2014, meeting as presented. **Motion passed.**

Membership Approvals:

Ray and Patti Eder – discussed and approved as voting member
Ray and Maggie Gannon – discussed and approved as voting member
Dylan Wells – discussed and approved as voting member

MOTION: Moved by Dan Goffin and seconded by Troy Hadley to approve Dylan Wells and Ray and Patti Eder as voting members and to approve Ray and Maggie Gannon as a supporting members. **Motion passed.**

Old Business:

Letter regarding SB 1541: John Zielinski reported that he had written to Nate Reaver, Oregon Food Bank, regarding the crop donation tax credit bill (SB 1541) advocating for a more realistic tax credit, which would result in additional crop donation. He noted that he had sent the letter on behalf of himself and not Marion County Farm Bureau.

Farm Tour Update: There are currently 21 participants signed up for the April 4 farm tour, including Board members Joe Sherman, Brenda Frketch, and Connie Young. The tour includes a visit to Chapin Farms' new hazelnut drying facility and a micro propagation of rootstock, Crosby Hop Farms pelletizing, storage, and marketing of hops; Northwest Onions packing plan, Golden Valley Hay Press, the Food Innovation Center, and the Port of Portland. Cost for the tour is \$20. The bus is scheduled to load at 7:45 at EZ Orchards Farm Market, departing at 8 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

SPCC Seminar:

The Spill Prevention Seminar is scheduled for March 25 at the Brooks Training Facility. There are currently four registrations for the morning session and two for the afternoon session. A reminder postcard is being mailed by Ag Compliance to help generate more attendance.

25 Fields

John provided a recap on the 25 Fields, noting that it was the feeling of the Board that such an undertaking would not be good for farming operations in the area. He asked for recommendations from the Board on action to be taken.

MOTION: Moved by Dan Goffin and seconded by Connie Young to write a letter to all state and local agencies having jurisdiction, along with all Marion County legislators, voicing concerns regarding traffic and adverse impact on farming. **Motion passed.**

Marion County Fire District 1

John reported on a recent meeting with Paula Smith and an Assistant Chief of Marion County Fire District 1 to discuss fire ordinances and application of Schedule K from the State Fire Marshal.

Membership Drive

Bob Dettwyler discussed the list of current paid and non-paid farms and distributed some talking points to illustrate the benefits of membership in Marion County Farm Bureau. He will meet with staff to outline a complete list of benefits to help with marketing Marion County Farm Bureau.

OFB Advisory Committees:

No reports.

Bruce Chapin, OFBF District 15 Report:

Bruce reported that the OFB Board had held a conference call on March 11 to discuss two issues:

The Board is moving forward with negotiations to purchase a new building on Capitol and Gains streets;

The Board considered a number of endorsements of legislative candidates, as well as a Congressional race. Bruce recapped some of the endorsement decisions.

Guest Speaker

John Zielinski introduced Jack Holpuch, Associate Director of Development, OSU College of Agricultural Sciences who discussed fundraising efforts on behalf of OSU and the OSU Foundation. Jack outlined ways the farming community could be of assistance.

YFR – Brenda Frketich

Brenda reported that at the County level, a Capitol Tour had been held on March 4 which included meetings with legislators, lobbyists, and legislative staff. There was a good turnout with eleven attendees and excellent response. They hope to repeat the event on an annual basis. At the State level, a meeting is planned that will coincide with the FFA State Convention.

Women’s Advisory Council – Connie Young

Connie reported on her trip to Tualatin to Haggen’s Foods where the group shopped for food to donate to at Ronald McDonald House. She added that the Women’s Advisory Council is a major source of food and supplies.

Connie also reported that Ag Fest is nearing. She described the benefits of volunteering at Ag Fest such as free gate passes, snacks, gas reimbursement and dinner. The Mill Creek Inn is the base. Ag Fest represents over 20 years of educating Oregonians about agriculture.

OFBF Regional Coordinator – Dan Heibel

Dan reported that he had attended the Western Region Leadership Conference in Las Vegas, sponsored by the American Farm Bureau. Approximately 230 people attended. Dan reported on some of the seminars and workshops, noting that the most valuable was teaching the agricultural community about how to educate the public about how food is grown and raised. Dan also spoke with the Board about the importance of commitment for leaders, summarized from the book *21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader*.

April Agenda Items

Monte Graham – Zollner Creek Water Quality

Suggestion for future meeting: Update on the federal Farm Bill legislation

Adjourn

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned 8:48 p.m.