



Marion County Farm Bureau

"Bringing Value to our Members"

Board Meeting: June 13, 2018 – 6:30 pm

Meeting is open to all MCFB members and guests

1320 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR 97301

Present:

Board Members	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Anne Krahmer	X	X	X	X	-	X						
Bruce Chapin	X	-	X	X	X	X						
Dana Estensen	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Dylan Wells	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Greg Bennett	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Jessie DeJager		-	X	-	-	-						
Joe Ruef	X	X	X	X	-	X						
John Zielinski	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Kathleen Carl	X	X	X	X	-	X						
Keith Ditchen	X	X	X	-	-	X						
Lisa Stone	X	X	X	X	-	X						
Matt Schuster	X	X	-	X	X	-						
Roger DeJager	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Stuart Olson	X	X	-	X	-	X						

Staff:

Jill Ingalls
Caitlin Koenig

Guests:

Selma Pierce
Zachary Sielicky
Matt Dunbar
Mary Anne Cooper

Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm by President Dylan Wells

Introductions

Special Guest: Selma Pierce Republican candidate for State Representative HD 20

Selma Pierce introduced herself to the board and discussed her aspirations for running for the State Representative House District 20 seat.

Mary Anne Cooper Report:

The Oregon Farm Bureau is currently aggressively seeking a land owner representative to be on the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The Ideal candidate would be a recreational fisherman and landowner/farmer. Representative must be a land owner from congressional district 4 or 5. Oregon Farm Bureau recognizes they have good allies but is concerned the commission needs the farmer perspective to keep their decision making balanced. The Governor's office really wants a conservationist in that position, whereas OFB wants landowner perspective. Oregon Farm Bureau is open to recommendations. The governor's office would be especially pleased to see the nomination also be female and younger, however those are not prerequisites.

Mary Anne explained she is gearing up for 2019. She is sitting on work groups around ADUs, land use in Eastern Oregon, and another one on water transfers. She stated Jenny Dresler is on a work group addressing paid family leave. Mary Anne said she thinks a hot topic for 2019 will be focused on Cap and Trade. Mary Anne said she thinks Jenny was able to finally make some headway with leaders in the conversation and helping them understand the true cost to farmers.

Mary Anne mentioned there has been talk about Solar Farming and the role solar companies will play. She said that EFSC is beginning to start rule making around solar siting. Counties are still looking individually at whether or not they want to take up this issue. The state should be addressing solar farming in September and the OFB is encouraging them to address it sooner because of some questionable decisions made by Clackamas County that has resulted in copycat permit requests in other counties in the state. OFB is currently considering whether or not they need to write a bill to support their stance however they are questioning if they need to clarify policy language before they go that route.

Mary Anne is expecting the Willamette mercury TMDL issue will be brought up in the fall. The basic gist is that Mercury is coming over from coal fire power plants in China and settling on our landscape. Because we have a lot of land mass involved in agriculture, the mercury is picked up in rain or soil. The conclusion is that agriculture is a big source of the Mercury, not because they produce it, but because we have the land base that collects it. As a result DEQ is now stating they have authority to go after individual farmers. They are targeting corporate farms and irrigation districts, however OFB is unsure how they are defining "corporate farmers". OFB was just informed of this and has planned a meeting with ODA and DEQ to better understand their definition of "corporate farming" with the intention that it not be included in any future versions of the TMDL. Mary Anne would like to be notified if DEQ has reached out to any irrigation or drainage districts. OFB is anticipating that this may be an expensive endeavor due to potential testing conflicts.

Willamette Water reallocation and Detroit dam – unrelated, but related through same biological opinion on salmon. Kurt Schraders office held a meeting with anyone who could be impacted by potential dewatering of Detroit dam while creating fish passages and cooling towers to meet the biological opinion. The meeting was attended by Johnathon and he said it went really well. He felt they were very receptive to concerns about whether flood control will be maintained and concerns about the impact on irrigation. Johnathon was able to raise new concerns the office hadn't previously considered in regards to people with contracted water from that system and the potential for people who think they are pulling live water out of the system, but may actually be pulling from Detroit. He felt the office was receptive to those concerns and the impact it would have on the people listed above and people with normal irrigation rights. Jonathan expects to see the concerns he raised be addressed in the draft environmental impact statement when it is released. Mary Anne stated the OFB will comment on the draft and let people know when it is released. Mary Anne expects they will choose to dewater during one season and proceed on construction while it is underwater. The proposed plan's outcome and impact relies heavily on quite a few environmental factors that are impossible to accurately predict. She said she expects they will have to grapple with the idiosyncrasies of the project.

Willamette Water Reallocation pertains to reallocating the water behind the 13 Willamette System reservoirs. There are roughly 1.6 million acre feet stored behind the reservoirs (however it is rarely all accessible). It is all held in an irrigation right for agriculture – currently only about 70,000 acre feet have been used. In 2009 they implemented a cap due to the biological opinion that caps usage at 90,000 acre feet. Meaning there is still 20,000 acre feet of contract water available. The Willamette Water Reallocation project is proposing a forever allocation of about 300,000 acre feet. The Oregon Farm Bureau wanted a minimum of 600,000 acre feet to be designated. It was later discovered that their study was artificially constrained to within four miles of the whole Willamette system and made a lot of assumptions about the rate of growth. The Oregon Farm Bureau disagrees with the water reallocation numbers and told them their proposal of 300,000 acre feet is unacceptable. OFB expected to receive at minimum 450,000 acre feet as a result of their data, and in reality would like to see that closer to 600,000 acre feet as access to water continues to be more restrictive. NMFS meeting in DC in July on this issue. Asking for new definition of development with FEMA – currently they are required to have permits for grading. You can plow but not grade. Any manmade activity in the flood plain is subject to regulation. Mary Anne would like to be notified if there is any talk of flood plain issues. Working with present administration to revisit the definition of development in their CFR. Would also like them to agree to certain activities they will not regulate. Application of biosolids in flood plains.

Bank stabilization issue – opening communication for clarification with regard to permitting. Mary Anne recommended asking before proceeding with questionable projects because the OFB can't do much to help members once they are in enforcement stages of an issue. She said she is happy to ask anonymous questions to the corps.

Consent Agenda

The board reviewed the minutes of May 9, 2018 Meeting.

MOTION: Moved by John Zielinski and seconded by Keith Ditchen to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2018 meeting as presented. **Motion Passed.**

Caitlin Koenig presented the financial report as attached here in.

MOTION: Moved by John Zielinski and seconded by Kathleen Carl to approve as presented. **Motion passed.**

Membership Approvals:

John Kraemer – YF & R
Justin Mcclaughry – Supporting
Larry Kelly – Voting
Teodoro Bravo – Voting

MOTION: Moved by John Zielinski and seconded by Kathleen Carl to accept members as presented.
Motion Passed.

Old Business:

State annual meeting planning

Dylan hasn't heard anything about the meeting or planning. John Zielinski does not anticipate there will be a convention committee. However Dave did seem receptive to any suggestions. John Zielinski recommended there be a financial workshop on changes to tax code with a 3 person panel comprised of attorneys and representatives from Country Financial. He said they are trying to fit it in the schedule.

DC Trip Memo

The date has been changed. Matt Schuster and Dylan Wells were previously planning on attending, now neither can attend due to the date change. Dylan wants all to think about it and discuss it if interested.

Solar Farming Work Group

2 possible dates have been set for the Marion County Solar Ordinance group's first meeting. Dylan Wells, John Zielinski and Bruce Chapin are on the committee and they are anticipating the meeting will take place soon. Dylan noted there are solar companies and an agency in the group as well. Expecting an update at the next meeting.

Willamette Country Music Festival

Dylan stated that neighbors and interested parties are having a meeting tonight to discuss the permit hearing coming up on June 20th. Dylan knows Johnathon from OFB is planning to testify and hopes to be able to testify as well. The county has released some of their recommendations from different departments. Dylan expects the road department and wildlife refuge will be negatively impacted in a considerable way.

AFBF Annual Meeting

no report, to keep posted

July meeting decision

Dylan Wells asked the board if they were planning on having a meeting in July. John Zielinski noted that in the past they have skipped the meeting in July due to harvest load, but cautioned doing that this year due to election season coming up and the ability to review candidates would be limited should the meeting be skipped. Staff pointed out that they will not be able to attend the July meeting. The board will be notified by July 3rd about whether the meeting will be held.

President's Report

no report

New Business:

Scanned Radio Ads

The Road Safety Committee has requested The Marion County Farm Bureau sponsor Road Safety Radio Ads for a month. Dylan's concern is that the radio stations they have targeted have listeners that are likely already aware. Bruce Chapin pointed out farmers are only 3% of the population and the ads are expected to reach 30,000 people, therefore the listeners are not all aware of road safety as it pertains to farmers. John Zielinski suggested that the board consider changing the targeted audience in the fall as this ad is already in the budget and the radio station is likely expecting it.

County to County Challenge

Marion County is dueling with Baker County. Dylan is excited that Marion County has the most new members of any county.

Oregonians for Food and Shelter Letter – letters received by the board

Website Development

It was discovered that the website hosting company and the previous management company had a miscommunication and ultimately the website and all historical emails were lost. A lot of work has been done to recover the domain. A backup was recovered from November and work is being done to update it. There was a quote of \$1000 to create a new website, but it seems as of now the issue has been resolved. However a bill for the recovery work should be expected.

MCFB Committee Reports

Annual Meeting (Dylan Wells /Annie Kraemer)

Two dates were offered to the board, November 6th and November 20th. The board agreed that November 6th was the best choice. The committee is still working on finding a band to perform.

Scholarship (Dana Estensen/ Lisa Stone/ Kathleen Carl)

The scholarship winners were announced, and the committee reiterated how difficult it was to decide due to receiving an overwhelming amount of excellent applicants. They are planning on convening in October to discuss recommendations for criteria changes to the scholarships.

OFB Advisory Committees (reports from members who have attended an OFBF advisory committee)

John Zielinski attended an AFBF information advisory committee meeting on labor. There are currently a lot of issues up in the air. John is hoping to have more info in the next two weeks. John would really like to see fixes to H2A.

OFBF District 15 Director's Report – John Zielinski

There was a representative from the Farm Bureau Bank that was encouraging counties to sign up and use their credit card and enroll in their CD programs because they offer competitive rates. John thinks it would be something worth looking into. John asked that the board give Dylan and the staff the ability to move those investments to a bank with a better rate when existing CDs come to fruition.

John reported that Gale Greenman spoke about the Ag bill. She stated that the commodities structure would be preserved, and that trade would take on a block grant approach in addition to that they also want to develop a foot and mouth vaccine bank. John said she also talked about GMO rule making that they are currently involved in.

Other topics mentioned were:

- There was a presentation supporting no tax groceries. Currently Oregon is considering a gross receipts tax.
- Farm land is being parceled for housing in Douglas County and Coos County.
- Deschutes County is trying to charge system development charges on a cannabis facility. OFB will oppose the system development charges because they fear those charges will later incorporate all ag use.
- Klamath County is already experiencing water issues.
- Polk County discussed solar issues.

- Discussion on Land Trusts – exploring whether they want to be involved.
- State audit came back clean.
- Conference call with Knute Bueler.
- Kirk Melcher from Dept. of Fish and Wildlife discussed wolves and sealions.
- OFB spent a lot of time working on identifying strengths and areas for improvement.

YF&R Report – Anne Krahmer

State YF&R is planning a fundraiser coyote hunt in Harney and/or Baker County. Last week there was a Marion/Clackamas meeting where they toured Marion Ag. Anne highly recommends any one take a tour that can. The tour was followed by a BBQ at her parent's house; ultimately Anne felt it was a really successful event.

Women's Advisory Council – Jessie DeJager

No report

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26

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