



## Marion County Farm Bureau

"Bringing Value to our Members"

Board Meeting: March 5, 2019 – 6:30pm

Meeting is open to all MCFB members and guests

Oregon Farm Bureau  
1320 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR 97301

### Minutes

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

#### Guests:

Mischa O'Reilly

#### Staff:

Jill Ingalls  
Caitlin Koenig

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

Attendees went around the table and introduced themselves.

#### **Special Guest** - Mischa O'Reilly, Cherriots Trip Choice

Mischa introduced the board to Oregon Friendly Driver Program and how it is a partnership with Cherriots Trip Choice and Marion County Health. She asked about farmer concerns as it pertains to sharing the road with bikes. The board discussed their concerns with bikes on rural road ways. The group acknowledged that education on both the biking and farming side could really benefit the community as a whole. The group discussed opportunities for partnering.

The board suggested that they would like to see a procedure for notifying farmers of upcoming events that may impact their operations during the event permitting process and suggested that may be something that could be done through the sheriff's office. The board also emphasized the importance of event organizers understanding issues as it regards to bio security, fruit theft, and trespassing should event participants deviate from the permitted path. It was mentioned that farmers have experienced the aforementioned issues in the past and have previously felt like these issues haven't been taken seriously by participants and/or organizers. Mischa shared the board's concern about these issues and said she would do her best to relay these concerns to event organizers in the area.

Mischa asked the board if they would like to receive Friendly Driving training and further detailed the partnership between "Trip Choice" and Marion County Health. Mishcha shared the PowerPoint with Caitlin and she will share it with the board for them to consider if they would like to offer the program/training to membership. As a whole, it seemed all involved acknowledged that partnership and improved communication could be beneficial.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **Minutes:**

The board reviewed the minutes from the February 11, 2019 meeting.

**MOTION:** John Zielinski moved and Lisa Stone seconded to approve the minutes as presented.  
**Motion passed.**

### **Financial Report**

Caitlin Koenig told the board that she noticed the P&L Budget vs. Actual report dates were pulled incorrectly and therefore the percentages were incorrect. She read the checks that have been cut and cleared to the board. Jill pointed out that the actual P&L amounts and reconcile were correct but that the budget percentages were off only due to the report date range. She asked if the board would prefer to table making a motion on the report until the next meeting so that they could vote on the reports with the correct percentage of budget amounts presented.

**MOTION:** John Zielinski moved and Kathleen Carl seconded to table the vote on the financial report until the next meeting. **Motion passed.**

**Discussion:** Matt Schuster asked if the TD Ameritrade account has been funded. Dylan said we haven't been notified by Kuedell Morrison and that staff would follow up with them. Jill said she would send out the corrected financial report to the board tomorrow.

### **Membership Approvals:**

- a. Ronald Buhr – Voting
- b. Kurtis Schurter - Voting

**MOTION:** Dana Estensen moved and Joe Ruef seconded to approve new members as presented.  
**Motion passed.**

Discussion: Dylan asked if anyone would like to reach out and let new members now that they have been approved. John suggested that the membership committee develop a letter to welcome new members to MCFB. He suggested the letter include: a welcome, introduction to resources, invitation to join meetings and contact info for the county farm bureau. Dylan asked if there were offers to develop the letter, Dana said she would take a shot at it.

### **Old Business:**

**Solar Farming Work Group** – Dylan has not heard from the Marion County Commissioners about a decision being made. He said he reaches out about once a month to be updated, but it looks like nothing has come up. He thinks the county will follow the state's direction. Kathleen commented that the power companies seemed more concerned with acreage than providing renewable energy.

**Canola** – John directed the board to the email from Jonathan Sandau that details the Canola Concept proposal from OFB and asked they take a few minutes to review it so they can be sure to protect the interests of the membership as a whole. He stated OFB is currently in favor of allowing some canola, but they have not received much feedback from growers in the affected counties. Dylan said, in his discussion with Jonathan the previous day, he learned there is currently a cap of 500 acres of canola within the Willamette Valley Rapeseed District. The preferred proposal being brought forth would remove the 500 acre cap and replace it with a map pinning requirement and a 3 mile radius limit; he believes the issue can still be contained. Dana asked about how priority is determined within the pinning process of brassicas. Dylan and John agreed this was a good question and they did not know the answer. Kathleen mentioned that she thought ODA and OFB had previously been opposed to going to the pinning system. Dylan said he believed the pinning would not be done by ODA and/or OFB, but the seed authority. Dylan mentioned that the other issue regarding Canola is the potential for crosspollination

contamination that would prevent it from entering the food market. Dylan said he also wanted to know about subsidies for Canola and how that would impact the market price and the potential for damaging the rapeseed market. He said Jonathan said he wasn't sure that was a concern they had previously thought of.

John asked if the board knew who all was wanting to grow canola within the district.

Dylan read an email he received from Brenda expressing her concerns about canola. She said she is concerned about setting a precedent stating one crop is worth more than another. She said she thinks ODA should continue their position of not regulating crops based off markets. She said she thinks everyone should be using pinning maps with an oversight committee the make sure the pinning authority is being fair.

Matt asked if Canola was being grown here for industrial use or for human consumption. John said his understanding was it is only for industrial use because there are no processing plants in the area.

The board reached Jonathan by conference call for his input. Dylan asked about the priority process. Jonathan said priority is set by seniority – he said he believes this is the standard within the WVSSA pinning process. The preferred option from OFB would allow WVSSA to pin the canola and handle any arbitration and encroachment issues – essentially becoming a pinning authority. This would allow the permit of the rapeseed – pinning would be voluntary. No mandate that farmers would have to join a private organization to grow crops.

Jonathan said the second option would require a development of new encroachment and arbitration agreement and priority would not be spelled out. ODA would have to develop these policies, as opposed to using the one that is already established by WVSSA. OFB sees this issue as very flawed. OFB views this option as a potentially precedent setting opportunity for ODA to mandate crop regulation to farmers. OFB says that is dangerous and will not support that.

John asked about if there were stipulations about the makeup of the advisory board and how are they protecting fairness (ie 3 members from specialty seed and 3 from canola?). Jonathan said there are currently no stipulations with regard to how to designate seats on the advisory board. Jonathan said he believes that would be spelled out in the future.

John asked if OFB has a policy on pinning. Jonathan said there is no direct policy as it pertains to pinning systems from OFB. The concern from OFB was that ODA was going to mandate pinning for all brassica housed by ODA. This idea was alarming to OFB and they are concerned about the precedent that action would set.

Jonathan said the proposal is a way to avoid a mandate from ODA.

Dylan asked if Jonathan needed a vote from the MCFB. Dylan reiterated the board does not want to contaminate the specialty seed market in Marion County. Jonathan said he did not need any board action at this time but wanted the board to be aware of what is currently going on and didn't want anyone to be surprised when/if it's on the table. Jonathan said OFB is coming from a unique position considering their membership is made up of both sides of the argument. Jonathan thinks there will be more info in the coming weeks. He said there are currently 3 other bills pertaining to canola out in the legislature as well.

**Other legislative updates:** John asked if there was movement on **cap and trade**. Jonathan said the road show had just finished. There are rumors they may be considering amendments in the coming weeks. He said OFB is working closely with loggers and trying to figure out language on fuel exemptions. He said there are carbon tax bills coming out too and he is expecting a lot of movement with carbon.

He said they are expecting to see lots of **bans on pesticides** in the coming weeks. Jonathan said he will be sending out a call to action this weekend. He said he believes OFB will be putting together a panel of growers to speak about pesticides and wants farmers to be aware and call legislators about that.

Dylan asked what OFB's perspective is on **Day Light Saving**. He said there was a recommendation for a "do not pass" before the house of delegates, but there was no resolution passed. Jonathan asked if it was something MCFB felt strongly about. Dylan said he had some feedback about concern that workers couldn't start until late and that may impact workers and their family time.

Discussion: John said the concerns he heard were from parents and kids going to school in the dark. Dylan said he had heard they may be pushing for later school start times so that may be a moot point. Kathleen said she had a member reach out to her and say they were all for it. Dylan said he wasn't sure it was an issue they needed to really address or not.

### **Long Term Planning – SWOT**

Dylan directed the board to write strengths on post it notes. The notes were compiled. Dylan asked that everyone continue to think about this and think about how it can develop 5 year goals.

## SWOT Results

### Strengths

- Diversity of crops and experience on board and within membership (10)
- relationship with elected officials (3)
- staff (3)
- active board (2)
- Close to the Capital (2)
- financial stability (2)
- number of members (2)
- strong board leadership (2)
- strong relationship with OFB (2)
- unified (2)
- advance planning
- advocacy
- board attendance
- eat well
- good at discussing issues
- good reputation
- good speakers and guests
- strong belief in land use system and saving farm land
- strong outreach
- trusted by members
- use committees for projects
- women on board

### Weaknesses

- weak member involvement (4)
- not enough time to cover all issues/difficulty prioritizing issues (3)
- replacement of board members
- member communication challenges
- not working with enough democrats
- weak website
- lack of volunteers outside of board
- located in liberal state

### Threats

- political climate (6)
- urban sprawl (4)
- urban rural divide (3)
- Over regulation/ laws hurting industry (2)
- lack of understanding of Ag industry by general public
- staying relevant with membership
- burn out

### Opportunities

- able to be active at the capital (3)
- opportunities to partner with other organizations (3)
- Connections to govt agencies (2)
- more interaction with decision makers (2)
- Connect to other farmers/growers (2)
- train YF&R for future board positions and leadership
- Set pace as leaders
- expanding Marion Co Fair and REAL Oregon
- Reach youth /young farmers
- room for more community involvement
- growth
- work together for best interest of farmers

**Marion County Tax Assessor** – Dylan said that Greg reached out to Commissioner Cameron and stated he was concerned that the Ag advisory board has not met in over two years. Dylan said Commissioner Cameron has heard of this concern before. The county assessor then reached out to Dylan and said he would like to get a meeting set up. Dylan said Rep Rick Lewis is sponsoring a bill written by Jonathan Sandau clarifying tax rules. Dylan said things are happening and the plan is to have the assessor present to the board next month.

**President's Report** – Dylan said he was on KYKN 1430AM noon-one and was able to share what MCFB has been doing. John said he liked that the hosts were so excited about his visit and their eagerness to have him back. Dylan said he would come back to continue to talk about Ag issues in Marion county. John suggested that the board may want to consider issues to talk about on the show and refer them to Dylan. Anne Marie prepared a hot sheet with topics to discuss. Dylan said he was happy with the interview and the host's enthusiasm. Matt suggested Dylan invite the host on the Ag Tour.

Dylan invited the board to the reception for REAL Oregon due to sponsorship. The reception will have presentations from current and past participants. Dylan said he will email the invite to the board tomorrow. He said he spoke with senator Gerard and talked about cap and trade. Said Gerard vowed to give his vote and said he appreciates the relationship. Sen. Gerard reiterated that he is available to talk about concerns and urged Dylan and the board to contact him if there are any pressing issues they would like him to hear about. Dylan said he also attended Willamette bi-op in Willsonville City Hall about the reallocation and Detroit dam. He said the meeting was led by Kurt Schrader and reported it was highly attended. Dylan said he thinks that due to the feedback they received about the dam they are going to do wet construction instead of draining the dam. He believes this sounds like a more favorable choice than was initially proposed. He said he believes the bigger issue is the Willamette Water Reallocation. Dylan said there were only 162 responses for the dam and he wants to be sure that written testimony is submitted about the reallocation issue. Dylan said they presented a full timeline on when comment periods would be open unfortunately Dylan didn't have the timeline with him but would get that out. He said water rights were also discussed.

## **New Business**

**Day Light Saving Time-** The board agreed they would watch the issue, but not make a motion at this time.

**McNary Athletic Booster Club donation request** – The board agreed not to support their request due to no affiliation.

## **MCFB Committee Reports**

**Safety Training Committee** (Matt Schuster/Keith Ditchen) – Matt reported the morning CPR class was fully attended and the afternoon class had good attendance. Unfortunately, due to unsafe weather conditions the Spanish class had to be postponed. Caitlin said there were attempts to reschedule, but later found the room was not available for those dates. John suggested she reach out to the training facility in Brooks. She said she would look into it.

**Ag Tour** (Dana Estensen/Stuart Olson/Lisa Stone) – Dana reported that there are 28 people currently registered. John asked if there were any legislators registered. He followed that up with wondering if they had been invited. Dana said she thought the board members with relationships would be doing the invites. John asked if Dylan would invite the county commissioners. Dylan said he would do that.

**OFB Advisory Committees** (reports from members who have attended an OFBF advisory committee)  
No Reports

**OFBF District 15 Director's report** – John Zielinski  
No Report

**YF&R Report** – Matt Dunbar  
Dylan said Matt was unable to attend and told the board the national conference was next week and he would be attending. There were 2 others joining him from Marion County.

**Women's Advisory Council** – Jessie DeJager  
No report

## **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

- Tax Assessor
- County Commissioner – John suggested Colm Wills come to a meeting.
- Marion County legislator – suggested Brian Clem.

**Discussion:** Dana said she didn't feel this was an agenda item, but had been approached by a member and wanted the board to be aware of the Diamond Pioneer Award offered by OSU and is an agricultural career achievement registry – it's an opportunity to publicly recognize the accomplishments of individuals who have contributed to the wellbeing of their community, industry, or state. She said there was a simple nomination form. She said the member suggested that Bob Dettwyler and Jesse DeJager be considered. She said the nomination deadline was in July

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm