



## Marion County Farm Bureau

"Bringing Value to our Members"

Board Meeting: April 10, 2019 – 6:30pm

Meeting is open to all MCFB members and guests

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

### Agenda

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

Guests: Alvin Klaussen  
Tom Rolfling  
Roger DeJager

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** – Tom Rolfling, Marion County Tax Assessor

Tom explained a recent mishap with specialty assessments not having the percentage added to this tax roll. He said this will be corrected next year and the specialty assessed value will go up 3% without interest accrued. All impacted were specially assessed accounts – and the largest correction was less than \$300. He asked the board if anyone had noticed because he had not received feedback about it. Tom said was wanting to share the news and give everyone time to deal with the correction coming next year.

He said the other big issue his department is facing deals with farm equipment. Some accounts are showing old data that needs to be clarified and corrections made. Those corrections may be whether taxes are removed or taxes are added due to refining the documentations. He said there is not currently enough info available to make accurate assessments. His department is working to develop better definition and creating a more streamlined way to be fair and equitable. He reported that he has consulted with many commodities and the Oregon Farm Bureau. He said he is facing challenges with regard to exemptions that were previously allowed that do not have statutes to support those exemptions. He reiterated that he is trying to treat all people fair and equitable. He said he is hoping the legislative process will clarify the statutes in question. He said that this is a known issue and the Oregon State Association of County Assessors is working with a lobbyist to be able to pressure the

legislature to clarify these statutes. He said they would like to have clear language to help understand what is assessable – Especially property tax issues as they pertain to farming operations. Greg Bennett expressed his concerns with regard to the way the assessor is defining “processing” and emphasized that this body wants to be at the table as the defining process continues. Dylan summarized that OFB is working the assessors to develop enforceable definitions. Tom encouraged ongoing communication.

### **Consent Agenda**

The board reviewed the Minutes of March 5, 2019 Meeting and the Minutes of March 14, 2019 Meeting.

**MOTION:** Greg Bennett moved and John Zielinski seconded to accept minutes as presented. **Motion passed.**

The board reviewed the financial report.

**MOTION:** Bruce Chapin moved and Kathleen Carl seconded to receive the financials as presented. **Motion passed.**

### **Membership Approvals:**

Jordan Sinn – Voting  
Lindsey Meyers – Supporting  
Wendy Coates – Voting  
Truss Structures – Supporting

**MOTION:** Kathleen Carl moved and Keith Ditchen seconded to accept members as presented. **Motion passed.**

Discussion: Dylan told the board that there is a new membership contact for OFB. He requested that if any members have issues with their membership they reach out to him.

### **Old Business:**

**Canola** – Dylan reported that interested parties walked away from each other at the rules advisory committee meeting. He said it looks like they may be retaining the cap on acreage. WVSSA rejected the proposal that they would act as a pinning authority. No new bills can be presented during this session. Dylan said he thought the issue would be sunseting soon and is unsure how the requirements will continue.

**Long Term Planning – SWOT** – Dylan tabled this for the time being and would like the board to keep these issues in mind in the coming months. He requested that if anyone has anything to add that they please send it to him.

**President’s Report** – Dylan said he has recently testified twice to the legislature – one was for the family leave act. He said there were only 4 testifying against and a large delegation from SEIU testifying in support. Dylan testified in opposition and related his experience of having to reduce his employment due to increased regulations and requirements of employers. Dylan was quoted in a PBS article and received positive feedback on his perspective and his ability to convey his message. He said he also testified in support of holding banks accountable for “Zombie” properties after becoming aware of the issues affecting Karl Dettwyler and the Marion County Sheriff’s Office. He said Rep. Rick Lewis shared his sentiments and agreed that this committee may gain some traction.

Dylan told the board he had been in touch with OFB about SB413. SB413 would require the formation of a transportation district to construct highways and create imminent domain similar to a toll roads. He reported Mary Ann said that there isn’t anything in place at this time to deal with these “districts” and recommended that MCFB consider putting something together for the policy book as it pertains to transportation districts. Kathleen Carl said she testified against this bill and shared a letter that she sent with the board.

Lisa Stone said her husband testified about aerial application of pesticides on timber and public lands. Dylan reported that MCFB sent appreciation gifts to the OFB government affairs team.

## **New Business**

**SMART Goal Setting** – Dylan tabled this for now and requested that the board think about it more. John asked if Dylan would resend the email with the outline/worksheet.

**Fur Bills** – Joe Ruef told the board he is concerned that California and New York appear to be gaining traction on banning fur and anticipates this will be proposed in Oregon next year. Joe would like individual farmers to reach out and oppose any legislation banning fur. John said this is outside of his wheelhouse of understanding and asked if Joe would send a list of topics of concerns so that board members can write informed letters. He also suggested Joe look at the OFB policy book and take it to the fur association and make sure OFB policy is written in a way that would be most useful in protecting this industry. In addition, John suggested Joe refer this to National level policy as well. Joe said he would send out action alerts for fur bills to the board.

**WOTUS Rule Public Comment** – OFB is urging members to take advantage of the public comment period before the deadline – which is quickly approaching. Dylan urged members to check the action alert on the OFB Advocacy page. He pointed out that there is a full page of speaking points and guidelines provided on the advocacy page. He said the most closely related to this area are ditching issues.

**Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for Willamette Valley System** – Alvin Klausen provided a brief overview for the board. He said there is currently a 2008 Biological Opinion for the entire Willamette basin with 13 dams considered. The 2008 Bi-Op states the dams are negatively impacting fish and their ability to flourish. He said the 3 major contenders in the conversation are: Ag, municipalities, and fish. He said Congressman Kurt Schrader is fighting to have Ag interests protected. Alvin said the decision as a result of the new EIS could have a critical impact for the next 50 years. The new EIS is recognizing the biological opinion needs to be reassessed and investigate the impact environmentally as well as socially. Alvin said he would like feedback from members and is available to answer questions. He said the public comment period is open and due by June 28<sup>th</sup>. Dylan said talking points should be coming soon. Alvin reported that his office is also working a presentation about the cooling tower and its impact on the community for use in a call to action from MCFB. Alvin said his office will keep MCFB in the loop and encouraged members to contact him with any questions. **MAKE SURE TO PUT IN FARMGRAM**

**HB 2974 – Bridge District Formation** – Mary Ann is concerned that there is no current policy in the policy book to give her direction. She said because there is no direction in the policy book, MCFB is not bound to any one stance. Dylan said she didn't give a position but urged the county draft a policy statement. John recommends clarity on the plan. John asked that Kathleen draft something and pass it by Mary Ann for review/fine tuning.

**Ditchen DSL Wetlands** - Mary Ann was contacted by Eric Ditchen who began to clear land and was then told by DSL he was impacting wetlands and may be subject to major fines. OFB referred him to an attorney because it looked like DSL was actively preparing an order and enforcing fines. He was referred to an attorney that has represented other members with DSL issues. Dylan asked her to let him know if there were places where OFB had a policy interest or if MCFB could be of assistance. Dylan said he has not heard anything since receiving notice from Mary Ann. Dylan said he was bringing it to the board's attention in the event they be called on in the future.

## **MCFB Committee Reports**

**Membership Committee** (Dylan Wells/Greg Bennet/Kathleen Carl) – Dylan reported that they are at 65% of goal. He said would like to bolster the committee with members other than just board members. He urged the board to reach out to neighbors and make sure they are in and/or current on dues.

**Ag Tour** (Dana Estensen/Stuart Olson/Lisa Stone) – Dana Estensen reported that the tour went well. She said there was good weather, good networking and good participation. She had some thoughts on encouraging legislators to participate by having better outreach and consideration for the time of year the tour takes place.

John suggested that next year we get public affairs to extend the invitation. Dana also informed the board that they will need to find a new bus company for next year's tour as the current company is retiring. Dylan shared that during the Ag Tour he was with the REAL Oregon program touring the state penitentiary. He said that the state penitentiary does a lot of farming, gardening and funding mechanisms – including laundry, auto shop and fabrication.

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

Greg stated that an emergency water meeting was called and Matt Schuster was on the call as well. He said the Klamath tribes are trying to submit an amendment. He said during the conversation they decided the statute had been in effect for a long time and it was best to keep the automatic stay in place until further research can be gathered.

**OFBF District 15 Director's report** – John Zielinski

State board conference call on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Voted on malheur county farm land issue – initial vote was split and finally decided to oppose, but would not take lobbying action to actively oppose. Progress on county assessor personal property tax. Canola – continuing to work on not valuing one crop over the other. WOTUS comments due next week. Kathleen wanted further explanation about the malheur land use.

**YF&R Report** – Matt Dunbar

Dylan reported that he went with 13 other Oregon YF&R reps to Milwaukee, WI for the National Convention. He said there is a big push to figure out what to do when you “age out” of the program. He said there was discussion on how to retain members and keep them involved, many other states have issues with lifetime board positions and no leadership opportunities. He said Oregon's program is a little more progressive. Dylan said as a state, board members are younger than other states in the country.

Dylan said there were lots of opportunities for networking and informative sessions. There was a session about Amazon with value added products. That session emphasized the importance of establishing a relationship early as Amazon will likely surpass grocery outlets in the future. He said another session was about new ideas on the use of video to educate urban population.

Dylan shared that Angie Bailey had accepted and graduated from the PAL program. The PAL program is a very intense and focused program for leadership with only 10 people from AFBF accepted every other year.

Matt Dunbar reported that YF&R was at the FFA State Convention and had a booth for a meet and greet and ice cream social. He said they did a raffle for a tablet and hydroflask to gain leads for membership. He said he hosted his first Marion County YF&R social the past Saturday and had 9 members. He said they toured Valley Ag and had a good educational session regarding reducing risk.

**Women's Advisory Council** – Jessie DeJager

Jessie reported that she went with WAC to the Ronald McDonald houses in Portland on March 18. She reported they were able to bring \$1400 of groceries to the houses. John requested that when buying groceries for Ronald McDonald houses in the future that the WAC be sure to purchase crops grown in the US exclusively. Jessie reported Ag Fest is coming up April 26 & 27 where WAC will be doing Dirt Babies.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52

**NEXT MEETING: May 8, 2019**