



COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

April 11, 2018

Development Services Building

Room 118

Members Present: Brent Keller, Bill Street, Dan Green

Member Absent: Jim Rice, Murray Johnson

Staff Present: Andrew Dobmeier, Rick Gruen, Chris Dannenbring, Samantha Wolf
Commissioner Humbertston

Brent Keller called the meeting to order at 6:18 pm.

Minutes Review & Approval

Minutes from the February 2018 meeting were reviewed. Bill moved to approve, Dan seconded and the motion carried.

1. Emmigrant Trail Land Sale

Rick Gruen led off the discussion reporting we are on schedule to close by April 20 on this property sale. There was a delay that required the county to sign an extension of the sales agreement.

2. Five Year Harvest Plan with Approval for Fall 2018 Timber Sale

Andrew requested revenues needed from Laura Zentner for budgets in the next 5 yrs, and then did an analysis of our tracts. Andrew provided a handout with all of our Wildcat, Family Camp and Brightwood East units on maps with inventory data. The 5 yr plan recommends harvesting Brightwood East in 2018-19, Family Camp in 2019-20, no harvest scheduled for 2020-21, then harvesting Wildcat 20-40-160 in 2021-22, and Wildcat 370 in 2022-23.

Andrew said he'd like to start with Brightwood East scheduled in 2018/19 budget year. He wants to market our own logs from this sale which should yield a better profit. BE00100 – BE00300 are the two target harvest areas on the supplied map. Discussion took place about the plan, the tracts in the plan and various harvest methods. Questions and comments came from the board members on how inventory was calculated, the logistics of harvesting each area, public outreach, and management practices, view sheds, buffers and community input. Andrew added we have watershed buffers for Brightwood East, no wildlife concerns, and we won't be hauling past anyone's house so issues during sale should be minimal.

Andrew directed everyone to view the map for the Family Camp property next. This sale we are looking to cut and get our money back from the purchase of the property. Dan noted property boundary restrictions as we don't own the road going in to this piece. Sam noted she would adjust the map. Andrew said this is a preliminary look at the harvest area and are only looking to take FC00400 with this harvest.

Commissioner Humbertston asked if we replant after a harvest. Andrew confirmed and said we follow the OR Forest Practice Act requirements and typically exceed those standards with our practices. We replant with a mix of fir, cedar, hemlock and alder.

Andrew said it could be possible to use the OR Army National Guard to engineer the road into the property for the harvest like we used them to construct the road into the Madrone Wall Park.

Brent asked specifics about the county process for loggers to do the logging but we direct sell to the mill. He was wanting clarification on the procurement process for this. Rick responded saying we would need to get 3 bids for loggers and 3 bids from the mills on pricing. Andrew & Rick will work on an RFQ for the logging component.

Andrew said after the Family Camp harvest we would be back at Wildcat.

Brent asked if we are open to making adjustments in the 5yr plan if log prices are good? For instance do we proceed with a harvest in a no sale year if log prices are high. Andrew confirmed this is a working plan and we would need to be smart and adjust according to markets.

Andrew also noted there is quite a bit of pre-commercial thinning that needs to be done in our 15-20 yr stands with trees that are no bigger than Christmas trees.

Commissioner Humbertston asked what is done with those trees and if it could be used for Biofuel? Andrew said it really doesn't pencil out to have the trees logged out of the area they are cut in. The costs are too great to remove the trees and we wouldn't see equal returns. Typically we just leave the trees where they are cut.

Dan said he believes the 5yr plan looks good. His comments were he wasn't sure if we would need to do cable logging on all of Brightwood. Andrew said he'd leave it to the logger to know the best option and thinks 80% of it will be shovel logged. Dan asked if Andrew has seen any of the tethered logging methods and thought it might be an appropriate method for Brightwood.

Rick noted if the FAB recommends moving forward with the 5yr plan, Andrew will then put a harvest plan together. At that time we will hold public meetings in the community and articulate the details of the Brightwood East harvest plan. Andrew will gather feedback and make considerations for adjustments to the harvest plan and then bring it to the Timber Sale Advisory Committee for review, recommended changes, and/or approval.

Commissioner Humberston noted his concern for allowing the general public opportunities to comment and have their concerns heard. Andrew confirmed he will hold public meetings in the community to hear public comment and make appropriate adjustments to the harvest plan before it is brought to the Timber Sale Advisory Committee for further recommendation and vote.

Commissioner Humberston emphasized the importance of reinvigorating the timber industry in Oregon in various ways such as the cross laminated timber market and creating jobs in Clackamas County related to the CLT market and through our county timber harvest.

Brent asked Andrew about the process of moving the RFQ forward for a logger so that we have that piece moving forward in conjunction with developing a harvest plan, getting the public meetings done, etc. Andrew and Rick agreed they will start work on the RFQ.

Brent would like to see us get this plan moving so we have leeway on when we put out the sales and can do so as the log prices are at a high. Dan's recommendation with the public was to do as many personal tours of the sale site, or to at least go out and meet with them if it is requested.

Dan moved to approve the 5 year harvest plan as presented. Bill seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Humbertston left the meeting at 7pm.

3. Carbon Credit Capture

Bill approached Rick and Andrew recently about an opportunity to gain revenue for carbon credits. David Ford with L & C Carbon, LLC and Bill met with Rick and Andrew and discussed the certification process. Andrew gave an example of the City of Astoria and what they did to gain revenues from carbon credits. The main requirement is that you can't harvest more than you are growing. There was discussion about the pros and cons of doing this. Brent was very familiar with this as Brent's company was involved in the inventory process for the City of Astoria. There is money involved in setting this up and then there are restrictions placed on how you manage your program.

Andrew noted that we have over 50% of our stands in 20yrs and younger so this is where we would gain our most volume. Board consensus was if we are growing more than cutting it will generate a revenue stream.

Rick noted if we are able to buy more timber acres and gain returns from carbon on the young stands then the numbers may come out in our favor. This shows good will to the community towards helping with climate change and banking revenue from the carbon credits. Additionally, this approach could help us meet revenues for capital projects.

Bill's thoughts are if we have 50% of our timber in 20 yrs and less, it seems like it would be good to get more information on this program, and evaluate the cost to the county. Andrew noted we also have 1,000 acres in parks that is not in the inventory that we could use for this program as well.

Bill spoke about some of the differences between the public and private carbon credit markets and the requirements of each program.

FAB would like David Ford to come to a meeting and present on this topic. Andrew will arrange for a presentation.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm

Next meeting TBA