



NEOSWA – November Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 9th, 2023 (In-Person or Zoom)

Attendees:

Jack Kleinhoff (Vice President), Jacob Putney (Secretary), Debi Lorence (Board Member), Maurizio Valerio (Board Member), Alyssa Cudmore (Board Member), Brian Rabe (Treasurer-elect), Jana Peterson, Bob Parker

Called to Order: 5:58 PM

Meeting Minutes:

- Welcome & Introductions
- Treasurer's Report
 - Randy reported a current bank account balance of \$7,244.44.
- Treasurer Position & Bank Account Transition – In order to officially transition the Treasurer Position and update the Chapter name and match our new EIN on our bank account, we need to close out current account & open a new one. A discussion was held, and the following decisions were approved:
 - Close our current account and continue using Umpqua Bank for Chapter Business
 - Properly Motioned – *Debi Lorence*
 - Seconded – *Jacob Putney*
 - Voting was held and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Open a new account at Umpqua Bank under the Chapter name, *Northeast Oregon Small Woodlands Association*, using our new EIN number, as well as transfer the funds from the old account to the new account.
 - Properly Motioned – *Jack Kleinhoff*
 - Seconded – *Brian Rabe*
 - Voting was held and the motion passed unanimously.
 - There shall be three signers for the new bank account: Paul Harlan, Brian Rabe, and Jack Kleinhoff.
 - Properly Motioned – *Debi Lorence*
 - Seconded – *Jana Peterson*
 - Voting was held and the motion passed unanimously.
- Jacob will prepare the necessary documents and provide them to Randy Guyer and Brian Rabe to move forward with these decisions and the official transition of the Treasurer Position.
- NEOSWA & Firewise Partnership – *Debi Lorence*
 - Debi proposed an informal partnership with Firewise Communities in NE Oregon to support and combine our efforts in terms of events, resources, and educational programs. Debi noted there are now 15+ Firewise Communities in the region and that the program is landowner-driven, "neighbor-to-neighbor" similar to OSWA.
 - A discussion was held, noting that this would be a great opportunity to connect with other landowners, is an opportunity to recruit new members, and makes sense given that the same folks typically are involved with both groups.



- Discussed inviting the local Firewise Community to events, depending on location, and partner on events where most appropriate.
- Debi indicated that folks could reach out to Alyssa Cudmore for more details on Firewise and the Firewise Communities in the region.
- Upcoming Events – Brainstorm
 - It was noted that smaller tours/events were successful and well received. We should plan to repeat similar events in the future.
 - Suggestion of touring Grant County Manufacturing Facilities (i.e., Prairie Wood Products, Malheur Lumber, Seneca Post & Pole)
 - Brian Rabe mentioned a Solar Bioenergy project that is currently under development near Seneca.
 - Discussed focusing on areas with lower NEOSWA membership.
 - Other suggestions include tours/events at OSU's Oberteuffer Research Forest near Elgin, and a joint event with the Umatilla/Morrow Chapter at the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range to discuss forestry, livestock, and grazing.
- Other Business
 - Membership Structure
 - Now based on only forested acres.
 - Bylaws Update
 - Tabled again for now.
 - Blue Mountain Forest Cooperative
 - Randy Guyer indicated that the Cooperative will be dissolved and liquidated as of November 30, 2023. The remaining balance will be transferred to NEOSWA's new account.
 - Need to discuss what will be done with these funds.

Adjourn: 6:39 PM

Next Meeting: ***Thursday, January 4th, 2024 (Location & Agenda TBA)***

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the November Meeting Minutes of the Northeast Oregon Small Woodlands Association (NEOSWA), held on the 9th day of November 2023. I further certify the Minutes, and the decisions described therein, are true and correct, that a quorum was present, and the meeting was duly called and held. Dated this 15th day of November 2023.

APPROVED:

Jacob D. Putney
Secretary, NEOSWA