



# NEOSWA – May Board Meeting Minutes

*Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

## **Attendees:**

Paul Harlan (President), Jack Kleinhoff (Vice President), Brian Rabe (Treasurer), Jacob Putney (Secretary), Maurizio Valerio (Board Member), Thom Seals, Jim Jerome

**Called to Order:** 5:32 PM

## **Meeting Minutes:**

- Treasurer's Report – *Brian*
  - Financial activity since last update:
    - Received Chapter dues - \$715.00 (Early this year)
    - Paid sponsorship for Pine Eagle to attend Envirothon - \$2000.00
    - Paid (reimbursement) food costs for MERA Tour - \$213.11
    - Balance as of May 27, 2025: \$11,419.04
  - Met with Treasurers across the state last week.
- OSWA Update – *Paul*
  - Discussed proposal to use “Kicker” for wildfire suppression & prevention
  - Discussed SB1061 – Sen. Nash’s Lumber Grading Bill
    - Passed Senate, Currently at Third Reading in House
  - 2025 Oregon Family Forest Convention (June 18-21; Philomath)
    - Paul & Jacob planning to attend.
    - Paul mentioned that Karl Jensen is running for President-elect
    - Future OFFC may be held in eastern OR.
- 2025 NEOSWA Annual Meeting & Tour
  - Irene has been working with folks from Top Road to plan a Fall Tour that we hope to make our 2025 NEOSWA Annual Meeting. Tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Tour would include discussions on the successes of the Top Road Firewise Community during the 2024 fire season, as well as a sawmill demonstration.
  - Irene is currently working on logistics. We might meet at the Monument Senior Center for doughnuts, maybe a quick video or slideshow, and hopefully some words of wisdom from the sheriff. Firewise is what saved the community! More details to come.
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> Events Recap
  - Woodlands & Wildfire (NEOSWA & Union Firewise)
    - Great tour! About 20 attendees. Good mix of NEOSWA & Firewise folks.
    - Rain almost held off long enough, but lunch was cut a little bit short.
    - Showcase of multiple use management at Mt. Emily Recreation Area (MERA).



- Forestry Day (Umatilla/Morrow)
  - Paul spoke with Karl who said the event was successful.
  - Contractors & equipment dealers bringing equipment was key.
- Tree School East 2025 – Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, Baker High School
  - Catalog/Registration available: <https://beav.es/TSE2025>
  - Event is one month away, and planning is ramping up.
  - Jacob encouraged folks to register and keep spreading the word.
  - Will be looking to NEOSWA for assistance volunteering soon.
  - Maurizio suggested Jacob pass this event along to David Duncan at Wallowa HS.
- Other Business
  - Brian mentioned SB485A
    - Clarifies language regarding qualification for a \$15 million state estate tax exemption for forestland owners.
    - Bill unanimously passed Senate and has now moved into House Committee on Revenue. OSWA strongly supports this bill and is asking for member testimony to local legislators.
  - Other Upcoming Events:
    - NE IGNITE Rx Fire Training (June 6-8<sup>th</sup>; Wallowa)
    - Community Workshop (June 13<sup>th</sup>; Halfway)
    - Oregon Trails Day – Booth (June 14<sup>th</sup>; Baker City)

**Adjourn:** 6:23 PM

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM