



**Action Minutes FOR A MEETING OF THE  
ASHLAND FOREST LANDS COMMISSION**

**Tuesday, November 13th, 2012**

**5:30PM to 7:30PM**

**Siskiyou Room, Community Development Building  
51 Winburn Way**

**I. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM**

**Dan Maymar, Jim Berge, Frank Betlejewski, Jeff McFarland, Stefanie Seffinger, Marty Main, Chris Chambers, Albert Pepe, John Williams.**

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 9th Draft Minutes**

Frank requested under the AFP section, there was a request from Kristi Mergenthaller that the Oredson-Todd woods be included in the Ashland Forest Plan.

Several lines below, change common “scheme” to common “inventory”.  
Williams motioned to approve with Frank’s edits. Pepe seconded and all ayes.

**IV. PUBLIC FORUM**

none

**V. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

none

**VI. BUSINESS**

**A. Ashland Forest Plan Revision**

Maymar was unclear about his assignment in the plan revision. Gary Pool had recreation and social section. Betlejewski commented that we have Pacific fisher in Siskiyou Mt. Park and Oredson-Todd Woods, according to the Forest Service’s recent data. McFarland showed Betlejewski around Siskiyou Mt Park. Frank went on a tour with The Nature Conservancy talking about forest reconstruction being done in the Ashland Watershed. Some of that info may apply to City forestlands. Frank talked to Bill Schopp of the Pacific Northwest Insect and Disease Service Center about insect concerns on City lands. GIS files are being gathered from Siskiyou Mountain Park going back at least 10 years. Frank would like to see common attributes assigned in GIS for treatments completed. AFR project has some of this that we could use. It may be challenging to find older USFS files adjacent to the City. Main may have Forest Service historic information. Frank does not want to do USFS land, but to be able to compare the landscape with adjacent ownership. This can help plan and budget for future work. **Chambers will send out the codes used in AFR and AWPP projects.** Williams asked about the timeline. Betlejewski recalled November as the initial date, but that’s been pushed back already. April was the original date for a draft of the new plan.

Chambers will find the original assignments, Williams said the original assignments are in the September notes. Next meeting is December 11<sup>th</sup>. Main has gone out with Bill Schopp about insects on City lands and he's a resource for the City if we can take advantage of his time.

**Berge motioned to make the first round of draft pieces for the December meeting and have a draft of the Ashland Forest Plan update by April. Seconded and passed all ayes.**

B. Input on City Uniform Policies for Commissions

Discussion took place about the various options presented. Although not in the same option together, Commission would like to see the policy allow chair to serve for two consecutive terms if the commission and chair agree. FLC supports the option let the Chair and Staff Liaison know up to 2 hours ahead of the meeting for an absence. The group also supports the option for attendance in #2 for two absences in a six month period. Commission would like to define "excused absence" as notifying the chair or staff liaison at least two hours before the meeting. Emergencies, or "urgent personal matters" can be excused at a later date.

C. Update Commission 3-Year Goals

Betlejewski sent out a draft updated version for review. Frank will resend it to the group for approval at next meeting.

D. Trails/Recreation Update

AWTA put in a picnic table along the Bandersnatch Trail. A "pack out your trash" sign will be installed at the table. McFarland has had problems with the bottom of the Mike Uhtoff trail in keeping signage in place. He's looking to relocate the pedestrian only section. They installed signs to discourage bicycle use on the Lithia Park hillside trails. Jeff is waiting to build the middle section of the Uhtoff trail until piles are burned. Parks has a State smoke management permit but needs good weather for smoke dispersal this winter or spring.

E. AFR Project Update

The big focus in AFR are the two commercial projects. The ground based thinning is taking place in the Bull Gap area above Four Corners. Winburn Ridge was completed already. Weather may stop that operation soon. In the helicopter operation, cutting was finished three weeks ago and helicopter has been flying as weather allows. There have been four days of hauling logs out of the watershed for a total of 70 loads. There's at least that much up there now and hauling is subject to the weather and roads. Only one of five landings have been used thus far. AFR is starting into the burn season, and there's a lot of acres to do—approximately 900. There have been around 500 acres of commercial thinning cut to date between the two operations. Two mills are being used right now. Wood is being made into veneer mostly, with a small amount of saw logs in the smallest sizes. Meeting the Forest Service's utilization standard is important. Pepe asked about post and pole utilization. Main said that in AFR, the market for undersized material that can't go to a mill is difficult to get together, especially in the context of the helicopter contract. Other work may be more conducive to post and pole utilization. The work in the woods so far has been positive in terms of protecting older trees

and the residual stand. There are many pieces to the helicopter project that have to be coordinated in order to have a good end product. Each step has to be monitored for quality. Chambers said that the helicopter will be moving down the hill and noise will be increasing as this happens in the next couple weeks. Burning will start any day now.

**F. Watershed Outreach Plan Review**

Williams went back to the last Chris Iverson version of the plan and touched it up. He'd like to set priorities next meeting. The items include designing a brochure, powerpoint presentation, organize a watershed symposium, art/photo contest, have a work party, create a classroom curriculum or activity and implement a stewardship program. Williams created a Word file from the PDF that Iverson worked on and will send it out for editing. Frank suggested adding a list of accomplished items. There has been a lot of work already done. McFarland has liability release forms from the City. Pepe asked about the education effort. Williams said that this being the last year of Juli DiChiro's contract with the School District, she's been slow to embrace the idea of a unified watershed curriculum. Williams would like to get the AFR education group together to push forward the proposal this winter. Chambers will work with Williams to get a meeting scheduled. Maymar asked that we put it on the agenda for next meeting to finalize it. McFarland described some of the work parties he's hosted in the past, including students. Poison oak is always a concern.

**VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Seffinger reported to the Parks Commission about adding the two properties to the Ashland Forest Plan and the inventory work in store for Parks.

**VIII. REVIEW AND SET COMMISSION CALENDAR / NEXT MEETING**

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: December 11th, 2012

**IX. ADJOURN: 7:30 PM**

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