

NEOSWA - September Meeting Minutes

Oregon Small Woodland Association

When: Thursday, September 2nd, 2021
6:00 – 7:00 PM (Board Meeting)
7:00 – 8:00 PM (Member Meeting)

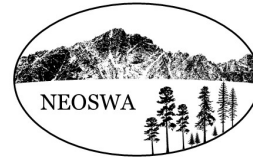
Where: Small Conference Room, Baker County Fairgrounds/Extension Service
2600 East St., Baker City, OR 97814

Attendees:

Debi Lorence (President), Maurizio Valerio (Vice President), Randy Guyer (Treasurer), Bill Porfily (by Zoom)

Member Meeting Minutes:

- One member joined us in the zoom, but there might have been others we missed, zoom was challenging without Jacob's help, wisdom, and support.
- Approved July Board meeting minutes.
- Discussion on future Member and Board Meetings:
 - It was decided we would not meet every month, but we would take the time to focus on finding a place to hold a fieldtrip for members and others interested in NEOSWA.
 - Annual Meeting date, TBA will be in the Spring, hopefully at a field trip location.
- Discussion led by Debi: Fire and the Firewise Program
 - Fire Preparedness at your personal property and connecting with neighbors.
 - Firewise Communities, now 3 in Baker County.
 - Everyone and anyone can start to take action.
 - Contact Debi if you want to learn more: debilorence@gmail.com
 - www.firewise.org



- Open Discussion:
 - Why is OSWA needed or necessary? Three most popular answers:
 - They protect us at the state capital when legislation wants to tax property owners without any knowledge of what landowners are doing.
 - OSWA is one organization that can give free hands-on advice and training to people who want to learn about trees and land management.
 - OSWA brings together all ages and shares wisdom equally with everyone, bringing up the next generation with understanding of woodland practices.
 - Change our focus and marketing from people who own a forest to people who own a tree or care about trees.
 - Add board members from all the counties we represent.
 - How to make OSWA an organization that is well known and brings value to all levels of landowners, and people who care about trees.
 - How do we connect "Cattle to Trees"? Ranchers have property with trees, and the trees are important to the livelihood and health of the cattle. Do we join Cattle Associations in the different counties we are now representing?
 - How do we connect the next generation to learning about "Trees?" Schools, Chambers, Rotary?
 - We need to build alliances with all other organizations that are connected to trees. Share information and resources amongst others.
 - The million-dollar question: Who can do all this work connecting and networking? Answer: All of us, and everyone is needed.

Next Member Meeting: TBA – Planning a fieldtrip with a speaker!