

**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES**

Friday, December 10, 2021

8:30 a.m.

Virtual Public Meeting

**1) Call to Order:** (Laura Maffei, Board Chair)

Chair Laura Maffei called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

**2) Executive Session – Review of Executive Director Candidates:** (Laura Maffei, Board Chair)

Chair Maffei announced the start of the Executive Session for the Executive Director Candidates interviews and discussion.

**3) Return to Public Session:**

Chair Maffei reconvened the regular public session at 1:42 p.m. following the Executive Director Candidates interviews and discussion.

**4) Introductions:** (Laura Maffei, Board Chair and Staff)

Chair Laura Maffei, Vice-Chair Katie Jeremiah, and Board Members Scott Ashford, and Diane Teeman and Linda Kozlowski were all in attendance via Zoom video/phone.

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) Staff in attendance:

Sarah Lewis, Interim Director/State Geologist and MLRR Program Manager

Lori Calarruda, Recording Secretary/Executive Assistant

Steve Dahlberg, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Jason McClaughry, Interim GS&S Program Manager

Cari Buchner, Mining Compliance Specialist

Others in attendance:

Sherry Lauer, DAS Human Resources Business Partner

Francisco Garibay, DAS Recruiter

Diane Lloyd, Department of Justice (DOJ)

Jesse Ratcliffe, Department of Justice (DOJ)

Renee Klein, DAS Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Christina Appleby, DOGAMI Staff on personal time and as DOGAMI's SEIU Sub-Local President

Mike Korten Hof, Executive Director Candidate

Randy Jones, DEQ

**1) 5) Executive Director's Recruitment Decision:**

- 2 Chair Maffei stated during the Executive Session the Board interviewed the two candidates for the  
3 appointment of Executive Director for the Agency, but the name of the selected candidate cannot be  
4 announced until the offer process has been completed. She said both candidates were well qualified

5 for the position. It was a close and very tough decision, and the Board really appreciated the time  
6 and effort of both candidates put into the process.

7  
8 Maffei explained the Board ranked the candidates in order to allow an offer to be made first to the  
9 higher-rank candidate. Pending acceptance of that offer, then offering the position to the next  
10 highest candidate if for some reason the first candidate does not accept. Maffei opened the floor for  
11 a motion to authorize DAS to proceed on behalf of the Board.

12  
13 Board Action: **Ashford moved to authorize DAS to make an offer to the higher ranked candidate,**  
14 **and authorize DAS to make an offer to the second ranked candidate if the first ranked candidate**  
15 **does not accept. Jeremiah seconded. Motion carried.**

16  
17 **6) Review Minutes of September 17, 2021 Board Meeting:**

18 Chair Maffei asked if there were any changes to the minutes as presented. No changes.

19  
20 Board Action: **Jeremiah moved to approve the minutes of September 17, 2021 as submitted.**  
21 **Teeman seconded. Motion carried.**

22  
23 **7) Confirm 2022 Board Meeting Dates:**

24 The Board discussed the Proposed 2022 Board Meeting Dates. The Board discussed the Proposed  
25 2022 Board Meeting Dates. Due to the uncertainty of the ongoing pandemic, a discussion also took  
26 place regarding whether all meetings will be held via Zoom, in person, or both. The legislation  
27 [HB2560] passed last session that will require all public meetings to have a virtual component going  
28 forward was mentioned during the conversation.

29  
30 The 2022 DOGAMI Board Meeting dates are:

31  
32 **March 4, 2022 (Friday)**

33  
34 **June 16, 2022 (Thursday)**

35  
36 **September 27, 2022 (Tuesday)**

37  
38 **December 1, 2022 (Thursday)**

39  
40 Board Action: **Ashford moved to approve the proposed Board Meeting dates as discussed and**  
41 **amended. Jeremiah seconded. Motion carried.**

42  
43 **8) Civil Penalties:**

44 Sarah Lewis, Interim Director/State Geologist and MLRR Program Manager, introduced Cari Buchner,  
45 Mining Compliance Specialist, to discuss the Civil Penalties being brought to the Board for approval to  
46 proceed.

47  
48 Buchner provided an overview of the Morgan Creek (10-0223) Civil Penalty Case for Mining Without a  
49 Permit, including a request for Board Action. She stated the negotiations have resulted in a signed  
50 consent order requiring Board approval, Jesse Ratcliffe is in attendance to provide legal counsel for  
51 DOGAMI in this matter.

52  
53 Buchner said the site, located in Douglas County just east of Canyonville, was first introduced to the  
54 Board on July 13, 2020. On the Civil Penalty continuum of 1 to 10, it ranked and continues to rank as  
55 a high priority site, at around an 8. She stated that at the July 28, 2020 Board meeting the Governing  
56 Board approved a Civil Penalty up to \$196,000 (\$98,000 per respondent) with a potential reduction  
57 to \$58,000 (\$29,000 per respondent) based on mitigating factors.

58  
59 Buchner stated on September 1, 2020 Notices of Civil Penalty were issued to both respondents. The  
60 respondents requested a Contested Case Hearing on September 16, 2020. The hearing was  
61 scheduled to begin June 29, 2021. DOGAMI initiated settlement negotiations and agreed to  
62 postpone the hearing, which was rescheduled to begin December 1, 2021. The negotiations resulted  
63 in the Department approving and the respondents implementing a temporary stabilization plan,  
64 reclamation steps and a timeline to implement them, and a reduced penalty amount that is  
65 contingent upon meeting the terms of the Settlement Agreement. As the negotiated settlement  
66 amount is lower than the minimum penalty set by the Board, this agreement must be approved by  
67 the Board to be fully executed. Jesse Ratcliffe, counsel for DOGAMI, has prepared written legal  
68 advice to the Governing Board.

69  
70 **9) Executive Session – Civil Penalties Review:** (Laura Maffei, Board Chair)

71 Chair Maffei announced the start of the Executive Session for the Civil Penalties discussion.

72  
73 **10) Return to Public Session:**

74 Chair Maffei reconvened the regular public session at 2:19 p.m. following the Civil Penalties  
75 discussion.

76  
77 **11) Civil Penalties Decision:**

78 Chair Maffei stated during the Executive Session the Board discussed the Civil Penalties request, and  
79 opened the floor for a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement as presented.

80  
81 Board Action: **Ashford moved to accept the Civil Penalties settlement as presented. Teeman**  
82 **seconded. Motion carried.**

83  
84 **12) Financial Report:**

85 Steve Dahlberg, Chief Financial Officer, presented the DOGAMI FY2021 Budget Status Report, as of  
86 October 31, 2021, for the Geological Survey and Services (GS&S) and Mineral Land Regulation &  
87 Reclamation (MLRR) programs.

88  
89 Dahlberg said the update is DOGAMI's financial projection for the 2021-23 biennium. Included are  
90 the actual results from July – Oct 2021 and the projection for the rest of the biennium through June  
91 2023. This projection accounts for everything anticipated for the operations of the Agency, plus  
92 increasing allocations in specific areas. The projection also includes unallocated amounts in  
93 recognition of potential changes driven by a new Executive Director, or the outcome of strategic  
94 planning.

95  
96 Dahlberg stated a correction to the projected ending balances for GS&S printed in the board  
97 materials. The projected General Fund ending balance is \$565,100. There was a small reduction in

98 the projected revenues on Other Funds and Federal Funds, resulting in an ending balance for Other  
99 Funds to be \$334,757, Federal Funds to be \$40,547, and All Funds total to be \$940,404.

100  
101 Dahlberg said the Agency will be underbudget. There has been a lot of effort and collaboration that  
102 has gone into the to ensure the projection is reporting all the anticipated expenditures for the  
103 biennium.

104  
105 The projected MLRR ending balance is \$786,135, due to fee increase that began January 1, 2021 and  
106 careful operational spending. At the next Board meeting he anticipates providing an update on the  
107 performance of the fee increase toward the intended 6-month operating balance by 2025.

108  
109 Dahlberg stated there is a correction for the Strong Motion Instrument Fund (SMIF), the dollar  
110 amounts are correct, but it should not have "All Funds" listed. The current ending balance is  
111 \$295,499. There are no projected revenues, as DOGAMI does not know what may be coming from  
112 the large building developers. For Expenditures, the Agency is committed to University of Oregon for  
113 purchasing seismic equipment at 18 new sites this biennium. The Reclamation Guarantee Fund  
114 current ending balance is \$669,943 with 58 Cash Securities.

115  
116 For Business Office activities, Dahlberg said he meets monthly with the Program Manager and project  
117 managers to review their progress and remaining available budget, by using tracking tools and  
118 project financials. There have been new tools created to help the project managers with their  
119 planning in the later stages of the grant to help ensure success and staying within their budget. The  
120 project managers appreciate the information and support from the Business Office.

121  
122 The Business Office has documented and presented to the Leadership Team three of our current  
123 processes: Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, and TED's (travel reimbursement). They will use  
124 the comments received to update the process flows and documentation, and the revisions will then  
125 be represented for approval; once approved, the Business Office will present to staff.

126  
127 Dahlberg discussed the GS&S Budget Status Report numbers, which have been broken down for  
128 General Fund, Other Funds, Federal Funds, and All Funds. It is color coded for the budget (cream);  
129 actuals spent for July-October 2021 (blue); the percentage of actuals spent to date (orange);  
130 projection for remainder of the biennium (yellow); combined actuals (blue) and projected (yellow) to  
131 represent the full entire biennium (salmon); which is then compared to the percentage of the budget  
132 (green). He explained the MLRR Budget Status Report has the color-coding format, but with Other  
133 Funds as the only funding source due to being fee based. Included in these projections are the  
134 15.51% indirects from MLRR.

135  
136 Dahlberg said included in the General Fund projection, besides the mandatory expenditures, are  
137 discretionary amounts earmarked for publicity and public outreach, grant preparation, web site  
138 upgrade, consulting for the strategic planning initiative, replacement of aging technology, and  
139 employee training. This projection demonstrates there is capacity for considering grants that may  
140 have a match requirement and/or less than full indirects, as well as including potentially critical  
141 scientific work that is not grant funded. In anticipation of a new Executive Director, there is also  
142 flexibility for their input in planning DOGAMI's discretionary spending in the biennium.

143

144 Dahlberg stated he likes to look at the total, large categories of Personnel Services, and Service and  
145 Supplies; some lines are a little high and some are low; and during the next budgeting sequence he  
146 will try to tune the budget to be a little more representative of the Agency's actual expenditure style.  
147

148 Chair Maffei asked if the Federal Funds projected ending balance is expected to be low because of  
149 cost reimbursement. Dahlberg said that is correct. In fact, the Agency ended on a very small  
150 negative balance at the end of the last biennium because it is on a reimbursement basis and  
151 frequently personnel costs are expended and recovered later, which is similar to lidar expenses for  
152 supply and operations that are collected from the funders to pay for them.  
153

154 Dahlberg reviewed the charts/graphs associated with the budget information just shown in a  
155 different format, with one set continuing to display the running balance and a new set of graphs  
156 being the monthly activity.  
157

158 Dahlberg said the lidar program for 21-23 biennium will have approximately \$1.3 million from FEMA,  
159 \$1.1 million from USGS, and \$748,000 from BLM. Lidar projects are in three phases, which are  
160 invoiced as completed over time: 40% at first flight, 30% at first arrival of data for QAQC work, and  
161 30% at completion and acceptance of data. When a phase is completed, the vendor sends their  
162 invoice, DOGMAI collects the money from the project funders, then DOGMAI pays the invoice. There  
163 are currently eight projects, which two have been submitted but we are waiting approval from USGS.  
164 Every year the lidar consortium pursues new projects and funders, DOGAMI will continue doing so  
165 and will update its project list, funders, and projections.  
166

167 Ashford asked if the lidar projects require match. Dahlberg explained there is no match from General  
168 Fund, but contributions from other partners can be used as match for larger projects such as USGS.  
169

170 Board Action: **Teeman moved to accept the Budget Status Report as presented. Jeremiah**  
171 **seconded. Motion carried.**  
172

### 173 **13) Director's Report:**

174 Interim Director Lewis began with a staffing update by formally introducing Jason McClaughry as the  
175 Interim GS&S Program Manager. He is the DOGAMI Eastern Oregon Regional Geologist in Baker City  
176 and lead for the agency's geologic mapping program (STATEMAP). He is a Registered Geologist and  
177 has 20 years of research experience focused on mapping and detailing the physical volcanology,  
178 sedimentology, and structure/tectonics of a number of volcanic provinces in British Columbia,  
179 Washington, and Oregon. Since 2004, much of his work with DOGAMI has focused on the detailed  
180 mapping of Oregon's complex geology, providing a framework for understanding and managing  
181 groundwater resources, geologic hazards, and mineral and energy resources.  
182

183 Lewis said McClaughry previously served in the role of rotational supervisor for GS&S between 2016  
184 and 2018. He currently has flexibility in his workload, allowing him to take on the GS&S Program  
185 Manager responsibilities without jeopardizing any grant timelines. She sincerely appreciated his  
186 willingness to jump in and help out after the departure of Bob Houston, who moved on to a new  
187 position in private industry at the end of November. She formally recognized Houston for his 21  
188 years of service to DOGAMI, most recently as GS&S Program Manager and Legislative Coordinator.  
189 The Agency has already opened the recruitment for a permanent GS&S Program Manager; set to  
190 close on January 3rd. Chair Maffei thanked Jason for stepping up, stating the Board appreciates it.

191  
192 Additionally, Lewis stated that DOGAMI is in the middle of first round interviews for a Public Affairs  
193 Coordinator, a position that has been vacant since June, and two additional position recruitments  
194 open for geologist positions at the NRS4 level; a Lidar Coordinator and Remote Sensing Geologist for  
195 GS&S, vacant since October, and a Reclamationist and Mining Geologist for MLRR; both of those  
196 postings close December 21st.

197  
198 Lewis said the reclamationist position recruitment is open because Ben Mundie is retiring from  
199 DOGAMI at the end of December. She formally recognized Mundie’s efforts on behalf of the Agency,  
200 most recently as Tribal Liaison and DOGAMI representative on the state’s Environmental Justice Task  
201 Force, as well as his 27 ¾ years of service to MLRR as a reclamationist. Lewis stated Mundie is often  
202 praised for his communication style and ability to bring disparate groups together to find solutions.  
203 In addition to a new director, she hopes to welcome new DOGAMI employees in these four positions  
204 in January and February 2022.

205  
206 Lewis stated the Board Agenda did not include specific time for the Program Reports, but the written  
207 materials were included in the Board Packet. They include the GS&S Update Summary, the MLRR  
208 Permit Status Summary, and ENGAGe Fall 2021 Newsletter. Please note, the ENGAGe Fall 2021  
209 Edition newsletter that is also available online: <https://www.oregongeology.org/mlrr/engage.htm>

210  
211 **Grassy Mountain**

212 Lewis said one update that she routinely provided as MLRR Program Manager, that is not included in  
213 the MLRR written report, is for the Grassy Mountain Gold Mine Project. Since the last Board  
214 meeting, the applicant, Calico Resources, has submitted a revised Baseline Data Report, and held a  
215 field visit to the proposed project site in Eastern Oregon. She stated at this time DOGAMI has not  
216 received a revised consolidated application for the project, although the Program understands that  
217 the applicant intends to submit this soon. DOGAMI is coordinating with its technical contractors and  
218 state agency partners on the review of the submitted Baseline Data Reports for Groundwater and  
219 Geochemistry, and anticipates scheduling Technical Review Team meetings during the first few  
220 months of 2022 to discuss approval of those reports; they are continuing to make progress. Monthly  
221 meetings with Calico Leadership and overall project coordination remain positive and productive.

222  
223 **Agency Report:**

224 Lewis said at the September Board meeting she outlined four focus areas for the Leadership Team  
225 while the Agency is between permanent Directors. Those areas were: monitoring the budget,  
226 meeting key legislative requirements, implementing necessary state initiatives, and keeping lines of  
227 communication open. She can confidently say the Leadership Team is meeting those basic goals. She  
228 limited her comments to provide updates in two areas – ePermitting and DOGAMI Reopening.

229  
230 MLRR ePermitting: In response to a budget note from the legislature, this summer and fall DOGAMI  
231 scoped the feasibility of coordinating with Department of Environmental Quality to host ePermitting  
232 services for MLRR on DEQ’s new online permitting platform (EDMS or Your DEQ Online). As delivered  
233 in a budget note response to the Legislative Fiscal Office at the end of October, DOGAMI and DEQ  
234 determined that there are significant advantages to this approach from the substantial savings of  
235 time and the cost of eliminating duplicative project coordination and contracting processes that have  
236 already been completed by DEQ. Integration of the projects would save state resources, and reduce  
237 risk due to DEQ’s platform having already demonstrated its ability to meet the state’s needs. The

238 proposed vendor, enfoTech, prepared a quote and solution to include a DOGAMI-branded entry  
239 portal, with segregated data architecture to avoid permittee and public confusion between the DEQ  
240 and DOGAMI permitting platforms. However, the initial cost estimate from the vendor for  
241 development and implementation of the system is over \$1 million, with system hosting and support  
242 services of \$160,000 per year for the next 5 years. This estimate is only vendor costs and does not  
243 include internal costs to DOGAMI, such as staffing, project implementation, training, IT upgrades, or  
244 changes in staffing positions going forward.

245  
246 Lewis stated because of the significant costs associated with a large-scale IT modernization effort,  
247 realizing DOGAMI's ePermitting project will likely require legislative action. The project team for this  
248 work and Agency's advisors have identified specific next steps to position DOGAMI for developing a  
249 Policy Option Package or Legislative Concept for the 23-25 biennium to fund this initiative. She  
250 anticipates the next Board meeting will include preliminary information for Board consideration  
251 about DOGAMI's 2023-2025 policy proposals and Agency Request Budget (ARB).

252  
253 Kozlowski asked if DOGAMI has calculated what the savings would be with ePermitting. Lewis said  
254 yes, in their initial business case they did scope out what the staff efficiency savings would be in the  
255 way of hours not spent on paper permitting, which would be realized more in freeing up staff time.  
256 There would not actually be a savings in cost per se. MLLR does have an estimate of that and it will  
257 be wrapped into the full project proposal, which is the next step to move forward to look at what will  
258 the program need for project management and implementation; where is the staff time shift that  
259 they could allocate toward working on the ePermitting and making sure they are balancing it  
260 realistically with the time that will be required to maintain ePermitting and have a different type of  
261 customer service in order to ensure permittees can access and interact with the information as  
262 needed. Kozlowski said that helped answer her question.

263  
264 **DOGAMI's reopening plan:**

265 Lewis stated this discussion came up earlier with respect to Board meetings and whether or not the  
266 Agency would be able to host them in person or online. As mentioned, there was legislation passed  
267 last session that will require all public meetings to have a virtual component going forward [HB2560].  
268 So even if DOGAMI did choose to hold Board meetings in person, there would still be a requirement  
269 to provide something like the Zoom interface so everyone can interact together. This is actually one  
270 of the challenges that DOGAMI is facing as it moves to a hybrid workforce, how to maintain a  
271 connection when you have some people in the office and some people working from home. It is a  
272 very real concern.

273  
274 Lewis said last Friday, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) released additional guidance  
275 on State office reopening to the public targeted for January 1, 2022, for DOGAMI that is January 3,  
276 2022 due to the holiday. This recommendation was for agencies to establish a work environment  
277 that includes flexible work styles. DOGAMI has been working on a reopening plan since August, and  
278 its plans are in line with the state guidance. For the Agency, a January re-opening will not look very  
279 different from its current operations.

280  
281 Lewis provided extensive details of the plan to the Board. She said relocation of offices or shrinking  
282 office footprints is not under consideration at this time. DOGAMI will wait to have that conversation  
283 as part of strategic planning and once the Agency has a sense of what staff prefer for a remote, in-  
284 office or hybrid work styles. The state enterprise perspective is that the consolidation of offices is a

285 2-3 year conversation, so DOGAMI is not out-of-step with that timeframe, and may include those  
286 considerations when building the 23-25 biennial budget.

287  
288 Lewis explained that when the Leadership Team thought about re-opening, the focus was on the  
289 existing offices and footprints in Portland and Albany. Within those spaces, they considered how to  
290 support the remotely working and in-office staff equitably, while operating within available resources  
291 and budget. This included thinking about how to bring staff back who would like to work full or part-  
292 time in-office, how to provide in-person meeting and collaboration spaces in accordance with health  
293 and safety guidance, and how to organize workstations or shared desk spaces for those who are only  
294 in the office periodically.

295  
296 As the Portland and Albany Offices “reopen” in January, DOGAMI will maintain regular business hours  
297 but officially shift to a “by appointment only” model. This will ensure that appropriate staff are  
298 available to provide service to visitors, permittees, and stakeholders, while allowing maximum  
299 flexibility for those working remote and hybrid schedules. The Agency does not foresee a decrease in  
300 our ability to provide services, but will monitor and track external requests for appointments and  
301 services and adjust if needed.

302  
303 DOGAMI’s staff preference for work situations ranges from those who would like to work fully  
304 remotely to those who prefer to come into the office every day. Similarly, there are some positions  
305 that fulfill a business need that can only be accomplished in the office, to those that just need a  
306 computer and a connection to the Agency’s server, to those that have a position requirement for  
307 field work. There is no one size fits all for DOGAMI, and luckily, as a small agency it has the flexibility  
308 to make decisions about remote work with input and consideration for each individual. While still  
309 meeting business needs, DOGAMI will enable remote work to the maximum extent possible for those  
310 who want to work from home.

311  
312 The Leadership Team recognizes and values the opportunities provided by coming together in a  
313 common space; there are real and tangible benefits to in-person interactions; both for work  
314 creativity and personal well-being. But they acknowledge and celebrate that DOGAMI has  
315 successfully provided its core functions under remote work conditions for 21 months. The Agency  
316 does not immediately anticipate a weekly, monthly, or quarterly requirement for staff working  
317 remotely to come into the office, but this may change at the discretion of the new Executive Director  
318 or Program Managers if it is determined that there is a need for in-person agency-wide or program  
319 meetings.

320  
321 Lewis said going forward, DOGAMI’s plan will be reviewed and revised as needed to maintain  
322 alignment with State Policy that the use of alternate work options: 1) promotes the health and safety  
323 of Oregonians; 2) ensures high-quality work and optimal use of resources for agencies; 3) ensures  
324 that cultural, equity and accessibility issues are addressed in a meaningful way; and 4) supports  
325 flexibility and work-life balance for employees. This approach also offers the opportunity to be more  
326 flexible in the Agency’s interactions with Oregonians and decreases DOGAMI’s impact on the  
327 environment.

328  
329 Ashford said he understands the logic going to an appointment only schedule. They have found at  
330 the university there is also a lot of value in the drop-ins. It is important for the Board that the public  
331 have easy access to the Agency. As long as they are tracking the appointment and drop-in  
332 information, and reflecting on the data, he is happy with the approach.



333  
334 Chair Maffei said, at a future meeting, the Board would like to have more information with offsetting  
335 Civil Penalties with a higher level of reclamation as a strategy and how that might be accomplished in  
336 the future for sites when it is appropriate. Lewis said they would be happy to come back at a later  
337 meeting to present/discuss this. The Department's Division 38 describes the voluntary reclamation  
338 rules that MLRR has, but has not been implemented previously, because Division 38 is funded by  
339 Civil Penalties. As they have developed the Civil Penalty Program, they do have ideas about  
340 possibilities for funding reclamation. The first use of Civil Penalties collected is to offset the cost of  
341 pursuing the penalties and DOGAMI has not reached a point where they have excess funds. To be  
342 transparent, the Morgan Creek Civil Penalties will be coming in a quarterly basis, not as a lump sum,  
343 so there will not be funds to consider for some time to come. Maffei said as part of the next MLRR  
344 report they would like to hear about it [Division 38].

345  
346 Lewis stated that the Leadership Team's focus on improving internal communication has continued,  
347 including an all-staff training in late October focused on trust building, monthly all-staff meetings  
348 focused on information sharing, and coordinated messaging to staff by Program Managers. There are  
349 tentative plans in place for a follow-up with the all-agency trust training in January, with future  
350 opportunities for input from the new Executive Director.

351  
352 Chair Maffei asked if McClaughry had anything to add (gave him the opportunity). McClaughry said  
353 he appreciates the opportunity to serve in the role as long as he is needed. He appreciates the  
354 guidance that Director Lewis and help from CFO Dahlberg is providing him. The GS&S staff are  
355 cranking away on projects to make sure they come in on time and underbudget, and keeping track of  
356 everything they need to do to produce great science for the State of Oregon.

357  
358 Ashford thanked Lewis for stepping up as Interim Director and providing leadership to the Agency. It  
359 made the Board's job easier. He said she has done a great job and is glad she is staying with DOGAMI  
360 after the new Director starts.

361  
362 Chair Maffei added Lewis does not get to leave as Interim Director just yet because there are still  
363 negotiations that need to be completed before a new Director is hired.

364  
365 Lewis thanked Maffei and Ashford for their words, saying it has been an invaluable experience to step  
366 into role to see what is like. She is very happy to be rotating back to her full time MLRR Program  
367 Manager position, but excited to go with a different perspective. She has a much better  
368 understanding of what a Program Manager needs to be doing in support of the Director, the Board,  
369 and the State. Thank you.

370  
371 Briefing: **No Board Action Required.**

372  
373 **14) Public Comment:**

374 Only written comments received prior to or by 3:20 p.m. on the day of the meeting were to be  
375 accepted. Chair Maffei read aloud the written public comment received from Ben Mundie.

376  
377 Comment of Ben Mundie: Good afternoon Chair Maffei and Board members. For the past 40 years I  
378 have been involved in the reclamation of lands disturbed by mining, 12 years in Montana and 28 here  
379 in Oregon. I will be retiring from DOGAMI as of January 1, 2022. It has been an honor and privilege

380 to be a part of the DOGAMI team. The staff is comprised of some of the brightest and most  
381 dedicated professionals I have encountered in my career. The strengthening of both programs over  
382 the past 5 years – even with chronic understaffing – is nothing short of phenomenal. However, the  
383 need for adequate funding for both programs remains.

384  
385 The importance of this agency to Oregon was well illustrated last Spring in the defeat of the  
386 Governor’s budget proposal (HB 5010). It’s importance will only grow as the population continues to  
387 swell.

388  
389 With mixed emotions I will leave DOGAMI. Thank you all for your expertise that helped set the  
390 trajectory DOGAMI is now on. Even with cloudy skies, the future looks bright.

391  
392 Thank you. Stay safe.

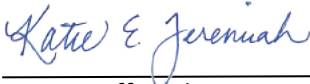
393  
394 Chair Maffei asked to have the copy of the email sent to the Board members.

395  
396 Jeremiah said Ben has done such a good job for DOGAMI. He is a well-respected technical expert and  
397 has really helped industry step up its game on the reclamation side. It will be a big loss and she  
398 appreciates his service.

399  
400 **15) Board Adjourn:**

401 Chair Maffei adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

402  
403 APPROVED

404  
405  , Vice Chair  
406 \_\_\_\_\_  
407 Laura Maffei, Chair

408