



Oregon State Board of Agriculture Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
11/15-16/2023	Eugene, OR and hybrid	8:30 AM	12:00 PM

FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE
Karla Valness	Karla.Valness@oda.oregon.gov	503.986.4554

Meeting recordings available at:

Nov. 15 - <https://youtu.be/uRu5aHBiCu4>

Nov. 16 – <https://youtu.be/loYQvmCW7N0>

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Agenda Item 01 – Welcome and Introductions

Chair Elin Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Introductions of board members followed.

- Board members present: Chair Elin Miller, Barbara Boyer, Bryan Harper, Miguel Lopez, Eric Orem, Luisa Santamaria, Josh Zielinski, ODA Acting Director Bill Ryan
- Board members present by remote: Shantae Johnson, OSU Dean Staci Simonich
- Board members absent: Chad Allen, Randi Svaty
- Others present: Lauren Henderson, Jonathan Sandau, Chris Benemann, Isaak Stapleton, Jim Johnson
- Karla Valness, Regan Coordes, Terry Hamilton, Shanon Hamilton, Bill Miller
- Remote: Sandi Hiatt, Eric Nusbaum, Megan Kemple, Amy Gilroy, Jess Paulson, Tracy Loew, Gabrielle Ugalde, Christina Higby, Lauren Kuenzi

Approval of minutes

Draft minutes from the August 15-17, 2023, board meeting was presented for review and approval.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Bryan Harper to approve the minutes with no changes or corrections. Second by Barbara Boyer. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously by: Barbara Boyer, Bryan Harper, Shantae Johnson, Miguel Lopez, Elin Miller, Eric Orem, Luisa Santamaria, Josh Zielinski.

Acting Director’s report

Acting Director Bill Ryan shared remarks with the Board. He currently is the Deputy Director of Operations at the Oregon Department of State Lands, where he oversees the real property program. He was asked to serve as the ODA Acting Director in September to assist Lauren with the day-to-day operations at the ODA since it has been almost one-year since former Director Alexis Taylor departed. Acting Director Ryan shared that Lisa Charpilloz Hanson has been named Interim Director and will be joining ODA on December 1, 2023. Ryan commented that this has been an amazing experience for him to learn more about the ODA and its programs. He appreciates the hard work that ODA does to support the agricultural producers and promote Oregon products locally and around the world. He thanked Lauren Henderson and Jonathan Sandau, the leadership team, and everyone for his experience here at the department.

Agenda Item 02 – ODA’s Budget and Legislative Update

Assistant Director Jonathan Sandau shared with the board our 23-25 budget has successfully gone through the budget audit process, which means the Legislative Adopted Budget that we have is our actual budget and what we will be operating under for this biennium. The ODA has about 401 FTE and about a \$172 million operating budget with a mix of the different fund types of general

funds, federal funds, lottery funds and other funds which are our fee for services. We are working to implement the budget and hiring positions that we received or have been vacant.

The next Legislative short session will begin on January 24, 2024. We will only have one budget request for the short session around the animal rescue entity program.

During the previous session, the ODA was tasked with preparing a report with some legislative recommendations for long-term solutions for the canola production in the Willamette Valley Protection District. The report can be found on OLIS and will be distributed to board members. The department will also begin implementation work related Senate Bill 85 related to CAFOs. The department will work to draft rules and create a Rules Advisory Committee for review in 2024.

Deputy Director Henderson shared the ODA will begin work on the 25-27 Agency request budget. The ODA will be discussing how to improve our core infrastructure in the agency. We have added several new, innovative programs that assist agriculture; however, our agency foundation has not kept pace with the additional programs. Deputy Henderson welcomed input from the board members and is available to meet with board members one on one if they would like to learn more about how agency budgets are developed. Customer service is very important to our agency and would like to gather input or comments you may be hearing about our core services.

Agenda Item 03 – Updates on grant programs and timelines

Deputy Director Henderson reported on the upcoming set of grants being offered by ODA. He shared that ODA in recent years not only applies for grant funds, increasingly we have become more of an entity that offers grant opportunities to others. Next Amy Gilroy, ODA's Farm to School Program Manager, Gabrielle Ugalde, ODA's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Manager and, Jess Paulson, ODA's Market Access and Certification Program Area Director provided updates on the new Regional Food Business Centers (RFBCs), the new USDA Resilient Food System Infrastructure (RFSI) grants, USDA Specialty Crop Block grants, Oregon Farm to School Producer Equipment and Infrastructure grants and the Oregon Meat Processing grants. The team provided a summary and timeline for each grant. Information can be found on the ODA website on each of these programs. The team also introduced the new RFSI information sheet available in English, Spanish and Swahili.

Resource:

- ODA grant programs overview and timelines
- Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grant (RFSI) information sheet

Agenda Item 04 – Review applications for farmer/rancher position on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

The State Legislature established the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) in 2017 to help address fragmentation of farmland, conversion of farmland to non-farm uses, complex regulations, and planning for generational transfers.

As required by statute five members of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) shall be recommended by the Board of Agriculture. The OAHC conducted an open recruitment period to request applications to fill a farmer/rancher position.

The Board of Agriculture members reviewed the application packet from James Robert Collins for consideration.

Resource:

- Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Application Review

Break

The Board recessed for a 15-minute break and reconvened.

Agenda Item 05 – Public Comment

Board members received no written public comments.

The Board received two requests to provide verbal comments. Terry and Shanon Hamilton provided comments to the board on behalf of "Friends of Gap Road" regarding the opposition of solar projects that are planned for the Willamette Valley on Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land.

Agenda Item 06 – Discussion: Board member perspectives

Board members shared updates from their communities and things at the top minds affecting agriculture they would like to share. Deputy Director Henderson commented on the 37,000 farms in our state and 97% are family owned and worry the number of farms may be decreasing year after year. It is important we identify programs that help with succession planning and to bring along younger people into farming. Our farms and ranches are the backbone of Oregon agriculture, our processors and all the supporting industries are important to the Oregon economy. Other priority issues included “talent” and labor issues, land zoning and water issues, input costs were themes discussed.

Afternoon site visits and tours

During the afternoon board members and ODA staff met with the North Eugene High School superintendent, food service staff, partners, and local farmers to have school lunch with the students and to hear about the farm to school programs in the school district. Following the school visit, board members toured the Camas Country Mill processing facility and bakery to learn about local flour production and their support for the farm to school programs.

The meeting recessed at 5:00 pm until Thursday, November 16, 2023

Meeting recording available at:

November 16 – <https://youtu.be/loYQvmCW7N0>

Thursday, November 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chair Elin Miller. Introductions of board members, ODA staff and guests.

- Board members present: Chair Elin Miller, Barbara Boyer, Bryan Harper, Miguel Lopez, Elin Miller, Eric Orem, Luisa Santamaria, Josh Zielinski, ODA Acting Director Bill Ryan
- Board members present by remote: OSU Dean Staci Simonich
- Board members absent: Chad Allen, Shantae Johnson, Randi Svaty
- Others present: Lauren Henderson, Jonathan Sandau, Chris Benemann, Isaak Stapleton, Jim Johnson, Megan Kemple, Stacey Detwiler, Ed Fine, Arnie Kampfer, Karla Valness, Regan Coordes
- Remote: Jess Paulson, Andrea Cantu-Schomus, Victoria Binning, Lucy, Sandi Hiatt, Eric Nusbaum, James Fraser

Agenda Item 07 – OSU College of Agricultural Sciences – Dean’s Update

Dean Simonich reported student enrollment at the college for the fall is up about 1% and that has been trending at about 2% previously. Overall the college continues to grow in student enrollment, which is quite different than many colleges across the US land grant colleges in part because of the strong e-campus online programs not only within the college, but OSU in general and about 40% of students are now taking some form of online within the college. The college is serving students wherever they might be in Oregon. The college is at \$114 million in research grants for FY23 and was the largest college funding research funding of any other college at OSU. The college is grateful for the support received from all the stakeholders, partners, and the legislature this past session. Dean Simonich reported of the recruitment efforts for extension directors at Madras, FIC and Hood River stations.

Agenda Item 08 – Discussion and recommendation to OAHC

Chair Miller ask board members for a recommendation based on the application review for a farmer/rancher position on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC).

MOTION:

A motion was made by Barbara Boyer to recommend James Robert Collins for the farmer/rancher position on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Second by Eric Orem. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously by: Elin Miller, Barbara Boyer, Bryan Harper Miguel Lopez, Eric Orem, Luisa Santamaria, Josh Zielinski.

Agenda Item 11 – Board Business – OWEB Report

OWEB Report

Board member Barbara Boyer reported on the recent October OWEB meeting in Klamath Falls. The OWEB board has committed \$15 million to restoration projects. The board is now incorporating DEI into all grant proposals, it will not be required however they are

encouraging grantees to include DEI in their proposals. The OWEB board also received an update from the Oregon Department of Forestry at the meeting.

Agenda Item 09 – Lane Families for Farms and Forests

Ed Fine, President of the Lane Families for Farms and Forests spoke with the board about the work and mission of the Lane Families for Farms and Forests. Their mission to work towards preserving the thriving agriculture and forestry industries in Lane Counties for generations to come is their main focus. They work to bring the farm and forestry industries together to help support each other on common issues.

Resource:

- <https://www.lanefamilies.com/>

Break

The Board recessed for a 10-minute break and reconvened.

Agenda Item 10 – Public Comment

The Board received one request for to provide verbal comments. Arnie Kampfer provided comments to the board on behalf of “Friends of Gap Road” regarding the opposition of solar projects that are planned for the Willamette Valley on Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land.

Agenda Item 11 - Board Business

ODA Program Area Reports

Chair Miller thanked the ODA staff for preparing a quarterly report and asked Board members for any comments or questions on the ODA Program Area Reports.

Resource:

- ODA Program Area Updates to the Board November 2023

Work Group Selection for 2024

Board members were asked to email ODA Board Coordinator Karla Valness with workgroup preference for 2024. Workgroups will be determined prior to next meeting.

2024 Meeting dates and locations

Board members discussed possible meeting dates and times for the 2024 quarterly board meetings. The following dates/locations were determined: January 16-18, 2024, Salem area; June 4-6, 2024, SE Oregon; September 10-12, 2024, Pendleton area; December 17-19, 2024, central Coast area.

Newsletter Topics

Status of the newsletter was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM

**Next meeting: January 16-18, 2024
In-person – Salem area and virtual option will be available.**