

August 1, 2022

MEMO

To: State Board of Agriculture (BOA)  
From: Alexis Taylor, Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Subject: appointments to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC)

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Background:

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. The program provides voluntary incentives to farmers and ranchers to support practices that maintain or enhance both agriculture and natural resources such as fish and wildlife on agricultural lands.

As required by statute ([ORS 541.986](#)) five members of the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Commission shall be recommended by the Board of Agriculture. Specifically:

(2) (a) Four members shall be persons recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who are actively engaged in farming or ranching. The members must represent diverse types of agricultural commodities and be from geographically diverse areas of this state.

(2) (d) One member shall be a person recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who has expertise in agricultural water quality.

Current representatives recommended by the Board of Agriculture serving on the Commission are:

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Represents</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Chad Allen	Tillamook	Farmer/rancher	January 2024
<b>Ken Bailey</b>	<b>The Dalles</b>	<b>Farmer/rancher</b>	<b>January 2023</b>
Doug Krahmer	St. Paul	Farmer/rancher	January 2026
Woody Wolfe	Wallowa	Farmer/rancher	January 2025
Lois Loop	Salem	Agricultural water quality	January 2025

Commissioner terms are 4 years with the ability to serve no more than two consecutive terms.

The second term for Commissioner Ken Bailey will end January 1, 2023. Commissioner Bailey is not eligible for re-appointment.

**FOR ACTION/DISCUSSION**

The Agricultural Heritage Commission conducted an open recruitment period to request applications to fill the farmer/rancher position currently held by Ken Bailey. The Commission received the attached two applications for your review and recommendation.

The BOA will need to review applications and provide a recommendation to OWEB prior to November 30, 2022.



# INTEREST FORM

## Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners.

### Applicant Information

**Name** Gary Horning

**Affiliation** Deerhaven Farms Inc

**Occupation**  
 Retired Farmer

**Mailing address** [REDACTED]

**Town/City** Corvallis **State** Or **Zip Code** 97333

**Phone Number** [REDACTED] **Cell or Alternate #** [REDACTED] **Fax Number**

**Email** [REDACTED]

### Applicant Signature

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

### Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

## Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

Born and raised on a family farm near Monroe I understand the issues concerning family farms in Oregon. From succession to conservation issues and of course the day to day business of farming we need to work together to insure the future of family farms is bright.

## Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

### Work History

Part owner Horning Farms Inc 1980-1996

Owner Deerhaven Farms Inc 1996-present

Deerhaven is a 1500 acre farm along the Willamette and Long Tom rivers

600 acres turf type tall fescue

700 acres hazelnuts

250 acre conservation easement

### Past Committees

Benton County FSA

Oregon Processed Vegetable Commission

Willamette Waterworld 2100 (technical advisory group)

Southern Willamette Groundwater Management committee member

### Skills

My family has survived succession in the past and realizes how difficult and important it is.

Having grown crops from mint, wheat, cattle, dairy, beans, corn, raspberries, and alfalfa as well as a conservation easement I understand the changes that happen in Ag and the flexibility we need to adapt for the future.

## Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

Concerns

Inheritance taxes

Out of state corporate farms

Bureaucracy

Labor Shortages

Changing climate

As you can see I listed many things that on the surface do not include fish and wildlife.

I believe the best thing for conservation is a strong partnership with family farms. We truly care about where we live. The same values are needed for fish and wildlife as for farmers to not only survive but to thrive.

## References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

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### Reference #1

Name Jessica McDonald  
Affiliation (if any) Greenbelt Land Trust  
Mailing Address [REDACTED]  
City/Town Corvallis  
State Or  
Zip Code 97333  
Phone Number [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]

### Reference #2

Name Stan Gregory  
Affiliation (if any) Oregon State  
Mailing Address  
City/Town  
State  
Zip Code  
Phone Number [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]

### Reference #3

Name Terry Ross  
Affiliation (if any) Hazelnut Growers Bargaining Association  
Mailing Address  
City/Town  
State  
Zip Code  
Phone Number [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]

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Please send your completed application via email to [april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov) or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program  
ATTN: April Mack  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
775 Summer Street NE #360  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by June 30, 2022 in order to be considered for a position.



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Mark the following which apply to you:

[Redacted text block]

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## To Whom it may concern

My name is Steve Horning, together with my father and our families we own and operate Deerhaven Farms in Monroe Oregon. Throughout my life I have got to see firsthand my dad's passion and intelligence for the land that we have the privilege to steward. I believe his experience and perspective will make him an outstanding commission member. He has always understood the connection and impact that we have on the land, as well as the importance of making sure we are in a position to hand it down to future generations. Through an open mind and dynamic thinking, he has already navigated one generational transition, and we currently have a path for a second successful succession. Through this I believe you'll find he will make an enormous positive impact towards the goals of the commission.

Thank you for your consideration

Steve Horning





COALITION OF OREGON LAND TRUSTS

511 SE MORRISON ST. PORTLAND, OR 97214 • OREGONLANDTRUSTS.ORG

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
775 Summer St. NE #360  
Salem, OR 97301

June 30, 2022

CC: Oregon Department of Agriculture  
635 Capitol St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Letter of Recommendation for Gary Horning's Appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission**

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), I am reaching out to offer strong support for the appointment of Gary Horning to serve as the farmer/rancher representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

COLT is a statewide coalition that works to serve and strengthen the land trust community of Oregon by increasing the effectiveness of land trusts, strengthening public policies and programs that are supportive of land conservation, and communicating to key audiences the value of conserving Oregon's natural heritage and the economic activities that depend on it.

As a multi-generational farmer and an experienced land steward, Mr. Horning will contribute indispensable knowledge to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission as Oregon confronts challenges facing our working lands. The Horning family has farmed along the Willamette Valley for four generations. Gary's father and uncle started their careers as vegetable farmers, and now Gary and his son Steve grow hazelnuts and grass seed.

In 2010, the Horning family worked with Greenbelt Land Trust to place an easement to protect and restore over 200 acres of their land along the Willamette River floodplain. The easement is a model example of how conservation can complement and enhance productive agricultural land. The Hornings used their family's knowledge of the land and farming equipment to help Greenbelt refine their restoration practices. Mr. Horning's commitment to this project helped build trust with other local landowners for similar projects.

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**23 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:** BLUE MOUNTAIN LAND TRUST CENTER FOR NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT  
COLUMBIA LAND TRUST DESCHUTES LAND TRUST DUCKS UNLIMITED FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE LAND TRUST  
FOREST PARK CONSERVANCY GREENBELT LAND TRUST KLAMATH LAKE LAND TRUST LOWER NEHALEM COMMUNITY TRUST  
MCKENZIE RIVER TRUST NORTH COAST LAND CONSERVANCY NORTHWEST RANGELAND TRUST OREGON DESERT LAND TRUST  
PACIFIC FOREST TRUST SOUTHERN OREGON LAND CONSERVANCY THE CONSERVATION FUND THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN OREGON  
THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND THE WETLANDS CONSERVANCY WALLOWA LAND TRUST WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY  
WILD RIVERS LAND TRUST **6 ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:** CLACKAMAS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
EAST MULTNOMAH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT HELVETIA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OREGON AGRICULTURAL TRUST  
TUALATIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT YAMHILL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



COALITION OF OREGON LAND TRUSTS

511 SE MORRISON ST. PORTLAND, OR 97214 • OREGONLANDTRUSTS.ORG

I have personally known Gary for over four years and I wholeheartedly recommend him to serve on the Commission. Gary is a well-respected farmer in the Willamette Valley who is dedicated to shaping a successful statewide agricultural protection program. I am confident that he will be an effective and valuable voice for Oregon's agricultural lands and the natural resources they provide. I urge the Board to consider him for this seat.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelley Beamer".

Kelley Beamer, Executive Director for the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

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### Applicant Information

Name Laura Masterson

Affiliation 47<sup>th</sup> Ave Farm

Occupation

Retired Farmer

Mailing address [Redacted]

Town/City Portland

State OR

Zip Code 97206

Phone Number [Redacted] Cell or Alternate # [Redacted] Fax Number [Redacted]

Email [Redacted]

Applicant Signature [Redacted]

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
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Farmer or Rancher (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)

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Agricultural Water Quality (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)

Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)

Indian Tribal Interests (selected by the OWEB Board)

Natural Resource Value Interests (selected by the OWEB Board)

## Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

I've been interested in protecting Oregon farmland since I first started farming near the edge of the UGB 26 years ago. The 47<sup>th</sup> Ave Farm was started on my double lot in Portland. I expanded the farm by leasing small parcels of farmland across the Metro region. I now farm 50 acres in Clackamas & Yamhill Co. Though my farm has grown in scale, the philosophy is still the same: to grow healthy delicious local food, for local folks. Our organic vegetables are sold to year round through a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program and to award winning restaurants in the Portland Metro region.

In 2008, as a board member at the East Multnomah SWCD, I helped start a program that was dedicated to using easements to protect ag lands in our district. At that point, easements were a new concept in Oregon. Many people across the state thought that the EFU zoning was sufficient to protect our agricultural land base, but as the continued conversion of farmland has demonstrated, strong zoning is important but can't do the job alone.

Farms and ranches in Oregon are challenged by development near urban areas and by conversion to a variety of other non-farm uses. With very few exceptions, that conversion of farmland is a one way road resulting in the loss of an extremely valuable resource. Agricultural lands also support a variety of natural ecosystems including fish and wildlife habitat that can be lost if support is not provided to help protect them.

I have been helping farmers & ranchers come up with creative solutions to address these challenges for many years including my work on EMSWCD, Oregon Board of Ag and the OWEB Board. Given my long career of advocating for ag and natural resource land protection, I would look forward to bringing that perspective and passion to a position on the Oregon Ag Heritage Commission.

## Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

47<sup>th</sup> Ave Farm, Owner  
1996 - present

Member Board Of Directors  
Oregon State Board of Agriculture  
Oct 2010 - Oct 2018  
Board Chair September 2015 - 2016  
Vice Chair September 2014 - 2015  
Chair of Land Use Committee  
Food Safety & Marketing Committee

Member Board Of Directors  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)  
Feb 2016 - Oct 2018  
2018 OWEB Committee Membership:

- Oregon Ag Heritage Program (OAHP) Member of the Technical Committee
- OWEB Board Subcommittee, Operating Capacity
- OWEB Board Subcommittee, Acquisitions

Elected Board of Directors, Zone 2  
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District  
Jan 2007 - Present  
Board Chair Jan 2009 - Jan 2014

## Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

The main issues facing Oregon agriculture are conversion to non-farm uses including a myriad of allowed and conditional use exceptions to the original EFU zoning. Conversions that significantly shrink or fragment farmland make it especially challenging to support the regional ag economy over the long run.

Farmland can provide a variety of ecosystem services that the public cares about including clean water, fish & wildlife habitat, open space and carbon sequestration. Since the Dust Bowl, it has been a challenge to provide sufficient funds to help farmers and ranchers maximize these benefits at scale through additional conservation practices.

Equity is also an issue that the Oregon agricultural community needs to address. Women and BIPOC communities do much of the work on farms, but are underrepresented in the ownership of Oregon farms and ranches.

## References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

### Reference #1

Name Nellie McAdams  
Affiliation (if any) Oregon Agriculture Trust  
Mailing Address [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
City/Town Salem  
State OR  
Zip Code 97303  
Phone Number [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]

### Reference #2

Name Stephanie Hallock  
Affiliation (if any) Retired, DEQ Director  
Mailing Address [REDACTED]  
City/Town Lake Oswego  
State OR  
Zip Code [REDACTED]  
Phone Number [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]

### Reference #3

Name Mike Guebert  
Affiliation (if any) EMSWCD, Board Chair  
Mailing Address [REDACTED]  
City/Town Corbett  
State OR  
Zip Code 97206

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

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Please send your completed application via email to [april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov) or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program  
ATTN: April Mack  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
775 Summer Street NE #360  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by June 30, 2022 in order to be considered for a position.



# PROTECTED GROUP STATUS FORM

## Committee / Board Member

*Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board*



Name Laura Masterson

Date 6/29/22

Department/Committee Board Name: **Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission**

Federal and State laws require the Board to make its programs, activities, and services available to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and sex. The Board is attempting to monitor the selection of and participation by women, minorities, and people with disabilities on its committees, advisory groups, etc.

The following information will be used for statistical reporting only, and is voluntary. **Information obtained will be kept confidential and will be destroyed as soon as the responses on the form are captured numerically.**

**Race/Ethnic Origin:**

**Mark the following which apply to you:**