



Oregon State Board of Agriculture Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
09/23/2020	Virtual via GoToMeeting	8:30 AM	11:30 AM

FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE
Karla Valness	kvalness@oda.state.or.us	503.986.4554

Meeting recording available at: <https://youtu.be/PJU5I7Ha5OQ>

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 (Audio = 0:00)

Agenda Item 01

Chair Stephanie Hallock called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Introductions of board members followed by ODA staff and guest introductions. Guests on-line were asked to use the chat box to sign-in. Guests joining by phone only were asked to introduce themselves.

- Board members present: Barbara Boyer, Chair Stephanie Hallock, Vice-chair Bryan Harper, Shantae Johnson, Grant Kitamura, Marty Myers, Luisa Santamaria, Tyson Raymond, ODA Director Alexis Taylor, OSU Dean Alan Sams
- Board members absent: none
- Others present: Lisa Hanson, Lauren Henderson, Jess Paulson, Isaak Stapleton, Stephanie Page, Helmuth Rogg, Jason Barber, Jonathan Sandau, Jim Johnson, Karla Valness, Andrea Boyer, Angie Smith, Amy Wong, Sarah Risorto, Dave Losh, Shanna Hamilton, Cathy Macdonald, Michelle Blake, Samantha Bruegger, Katy McDowell, Deborah Clark, Lauren Smith, Becky (Berger Seed), Cynthia Gaffney, Julie Chapman

Approval of minutes (Audio = 4:56)

Draft minutes from the June 18, 2020 board meeting were presented for review and approval.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Barbara Boyer to approve the minutes with no changes or corrections. Seconded by Tyson Raymond. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Director's report (Audio = 6:05)

Director Taylor reported on the recent ODA presentation to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources and the House Agriculture and Land Use Committees during Legislative Days. The ODA was asked to provide an update on pesticide regulation related to Chlorpyrifos and the EPA Neonicotinoid Review. The Department established a Chlorpyrifos workgroup in December 2019. A draft administrative rule was released for public comment on August 3, 2020 and the public comment period on the proposed rule has been extended to October 22, 2020. The target is to have the rules finalized by the end of the year. The EPA is reviewing existing registrations and regulation of the use of Neonicotinoids and a final decision is expected in 2021.

The Director reported the ODA submitted the State Hemp Plan to USDA in early August. The USDA asked for additional information that has been provided and we are awaiting additional comments on the State Plan.

Director Taylor shared we have received many positive comments related to the launch of the new ODA brand materials. We continue to rollout the new brand via our digital footprint until existing printed materials like letterhead and business cards are exhausted. The industry has been supportive of the new brand and the Director thanked Board of Agriculture members for their input during the process.

The Food Security & Farmworker Safety program is still open until October 25, 2020. Please share with your networks about this program. Recent program changes expanded to include reimbursement for the cost of face coverings as an allowable expense. The Director acknowledged and thanked OSU and OSU Extensions for the continued partnership to help with the recent distribution of 200,000 masks to farm workers and the ag community due to the wildfire smoke.

Director Taylor also reported on the status of two vacant positions on the Board of Agriculture. The appointment process is underway but has been delayed due to the wildfires. The Director is hopeful the Governor will announce her decision soon, so that new board members can participate in the December meeting. In the interim, Director Taylor has asked board member Luisa Santamaria to extend her term and continue to serve on the board until a reappointment decision is made by the Governor.

Agenda Item 02 - Oregon Wildfires – ODA actions and response (Audio = 15:00)

Director Taylor reported on the ODA's response and thanked the entire ag community for pulling together in response to the wildfires. Since September 8, it has been an all hands-on deck response. As counties began evacuating, animal shelters were being set-up to assist with animal and livestock being evacuated. The ODA leads the state efforts related to Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17, coordinating the state's response for animal and agricultural issues and protection of the state's natural resources in case of an emergency or disaster. The ODA team was mobilized and began coordinating the temporary set-up of animal shelters and contacting other animal shelters to assess the needs for supplies, feed, veterinarian services, etc. In an effort to assist with lost animals with unknown ownership, the ODA IT team created an Animal Tracker Database as an additional tool to help reconnect animals to their owners. Thank you to OSU who took the lead in coordinating feed donations being supplied by the community. To help plan for the long-term, the ODA is working with federal partners to ensure information about disaster support is reaching the agricultural community.

Initial estimates indicate 58,000 acres of Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) ag land are in the wildfire boundaries. We do not yet know the impact on crop land, grazing land, and infrastructure. That information will take time to collect as people return to their homes and farms.

The ODA has created a new webpage to provide wildfire resources on caring for animals, disaster aid due to wildfires, masks and glove supplies and protecting soil after fire. The resources can be found at <https://oda.direct/Wildfire>

Agenda Item 03 - 2019-2021 ODA budget update (Audio = 28:39)

Deputy Director Lisa Hanson provided the board an update on the current biennium budget. She walked the board members through the budget reductions from the 2020 2nd Legislative Special Session held in July. The reductions focused primarily around vacancy savings, fund shifts and other reductions. The ODA has been working to accommodate the reductions and has not had to reduce staff positions due to layoffs.

Resource:

- Agenda Item 03 – 2020 2nd Special Session ODA Budget Reductions

Agenda Item 04 - 2021-2023 ODA Agency Request Budget (Audio = 37:25)

Deputy Director Lisa Hanson provided the board an update on the 2021-23 Agency Request Budget (ARB) which was submitted on September 1. She reviewed the 2021-23 Agency Request summary document and addressed questions by the board members. As part of the 2021-23 ARB agencies are required to submit a 10% Reduction Option list by fund type. The agency developed the reduction options list based on position vacancies and how the agency can look at options not to fill some vacant positions and based on the agency program prioritization list. The State estimated a 17% reduction in General Fund revenue prior to the wildfires. The State revenue forecast is scheduled to be released today. Deputy Director Hanson continued to address specific questions related to the reduction option list. A review of the ODA program prioritization list was requested for a future board meeting.

Resource:

- Agenda Item 04 A – 2021-23 ODA Agency Request Budget Summary
- Agenda Item 04 B – 2021-23 ODA Budget Reduction Options

The board agreed to take Agenda Item 5 after Public Comment then recessed at 9:50 am and reconvened at 10:00 am

Agenda Item 06 - Public Comment (Audio = 1:32:00)

Chair Stephanie Hallock acknowledged the receipt of written comments from nine individuals/organizations related to the current resolutions under review. Written comments were distributed to board members and posted on the ODA website prior to the meeting.

The board received three requests to provide verbal testimony related to the current resolutions under review. Testimony was given by Michelle Blake, Mountain Lion Foundation; Samantha Bruegger, WildEarth Guardians; Amy Wong, Friends of Family Farmers.

Resource:

- Agenda Item 06 A – Cherry Amabisca 05112020
- Agenda Item 06 B – Kelly Peterson 06222020
- Agenda Item 06 C – Jefferson County Farm Bureau 09162020
- Agenda Item 06 D – 1000 Friends of Oregon 09162020
- Agenda Item 06 E – Mike McCarthy 09162020
- Agenda Item 06 F – Oregon Farm Bureau 09172020
- Agenda Item 06 G – Duyck Family Farm 09172020
- Agenda Item 06 H – Oregon Agritourism Partnership 09192020
- Agenda Item 06 I – SEDCOR 09212020

Agenda Item 05 - Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) (Audio = 1:38:55)

As part of the climate change related initiatives outlined in the Governor's Executive Order 20-04, the Oregon Global Warming Commission is working in coordination with ODA, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and OWEB to develop a proposal for the Governor's consideration related to carbon sequestration and storage goals for natural and working lands based on best available science. Cathy Macdonald, OGWC chair presented to the board an overview of the Commission's plan for developing these goals. The OGWC is currently conducting outreach with Tribes and Boards & Commissions to discuss the efforts. A survey will be created and sent to stakeholders in November-December with the target of drafting a proposal for public review and input in March 2021. The proposal is to be submitted to the Governor not later than June 30, 2021. The board asked to be included in the survey group and invited a follow-up discussion when the draft proposal is available. The OGWC will look for continued participation with the ODA to identify and engage with agricultural stakeholder groups related to the survey and continue ODA staff participation in technical workgroups. The OGWC has been working with OSU's Dr. Markus Kleber on this work. Chair Macdonald shared with the board, Mr. Tom Rietmann, owner operator of Rietmann Ranch has recently been named to serve as the agriculture representative on the OGWC.

Resource:

- Presentation "Developing a Recommendation for a Natural and Working Lands Goal"

Agenda Item 07 - Board Business (Audio = 2:10:29)

ODA Program Area Reports

Chair Hallock thanked the ODA program areas for the recent quarterly reports prepared for the Board. She would like to add time on the agenda today and at future board meetings to review the reports and ask follow-up questions.

OWEB Report

Board member Barbara Boyer reported on the September 9 virtual OWEB meeting. The meeting focused on OWEB's budget situation and how to shift upcoming grant cycles as necessary. The meeting also included a presentation from the Oregon Global Warming Commission. OWEB reported a 90% paper reduction since moving meetings and more programs on-line. OWEB board members will participate in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training in October.

Resolution Action Items

Chair Hallock asked for a report from workgroup A and workgroup B on the resolutions under current review.

Workgroup A – resolutions under review

Stephanie Page, ODA Natural Resource Program Director, reported on the work completed in workgroup A last evening and presented the following recommendations from the group.

- 029 – Reservation of Columbia River Water for Irrigation Purposes
Board members of the workgroup recommend to the full board to approve the revisions as proposed.
- 124 – Fair Trade
Board members of the workgroup recommend to the full board to approve the revisions as proposed including a title change to Trade Policy that Promotes Free and Reciprocal Access.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Grant Kitamura to approve the recommended language for Resolution 029 and Resolution 124. Seconded by Marty Myers. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 269 – Board of Agriculture Supports Development of Biofuel Industry in Oregon
Members of the workgroup recommend to continue work on Resolution 269 and will draft additional wording for consideration at the December meeting.
- 275 – Cougar Management Plan
Members of the workgroup recommended to approve the revised language with technical corrections. Discussion followed. It was determined board members would like to continue work on this resolution and review it again at a future meeting. Board members requested a presentation from Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife on the Cougar Management Plan to be scheduled at a future meeting.
- 305 – The Native Plant Conservation Program
Members of the workgroup recommended continued work on Resolution 305 and will draft additional wording for consideration at the December meeting.

Workgroup B - resolutions under review

Board member Barbara Boyer reported on the work completed in workgroup B last evening and presented the following recommendations.

- 155 – Board of Agriculture exposition on Farm Tax Deferral and Urban Growth Boundaries
Board members of the workgroup recommended that the full board to approve the revisions as proposed with a technical correction to the resolution title.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Barbara Boyer to approve the recommended language for Resolution 155. Seconded by Bryan Harper. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 310 – Siting of Agri-Tourism, Entertainment Activities and Associated Activities on Agricultural Lands
Members of the workgroup recommended approval of the recommended language as proposed. The proposed language does not change the overall policy intent of the resolution, but is intended to soften the tone. It was also noted that the Oregon Land Conservation & Development (LCDC) has regulatory authority for statutes related to agri-tourism activities, which is not a regulatory program at Oregon Department of Agriculture.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Barbara Boyer to approve the recommended language for Resolution 310. Seconded by Bryan Harper. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolutions are policy statements by the Board of Agriculture. Members of the public can request the Board to consider creating or modifying a resolution at any time.

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Recommendations

Director Taylor reviewed a memo distributed to board members regarding recommended appointments to Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. As required by statute ORS 541.986, five members of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission shall be recommended to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board by the Board of Agriculture. The first term for Commissioner Woody Wolfe, farmer/rancher representative and Commissioner Lois Loop, agriculture water quality representative will end January 1, 2021. Board members discussed the options to 1) recommend Commissioner Wolfe and Commission Loop for re-appointment to a second 4-year term or 2) conduct a public notification for additional applications for the board to consider at the December 2020 meeting.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Marty Myers for the Board of Agriculture to recommend the re-appointment of Commissioner Woody Wolfe and Commissioner Lois Loop to the OAHC. Seconded by Barbara Boyer. Motion passed unanimously.

A letter will be drafted for Chair Hallock's signature and sent to OWEB.

Resource:

- Agenda Item 07 A – ODA Memo to the Board – OAH Commission

Newsletter Topics

Suggested topic for the newsletter include: overview of Oregon Global Warming Commission presentation, highlights of the positive work ODA has done during the COVID-19 and Oregon wildfire emergencies, overview of ODA's innovative ways to manage budget challenges and constraints, actions taken on resolutions under review, highlight the launch of ODA's new brand.

2021 Meeting Dates & Locations

Board members discussed meeting dates and locations for next year. To facilitate the discussion, the ODA provided proposed dates for consideration, as well as a list of previous meeting dates/locations and known 2021 scheduled meetings or events that may need to be considered when selecting meeting dates. The board selected January 19-20; May 18-19; September 14-15; November 30-December 1. All meetings will be scheduled as virtual meetings until guidance for large meetings/gatherings change.

Resource:

- Agenda Item 07 B – ODA Memo to the Board – 2021 proposed meeting dates

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

**Next meeting:
December 1-3, 2020
Meeting details to be confirmed**