



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of State Lands

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State Land Board

Tina Kotek

Governor

LaVonne Griffin-Valade

Secretary of State

The State Land Board (Land Board or Board) met in regular session on December 12, 2023, in the Land Board Room at the Department of State Lands (DSL), 775 Summer Street NE, Salem, Oregon. The meeting audio and video was livestreamed on the DSL YouTube channel.

Present were:

Tina Kotek

Governor

Tobias Read

Tobias Read

State Treasurer

State Treasurer

LaVonne Griffin-Valade

Secretary of State

Land Board Assistants

Geoff Huntington

Governor's Office

Jessica Ventura

Secretary of State's Office

Jessica Howell

State Treasurer's Office

Department Staff

Vicki Walker

Bill Ryan

Katrina Scotto di Carlo

Ted Bright

Arin Smith

Jean Straight

Ali Ryan Hansen

Linda Safina-Massey

Bree Yednock

Brett Brownscombe

Department of Justice

Matt DeVore

Governor Kotek called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The topics discussed and the results of those discussions are listed below. To view the Land Board (Board) meeting in its entirety, please visit our YouTube page: [December 12, 2023 Land Board Meeting](#)

Consent Items

1. Minutes

Treasurer Read made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 10, 2023, Land Board meeting.

Secretary Griffin-Valade seconded the motion.

The item was approved at 10:01 a.m. without objection.

Action Items

- 2. The Department of State Lands requests that the Land Board authorize the Reserve, through the Department of State Lands' Real Property staff, to complete due diligence reports in support of a potential land trade at the entrance to the South Slough Reserve Visitor Center.**

Director Walker introduced Dr. Bree Yednock (appearing virtually), Manager of the South Slough Reserve, to present the item.

Dr. Yednock provided background information and explained the Department recommendation.

Treasurer Read made a motion to approve the action item.
Secretary Griffin-Valade seconded the motion.
The item was approved at 10:08 a.m. without objection.

- 3. The Department of State Lands requests approval to initiate due diligence for the sale of 80 acres of forestland in Coos County from the Common School Fund trust land property to South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve County.**

Director Walker again asked Dr. Bree Yednock to present the item.

Dr. Yednock provided background information and Director Walker explained the Department recommendation.

Treasurer Read made a motion to approve the action item.
Secretary Griffin-Valade seconded the motion.

Governor Kotek highlighted the value of partnerships with groups such as the Wild Rivers Land Trust.

The item was approved at 10:15 a.m. without objection.

- 4. State Land Board appointment of five voting members to the Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST).**

Director Walker introduced Deputy Director Jean Straight to present the item.

Deputy Director Straight provided background information about the OOST and brief bios for each appointee.

The Department recommends the State Land Board appoint the following new members to the Oregon Ocean Science Trust with 3-year terms to begin on January 1, 2024, and end on December 31, 2026:

1. Cristen Don, Director Coastal Quest (South Beach, OR)

2. Dr. Keith Wolf, U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Fisheries, Oregon Washington Coastal Office (Portland, OR)
3. Ted DeWitt, Retired, Environmental Protection Agency (Seal Rock, OR)

The Department recommends the State Land Board reappoint the following current members to the Trust whose terms end on December 31, 2023. The reappointment is a 4-year term beginning on January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2027:

4. Laura Anderson, Owner, Local Ocean Seafood and former Commissioner, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Newport, OR) –
5. Dr. Karina Nielsen Director, Oregon Sea Grant (Corvallis, OR)

The Board made comments about the OOST and thanked them for their work.

Treasurer Read made a motion to approve the action item.
Secretary Griffin-Valade seconded the motion.
The item was approved at 10:25 a.m. without objection.

Informational Item

5. ARM Annual Report

Director Walker invited Deputy Director Bill Ryan to the table to present the report.

Deputy Director Bill Ryan reviewed highlights of the annual report which provides summary information regarding the management of state-owned waterways for the 2023 Fiscal Year and fulfills the annual report requirements in the state's removal-fill law ORS 196-885.

Director Walker spoke about the increased workload and staff burnout. A recent organizational assessment will help to identify short and long-term solutions to these challenges.

Governor Kotek expressed her appreciation to those working in the field and providing excellent customer service with limited resources.

Treasurer Read asked for additional information regarding the updates to the removal-fill fee structure to protect the Common School Fund.

Director Walker said that the goal is to increase the fees and hire additional staff.

Deputy Director Ryan added that an analysis is under way to figure out ways to increase staff capacity and create a fee structure that supports that capacity.

Secretary Griffin-Valade asked what an Emergency Authorization is, as referenced in the report. Deputy Director Ryan explained that an emergency authorization is the ability through statute to authorize the minimum amount of work necessary to alleviate the immediate threat to property and health.

Deputy Director Ryan continued to present the report, concluding his presentation at 10:58 a.m.

6. Elliott State Research Forest

10:58 a.m.

Director Walker introduced Brett Brownscombe, Elliott State Forest Transition Director, to assist in presenting the item.

Director Walker reviewed the cornerstone principles for the Elliott.

- Public oversight
- Financial obligations
- Protecting species and habitat
- Multiple forest benefits
- Research

Treasurer Read asked about the correlation between “working forest research” and “meaningful scientific research.”

Director Walker stated that the Elliott is meant to be a working forest to provide for the economy and local community, and to provide an opportunity for scientific research as to how to manage a forest of this size.

Governor Kotek thanked OSU for their involvement up to this point and is confident that although they have made the choice that they will not be managing the forest, they will still be a partner from the science end of this. She stated that these principles have shaped where we are today, and we just need to figure out how to continue to meet them.

Director Walker took a moment to acknowledge a letter received from the Confederated Tribes of Coos Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI) regarding the forest. She stated that Tribal engagement continues to be an important part of the path forward.

Director Walker continued the presentation by reviewing the key actions for the pathway to the Elliott State Research Forest.

- Implement management structure
- Establish oversight structure
- Finalize viable budget
- Finalize forest management plan
- Complete habitat conservation plan (HCP)
- Explore research partnerships

11:28 a.m.

Treasurer Read commented that he doesn't see a reason for a big change in direction. Secretary Griffin-Valade agreed.

Governor Kotek stated that financial viability is really important, and that the HCP needs to be completed. The forest needs to be self-sustaining, either by timber harvest or a carbon project.

11:42 a.m.

Brett added that we need clear direction from the Board as to their preference on how to move forward with the HCP and asked them to confirm that in lieu of pursuing a higher timber harvest, the path forward for the HCP would be to embed a carbon project.

Treasurer Read stated that he would agree with that statement but would like more information on what the carbon project will look like.

11:48 a.m.

Treasurer Read asked if the revisions that are necessary will delay us in receiving approval of the HCP.

Brett responded that we should be able maintain the schedule and expect issuance of federal incidental take permits tied to the HCP later in 2024.

The Board expressed their support of the plan moving forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.



Tina Kotek, Governor



Vicki L. Walker, Director