



# Oregon State Board of Agriculture Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
12/01/2021	Virtual	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/KhpkUIH0doY>

**Wednesday, December 1, 2021 (Audio = 0:00)**

## Agenda Item 01

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

- Board members present: Chair Bryan Harper, Vice-chair Luisa Santamaria, Chad Allen, Barbara Boyer, Shantae Johnson, Elin Miller, Josh Zielinski, ODA Director Alexis Taylor, OSU Dean Alan Sams
- Board member excused: Randi Svaty
- Others present: Lauren Henderson, Jess Paulson, Isaak Stapleton, Rusty Rock, Chris Benemann, Sunny Summers, Jonathan Sandau, Jim Johnson, Karla Valness, Andrea Cantu-Schomus, Qiddist Ashé, Dave Losh, Tiffany Monroe, Hilary Foote, Cassi Newton, Nicole Mann, Tammy Dennee, Tracy Loew, Sherri Noxel, Tiffany Bennett, Nellie McAdams, Shannon Hoehna, Anaka, Katie Murray, Tami Kerr, Eric Orem, Mateusz Perkowski, Les Ruark

## Approval of minutes (Audio = 07:38)

Draft minutes from the September 15, 2021, board meeting was presented for review and approval.

### MOTION:

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

## Director's report (Audio = 08:11)

Director Taylor shared recent staff changes at the ODA. Lauren Henderson has been appointed as the Deputy Director and Isaak Stapleton has been appointed as the Program Director for the ODA Natural Resource Programs. In addition, Chris Benemann has been selected to be the interim Program Director for Plant Programs and the agency is in the process of recruiting for the Food Safety/Animal Health Program Director currently filled by interim Program Director Rusty Rock.

Agencies continue to prepare to re-open state buildings to the public on January 1, 2022. Most staff will continue to work remotely or will plan to work a hybrid schedule of office and remote work. We are planning for in-person meetings next year which will include a hybrid option for virtual participation.

The announcement by the Governor's office of the new Board of Agriculture members should be made this week. Anticipate the new members will be at the next meeting.

Governor Kate Brown has called a special legislative session on December 13. On the agenda will be rent assistance programs and a disaster relief package.

#### **Proposed Portland Water Bureau Project Update (Audio = 19:17)**

ODA's Land Use & Water Planning Coordinator Jim Johnson continues to monitor the proposed project and has made a visit to the proposed site. The proposed site is in a high-density nursery area on high quality agricultural land. The City of Portland has a target date of Spring 2022 to file an application with Multnomah County for the proposed project. Once an application has been filed and open for public comment the Board workgroup will convene as necessary for an update.

#### **Agenda Item 02 – Oregon Department of Agriculture budget and legislative updates (Audio = 22:07)**

Deputy Director Lauren Henderson discussed the ODA's 2021-2023 budget. This budget is one of the best the agency has had in a long time. The agency budget is at \$143 million with approximately one-half of the budget supported by Other Funds. Lottery Funding is back to previous levels. The agency has hired new staff in many areas and is working to fill vacant positions. The agency is working to implement programs and resources from the Legislative session. Deputy Henderson also reported the agency is beginning work on the 2023-2025 budget development and legislative concepts are typically due in April 2022. The ODA plans to engage stakeholders with ideas around legislative concepts and program package options for input. During the upcoming February 2022 short legislative session, the agency will provide updates as requested. We anticipate discussions around hemp and cannabis to continue.

#### **Agenda Item 03 – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (Audio = 39:06)**

Nellie McAdams and Chad Allen gave an update on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) established in 2017 to develop programs to protect farm and ranch land, keep it in production and enhance its natural resources which includes four grant programs 1) working land easements 2) conservation management plans 3) succession planning and 4) technical assistance. The OAHP is administered by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and is ready to be implemented but has yet to be funded.

Shantae Johnson provided an update to the board on the Black Oregon Land Trust (BOLT) program. The BOLT program will acquire land for Black farmers & land tenders to steward with security. These efforts will preserve agricultural practices, enable Black farmers to provide fresh, healthy food for their family's communities, and build generational wealth and equity.

Director Taylor shared the Board's policy statement on Working Lands Conservation Easements is available in Resolution 315. All active Board of Agriculture Resolutions are available on the ODA website.

#### **Resource:**

- Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program information sheet
- Oregon Agricultural Trust presentation

- Black Oregon Land Trust presentation

#### **Agenda Item 04 - Public Comment (Audio = 01:13:55)**

Chair Bryan Harper announced no written comments and no requests to provide verbal comments were received for this meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 05 – Oregon Department of Agriculture Program Area Overview and Updates (Audio = 01:14:25)**

ODA Program Directors provided an overview of the four programs areas at the ODA. Program Areas include Food Safety and Animal Health; Natural Resources; Market Access and Certification and Plant Protection and Conservation. Director Taylor gave a brief overview of the Director’s Office/Administrative Services area that includes agency policy and legislative work, communications, financial services, information systems, business operations and human resources.

Resource:

- ODA Program Area Overview presentation

#### **Agenda Item 06 - Board Business (Audio = 02:02:11)**

##### OWEB Report

Barbara Boyer reported on the October 26-27 meeting. During the meeting, grant funds were awarded for open solicitation grants and land acquisition grants. OWEB is working on their Biennial Report. As Co-chair of OWEB, Barbara served on the hiring panel for a contractor to conduct DEI training with the OWEB board and staff starting in 2022. The OWEB board is discussing how to use the climate lens in the grant application process and gathering input from grantees on the process. Barbara welcomed Executive Director Lisa Charpiloz Hanson and Deputy Director Stephanie Page and looks forward to working with them in their new roles at OWEB.

##### Resolution Workgroups for 2022

Board members were asked to select a workgroup to review Resolutions under review in 2022. Board members not in attendance were added to a workgroup and new board members will be added when new members are appointed.

Workgroup A – Chad Allen, Bryan Harper, Elin Miller, Luisa Santamaria, new board member

Workgroup B – Barbara Boyer, Shantae Johnson, Randi Svaty, Josh Zielinski, new board member

##### Newsletter Topics

Suggested topics for the Board newsletter included: Ag Heritage Program, ODA Hemp Program updates, ODA Program Areas and recent ODA staffing changes.

##### 2022 Meeting dates and locations

Meeting dates and locations were selected for 2022. Meetings will be scheduled for in-person with a virtual option and are subject to change prior to each meeting.

February 1-3, 2022 – Salem, OR

May 3-5, 2022 – Corvallis, OR

August 16-18, 2022 – Eastern Oregon (location to be determined)

November 15-17, 2022 – Portland area (location to be determined)

**Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.**

**Next meeting: February 1-3, 2022**

**In-person – Salem, OR and virtual option will be available**