



Oregon State Board of Agriculture Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
02/02/2022	Virtual	8:30 AM	12:00 PM

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

Meeting recording available at:

Part 1: <https://youtu.be/BFWUnVSRrq0>

Part 2: <https://youtu.be/080nxEDepPU>

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 (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 = 08:04)

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 = 08:43)

Director Taylor shared the following updates with the Board.

- Welcome to new Board of Agriculture members Miguel Lopez and Eric Orem. Director Taylor asked Board members Randi Svaty and Shantae Johnson to apply for a second term on the Board and both have accepted. Director Taylor will bring their names forward to the Governor's office for re-appointment prior to current terms ending.
- Introduced new Dr. Mike Badzmierowski who joined the Department about two weeks ago as the Soil Health Specialist. The is a new position that was requested in the 2021 ODA Budget Request. His role will be to collaborate with a variety of other program, agencies, and partners to promote best practices to improve soil health on Oregon's lands.
- During the December Special Legislative Session, as part of the drought related packages, the Department received \$45 million in General Funds for two programs. The Oregon Disaster Assistance Program (ODAP) received \$40 million and \$5 million for Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket suppression efforts.
- ODA just launched a new website. It is a Roadmap for food and beverage companies in conjunction with the Oregon Harvest for Schools Program. It is designed to provide resources for business that are interested in grow their businesses or grow into the school purchasing programs. This will expand the work being done to support our local and domestic marketing programs.

- ODA selected 18 projects to fund with additional USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funds made available from Cares Act Funding to address issues in response to COVID-19 impacts. Oregon received an additional \$2.5 million to fund these 18 projects. Oregon receives about \$1.5 to \$2 million dollars in funding annually for SCBGP projects.
- ODA will be accepting applications starting early next week for the Oregon Meat Processing and Capacity Building grants. The ODA was allocated \$2 million by the Legislature to create the grant program that will support expanding current or building new facilities to increase meat processing capacity and planning to operate under the new Oregon State Meat Inspection Program or expand meat processing capacity for operations that are currently operating under USDA Federal inspection.
- Director Taylor announced her Executive Assistant Donna Mitsch retired from the ODA at the end December. We want to thank Donna for her years of service at the Department and wish her all the best in her new adventures. In the interim, Karla Valness will assist with scheduling while the search begins to fill the Executive Assistant position.

Agenda Item 02 – Oregon Department of Agriculture budget and legislative updates (Audio = 19:56)

Deputy Director Lauren Henderson discussed the ODA's 2021-2023 budget, and the additional funding received to create the new programs and grant programs Director Taylor outlined. With the addition of these new programs the agency budget has grown from the end of session from \$143 million to over \$180 million. In addition, Deputy Director Henderson talked about the additional position we received and the vacant positions that we will be looking to hire. It is time to begin planning for the 2023-2025 Agency Request Budget and it will be somewhat inward focused on capacity issues. We have many needs in our IT systems, data management, security issues, the budget will also include a package for our laboratory programs that will move to the North Valley Complex. We will be developing proposed budget packages to address capacity issues and will be seeking input from stakeholders and board members as we move forward. The agency received authorization for fee increases that we are working to implement. The Legislative short session started February 1. ODA will be tracking a variety of bills and issues during the session. Board member Allen asked about the Agency's position on the Ag Overtime issue. Deputy Director Henderson responded that the agency role is to remain neutral on bills that are not introduced by the agency during the legislative session. Our role is to provide information and data as requested but not to take a position in support or opposition of proposed bills.

DRAFT

Agenda Item 03 – Industry Panel – Legislative priorities and updates (Audio = 34:00)

Industry representatives from the following organizations shared legislative priorities and provided updates to the Board. Several organizations commented on topics related to overtime for agricultural workers, natural and working lands, water related issues, Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program, OSU Extension Program positions, predator control, wolf compensation and many additional topics.

	Organization	Representative
1	Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers	Mike Doke
2	Friends of Family Farmers	Alice Morrison
3	League of Women Voters of Oregon	Peggy Lynch
4	Oregon Association of Conservation Districts	Jan Lee
5	Oregon Association of Nurseries	Jeff Stone
6/7	Oregon Cattlemens Association and Oregon Dairy Farmers Association	Rocky Dallum
8	Oregon Farm Bureau	Mary Anne Cooper
9	Oregon Industrial Hemp Farmers Association	Courtney Moran
10	Oregon Organic Coalition	Amy Wong
11	Oregon Seed Association	Anne Johnson
12	Oregon Water Resources Congress	April Snell
13	Oregon Wheat Growers League	Amanda Hoey
14	Oregon Wine Council	Jennifer Sitton
15	Oregon Winegrowers Association	Jana McKamey
16	Oregonians for Food and Shelter	Katie Murray

Resource:

- League of Women Voters’ of Oregon 2022 Legislative Priorities
- Oregon Association of Nurseries 2022 Legislative Agenda
- Oregon Association of Nurseries 2022 Fact Sheet
- Oregon Wine Council
- Executive Summary Economics of Agricultural Overtime Pay in Oregon November 2021

Agenda Item 04 – Oregon Disaster Assistance Program (ODAP) (Audio = 01:42:25)

ODA staff members Jonathan Sandau and Alan Hanson talked with the Board about the new Oregon Disaster Assistance Program. The Legislature allocated \$40 million to ODAP to assist eligible farmers and ranchers in Oregon who suffered economic losses due to natural disasters in 2021. This State program created by SB 892 was designed to fill in gaps not covered by Federal disaster assistance programs. ODA has begun implementing SB 892, which involves rulemaking, contracting with financial institutions, and creating program details. Target timeline to launch the program is March 2022. The program is designed to be a forgivable loan and not a traditional grant program. Discussion followed. For additional information about the program sign up for ODA email updates at <https://oda.fyi/DAP>

Resource:

- ODAP Fact Sheet

Agenda Item 05 - Public Comment (Audio = 02:15:49)

Board members received no written public comments prior to the meeting. The Board heard verbal comments from Mary Anne Cooper, Oregon Farm Bureau regarding the 2022 Resolutions under review by the Board and the request for additional time to submit comments to the Board.

Break

The Board recessed for a 10-minute break and reconvened at 11:05 AM

Additional Agenda Item - (Audio = 02:35:10)

Chair Harper recognized OSU Dean Sams and shared the announcement to the Board that Dean Sams will be leaving Oregon State University at the end of February. Dean Sams has accepted a position at Texas A & M University. He expressed how valuable the partnerships are between the Board, the ODA, and OSU as a Land Grant University to support the agricultural industry. He also thanked the Board for the great work and friendships during his time here in Oregon. OSU will announce an interim Dean soon to serve while a search for a permanent Dean is conducted.

Agenda Item 06 - Board Business (Audio = 02:41:18)

ODA Program Area Reports

Chair Harper thanked ODA staff for the quarterly reports and asked if Board members had any questions on the reports. Board member Barbara Boyer asked for clarification on the FDA retail inspection work completed under contracts by the ODA Food Safety Program. Rusty Rock, Interim Food Safety Program Director shared the number of contracts with FDA has been reduced from about 700 to 250 FDA contracts. The FDA inspections are done in conjunctions with other routine inspection work. An additional question about the return to in-person inspections and if any common issues/themes developed during the COVID-19 period. ODA has found a higher level of violations in facilities to be sited and a rotation of business practices implemented during COVID. Barbara also thanked the Plant Health Program for the work done to support exports with 13, 000 tests completed for seed lots.

Elin Miller commented on the upcoming work to be done to refresh the Water Quality MOA with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Isaak Stapleton commented that ODA is currently developing workplan with DEQ to update the MOA. The workplan will include opportunities for public comment and comments by the Board of Agriculture and the DEQ Board. Director Taylor suggested the ODA could provide an Ag Water Quality Program 101 update at a future meeting for the Board prior to the review of the MOA.

OWEB Report

Barbara Boyer reported on the January meeting of the OWEB Board. A year-long training schedule started last week with the Board members and OWEB staff and will focus on Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI). During the January meeting OWEB has approved a Climate related Resolution. This is the first Board Resolution created by the OWEB Board. Contact Barbara or OWEB for a copy of the Resolution. During the meeting they received updates on Tide gates, Agricultural Heritage Commission funding and other program updates.

Nominating Committee

Chair Harper asked board members Barbara Boyer and Josh Zielinski to assist him on the nominating committee for Board of Agriculture officers that will change in November 2022. Recommendations will be presented at a future meeting for consideration.

Resolution – Work Group Reports

Workgroup A – Chad Allen, Bryan Harper, Elin Miller, Eric Orem, Luisa Santamaria

Elin Miller reported on the resolutions under review by Workgroup A.

Resolution 107	Priority for Agricultural Use of Water	Workgroup recommends keeping Resolution 107 active. Recommends technical edits.
Resolution 281	Conservation Plan for the Oregon Coast Coho	Workgroup recommends keeping Resolution 281 active. Workgroup has asked staff to provide additional context to the background statement and return proposed edits to the Workgroup for review.
Resolution 309	Coordinated Streamside Management Approach to Water Quality	Workgroup recommends keeping Resolution 309 active. No recommended changes.
Resolution 313	Water Quality Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) and SWCD Focus Areas	Workgroup recommends keeping Resolution 313 active. Recommends technical edits.
Resolution 319	Climate Change Policy Considerations	Workgroup recommends keeping Resolution 319 active. No recommended changes.

Meeting Recording Part 2:

Part 2: <https://youtu.be/080nxEDepPU>

Workgroup B – Barbara Boyer, Shantae Johnson, Miguel Lopez, Randi Svaty, Josh Zielinski

Barbara Boyer reported on resolutions under review by Workgroup B.

Resolution 301	Minimizing Conflicts of Coexistence in Agriculture	Workgroup recommends keeping Resolution 301 active. Hold for additional input and comments.
Resolution 307	Farmworker Housing	Workgroup recommends keeping Resolution 307 active. Hold for additional input and comments. Workgroup asked ODA to contact agencies involved and growers to give a presentation at May meeting.
Resolution 317	Oregon Department of Agriculture's role in the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Rule Implementations	Workgroup recommends keeping Resolution 317 active. Hold for additional input and comments. Workgroup asked ODA for a presentation at the May meeting.
Resolution 318	Siting of energy transmission and generation facilities on agriculture land	Workgroup recommends keeping Resolution 318 active. Hold for additional input and comments.

Newsletter Topics

Suggested topics for the Board newsletter include Resolutions under review, Oregon Disaster Assistance Program, Farewell to OSU Dean Sams, ODA's Roadmap website and information about ODA's new soil health specialist.

2023 Board of Agriculture Industry Report

The Board discussed the purpose of the report and steps forward to develop an outline and topics to include in the 2023 report. Development of the outline and topics will continue at future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Next meeting: May 3-5, 2022

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