



**Virtual Commission Meeting
June 5, 2024**



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

Meeting Agenda

June 05, 2024

Business Meeting	June 05, 2024	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
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Virtual Meeting

The public is welcome to watch or listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming/Recording:** www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA.
There may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86555795990?pwd=RIRSUVZSdS9sQjJEUhQWVF6QStqQT09>

Public comment

The OAHC welcomes written and verbal public comments on any agenda item. Written comments submitted by the deadline will be provided to the commission before the meeting.

Written comments and requests to make verbal comments should be submitted using the online [Public Comment Form](#). The deadline for submitting written comments and requests to make verbal comments is **4:00 pm Monday, June 3, 2024**.

Verbal comments:

- Limited to three minutes
- Will be heard in the public comment period

Provide the following information for virtual verbal comments:

- Your first and last name
- The topic of your comment
- The phone number you will use when calling the meeting.

If physical, auditory, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please contact [Nicole Bettinardi](#) as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Agenda

A. Welcome & Introductions (4:00 pm)

B. [Public Comment \(4:05 pm\)](#)

This time is reserved for the commission to hear general public comments and review the written public comments submitted before the meeting. *Information item.*

C. [Review and Approve Minutes \(4:15 pm\)](#)

The Minutes from the April 30th, 2024, OAHC meeting will be presented for Commission approval. *Action Item*

D. [Working Land Conservation Easement Grant Agreement Extensions \(4:25 pm\)](#)

The commission will consider recommending the OWEB Board approve extending the timeline for satisfying all conditions included in open Working Land Covenant and Easement grant agreements by nine months. *Action item.*

E. Other Business (4:40 pm)

This time is reserved for other business that may come up before the Commission. *Information item*

Contact Information

OAHP Program Coordinator – Taylor Larson

Taylor.Larson@OWEB.oregon.gov

OAHP Conservation Easement Specialist – Robin Meacher

Robin.M.Meacher@OWEB.oregon.gov



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Public Comment

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Submitted written public comment will be published in a supplemental document after the committee meeting and posted on our website here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/grants/oahp/Pages/OAHC/2024-Jun-OAHC.aspx>



Agenda Items C

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commission Meeting June 5, 2024



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes: April 30, 2024

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMISSION

This meeting was held virtually.

Audio Recording at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA

OAHC Members Present

Boyer, Barbara
Duhnkrack, Nancy
Krahmer, Doug
Hoeflich, Russ
Loop, Lois
Lowe, Amanda
Masterson, Laura
Reimer, Jeff
Taylor, Bruce
Wolfe, Woody

OWEB Staff Present

Bettinardi, Nicole
Davis, Renee
Hartstein, Eric
Larson, Taylor
Meacher, Robin
Page, Stephanie

Others

Penberthy, Matt
Vesna Grace Hopkins

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm by Bruce Taylor: [Recording](#)

A. Welcome and Introductions (Timestamp: 00:00:22)

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves and reported on their recent activities, shared information, and commented on various agricultural, watershed enhancement, and community conservation-related topics. *Information item.*

B. Public Comment (Timestamp: 00:08:09)

This time was reserved for the commission to hear general public comments and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting. There were no written public comments submitted for this meeting. The following people provided verbal comments. *Information item.*

- Matt Penberthy, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

C. Review and Approval of Minutes (Timestamp: 00:10:50)

The minutes of the March 20, 2024, meeting was presented for commission approval. *Action item.*

Russ Hoeflich moved the commission approve the meeting minutes as presented. Lois Loop seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

D. 2024-2025 Spending Plan Adoption (Timestamp: 00:12:00)

The commission considered the available funds in order to make a spending plan recommendation to the OWEB Board detailing the amount of money to be allocated to each of OAHP's four grant programs. *Action item.*

Nancy Duhnkrack moved the commission adopt the recommendation of the staff for the spending proposal as outlined in our [OAHC] workbook. Jeff Reimer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

E. 2024 Rulemaking Updates (Timestamp: 00:59:00)

OAHP Coordinator Taylor Larson and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein updated the commission on the process for upcoming rulemaking. *Information item.*

F. Other Business (Timestamp: 01:18:50)

Staff provided a review of components of conservation easement projects and a high-level status update on the first cycle of projects. *Information item*

The meeting adjourned at 4:00.



Agenda Item D

**Working Lands Conservation
Easement Grant Agreement
Extensions**

Commission Meeting June 5, 2024



STAFF REPORT

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

June 5, 2024, Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Meeting



Tina Kotek, Governor

ITEM D – Working Land Conservation Easement Grant Agreement Extensions

To: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC)
From: Taylor Larson, OAHP Program Coordinator
 Robin Meacher, OAHP Conservation Easement Specialist

Background

In March of 2023 the OAHC recommended funding seven Working Land Conservation Easement Grants. Beginning after the OWEB board awarded the grants in April of 2023, OWEB staff have worked closely with grantees to move projects toward closing. Each grant awarded by the board is conditioned on general and project-specific due diligence requirements, which must be met before funds are released for the transaction.

Several factors have resulted in project delays that may result in grantees being unable to complete their easement transactions by the closing deadlines identified in their grant agreements with OWEB.

Considerations regarding Conservation Easement Projects

Conservation easements are complex real estate transactions that involve significant considerations by the entity holding the easement, the landowner granting the easement, and the funding entities. Throughout the process to date, several factors have contributed to extended timing needs for all projects, including: the timing and availability of appraisers to complete the required appraisal reports, complicated conservation easement negotiations, alignment of multiple funders' timelines, and overall learnings regarding the first-time application of OWEB and OAHP statutes, administrative rules, and program requirements to each individual working lands conservation easement project. Recognizing these realities and being mindful of the importance of adaptively managing the program based on learnings, staff believe providing additional time to grantees to complete work is warranted. The Commission will have a chance during 2024 rule making to consider whether 18 months is the appropriate amount of time to meet all conditions.

Recommendation

Staff recommend the Commission recommend the OWEB Board approve extending the timeline for satisfying all conditions included in all open Working Land Covenant and Easement grant agreements, including closing dates, by nine months as detailed in the table below.

Grant #	Project Name	Award	Existing Expiration	Proposed Expiration
223-7100-22521	Seely	\$267,297	10/28/2024	7/28/2025

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223-7101-22522	O'Keefe	\$277,776	10/28/2024	7/28/2025
223-7103-22597	Hagen	\$269,255	10/28/2024	7/28/2025
223-7104-22600	Wahl	\$2,702,395	10/28/2024	7/28/2025
223-7105-22611	Pitchfork T	\$121,134	10/28/2024	7/28/2025
223-7106-22616	Aspen Valley	\$263,779	10/28/2024	7/28/2025