



Oregon State Board of Agriculture Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
01/20/2021	Virtual via GoToMeeting	8:30 AM	12:15 PM

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

Meeting recording available at: https://youtu.be/Z_RmvoWSCSE

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 (Audio = 0:00)

Agenda Item 01

Chair Stephanie Hallock called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Introductions of board members followed. 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: Chair Stephanie Hallock, Vice-chair Bryan Harper, Shantae Johnson, Elin Miller, Luisa Santamaria, Tyson Raymond, Josh Zielinski, ODA Director Alexis Taylor, OSU Dean Alan Sams
- Board members absent: Barbara Boyer (excused absence)
- Others present: Lisa Hanson, Lauren Henderson, Jess Paulson, Isaak Stapleton, Stephanie Page, Helmuth Rogg, Jonathan Sandau, Jim Johnson, Karla Valness, Andrea Boyer, Andrea Cantu-Schomus, Amy Gilroy, Clair Klock, Hilary Foote, Amy Wong, Katie Murray, Sunny Summers, Peggy Lynch, Jan Lee, Les Ruark, Tami Kerr, Theresa Yoshioka, Dave Losh, Karen Lewotsky, Jeff Aichele, Jeff Stone, Morgan Gratz-Weiser, Samantha Bayer, Amanda Hoey, Megan Kemple, Rocky Dillum, Courtney Moran, Tammy Dennee, Emily Ritchie, Jana McKamey, Marcus Wiley, Cheryl Martin.

Approval of minutes (Audio = 7:05)

Draft minutes from the December 2, 2020 board meeting were presented for review and approval.

MOTION:

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

Director's report (Audio = 7:47)

Director Taylor provided an update to the Board on the following:

- The 2021 Legislative session will begin this week. The session is envisioned to look different due to COVID-19 gathering guidelines and will likely be divided into three blocks: 1) Jan-February the Capitol Building will remain closed and all committee meetings will be virtual with limited floor sessions for votes 2) around mid-March some in-person activities may take place and they may allow for a limited number of lobbyists in the Capitol Building, and 3) around mid-April may be back to a more open familiar process. The schedule depends on the current COVID restrictions in the county and the vaccine distribution. All agency budget hearings will be virtual. The

ODA agency budget presentation is usually held early in the session, and we are planning for a virtual presentation. The primary committees the ODA works with in the House and Senate will both have new chairs this session. We are working to meet with them and help them become familiar with the ODA and the issues we are working on.

- The ODA is working to review the USDA's recently released final Hemp Rules. The final rules address some of the items we had hoped for, but some items that did not get addressed. The rules did extend the window from 15 days to 30 days for pre-harvest testing. However, one provision in the rules requires that only DEA certified labs can test materials, and Oregon has no DEA certified labs in the state. This provision has been delayed until next year, but it will be a challenge going forward if some of these provisions cannot be resolved. It is unclear how the new administration views Hemp and it may be sometime before they will address the new rules.
- The Director shared an update on the Oregon Food Security and Farmworker Safety (FSFS) Program which closed in November. The FSFS Program provided \$1.85 million in direct reimbursements to producers during the 2020 harvest season and coordinated with local partners to distribute 4.2 million masks to the agricultural community. 228 producers participated and an estimated 21,000+ farmworkers benefited from the enhanced safety measures. Hood River and Marion counties had the largest number of producer participants. Unspent funds for the program were returned to the Department of Administrative Services who is managing the remaining CARES Act dollars received by the State. A copy of the Program report will be sent to Board members.
- The Director acknowledged the recent resignation of Board member Grant Kitamura and the recent passing of Board member Marty Myers.

Agenda Item 02 – Oregon Department of Agriculture budget updates (Audio = 17:52)

Deputy Director Lisa Hanson reviewed the 2021-23 ODA Governor's Budget (GB). The GB for the ODA shows a total funds increase from \$128 million to \$133 million, resulting from fund shifts, reductions and new funds added to the overall budget. Significant changes in the budget include funding and position changes due to statewide budget constraints including eliminating positions in the Food Safety, Ag Water Quality, Soil & Water Conservation District Program and the Marketing Program. The GB also eliminates rent at the Food Innovation Center for the Marketing Program and adds funding for a new grant program creating Diversity in Agriculture Market Access. The GB also includes policy packages for recommended fee changes and other budget enhancements as outlined in the 2021-23 ODA Governor's Budget Summary.

Director Taylor shared that Governor Brown's statewide budget will focus on recommended investments from the Racial Justice Council, COVID-19 recovery and wildfire recovery.

Resource:

- 2021-23 ODA Governor's Budget summary

Agenda Item 03 – Farm to School Funding and Grant Program Update (Audio = 36:18)

Amy Gilroy, ODA Farm to School Program Manager, and Jeff Aichele, Owner of Aichele Farms and a recipient of a Farm to School Grant, provided the Board with an update on Farm to School Program funding and the new grant program. During the 2019-21 Legislative session, statewide funding for the program expanded from \$4.6 to \$15 million and added three new grant programs, including the Farm to School Producer Equipment & Infrastructure grant program funded at \$500,000 and administered by the ODA.

COVID 19 impacts to the Farm to School program included a \$5 million statewide cut in program funding. Schools cancelled guaranteed orders, funding for the Producer Equipment & Infrastructure grant program was reduced to \$250,000, and USDA activated emergency meals for grab and go meal service, increasing the demand for prepackaged, pre-portioned food items.

The ODA received 35 applications requesting more than \$2.1 million. With the funding available, the grant program has funded six highly competitive projects including Aichele Farms. Grant funds awarded to Aichele Farms will be used to scale up and build on-farm cold storage capacity. Mr. Aichele explained that if he could cool his fresh berries faster he could sell more fruit to schools. Currently Aichele Farms sells to approximately eight to ten schools and believes the grant funding will help him to increase his sales to additional schools.

Resource:

- Farm to School presentation

Agenda Item 04 – Industry Panel – Legislative Priorities and Updates (Audio = 58:00)

Representatives from the following industry organizations provided updates to the Board, including 2021 legislative priorities. Some of the Legislative priorities highlighted by the representatives included: support for the State Meat Inspection Program, support for funding Farm to School and hunger programs, matters related to wildlife management, water quantity and water quality concerns, protecting public and private lands for agricultural use, tax and budget issues, agricultural labor and worker protection, climate impacts, pesticide use, an Oregon State Hemp Program, maintaining domestic and international markets for Oregon agricultural products, wildfire and COVID-19 recovery and support funding for Natural Resource agency budgets.

Amy Wong	Friends of Family Farmers
Peggy Lynch	League of Women Voters of Oregon
Jan Lee	Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
Jeff Stone	Oregon Association of Nurseries
Tammy Dennee	Oregon Cattlemen’s Association
Rocky Dallum	Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Morgan Gratz-Weiser	Oregon Environmental Council
Samantha Bayer	Oregon Farm Bureau
Courtney Moran	Oregon Industrial Hemp Farmers Association
Amanda Hoey	Oregon Wheat Growers League
Jana McKamey	Oregon Winegrowers Association
Katie Murray	Oregonians for Food and Shelter

Director Taylor provided an update to the Board and panel members regarding the status of vaccines for food and agricultural workers. Work continues by the State's Vaccine Advisory Committee to prioritize and monitor the vaccine distribution efforts. Distribution of the vaccine has started with the 1A group – Front Line and Health Care workers, which includes 350,000 to 400,000 eligible workers. Essential workers, including food and agricultural workers, are in the 1B group. There has been some confusion over the past few weeks regarding the number of vaccine doses available from the Federal Government that will be shipped to each State. Distribution priorities will be adjusted based on vaccine availability. The ODA is in regular communication with State leadership regarding the status of food and agricultural workers remaining as a priority in the 1B group.

Resource:

- League of Women Voters of Oregon handout
- Oregon Association of Nurseries handout
- Oregon Cattlemen's Association handout

Agenda Item 05 - Public Comment (Audio = 2:04:30)

Chair Stephanie Hallock acknowledged the receipt of written comments from 13 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 no requests to provide verbal testimony.

Chair Hallock mentioned that the Board has developed procedures and timelines for the routine review of Board Resolutions. Since these procedures have been in place, Chair Hallock acknowledged that public interest has increased in providing review and comment on Board Resolutions.

Resource:

- Agenda Item 05 – Written Public Comments January 2021

Break

The Board recessed for a 10-minute break.

Agenda Item 06 – Specialty Crop Block Grant Project Update (Audio = 2:18:55)

Emily Ritchie, Executive Director for the Northwest Cider Association, provided background on the NW Cider Association and the project work currently being funded by the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funding. The NW Cider Association works to increase the sales of Oregon craft cider, improve product quality and build community. A project funded by SCBGP to help grow the market for Oregon Craft Cider in California was originally designed to carry out in-person activities; however, due to Covid-19, the project shifted to developing virtual events and educational opportunities to create sales and awareness of Oregon Craft Cider in California.

Resource:

- NW Cider Association presentation

Agenda Item 07 – Growing Processing Capacity and Consumer Demand for Local Grown and Processed Meat Products and an Oregon State Meat Inspection Program Update (Audio = 2:34:50)

ODA Assistant Director Lauren Henderson spoke to the Board about the efforts underway to help increase the processing capacity for meat in Oregon, to better understand the current market and market demand for local meat and to establish a State Meat Inspection Program.

The ODA is working with more than 90 meat industry stakeholders to identify the needs of and opportunities for Oregon producers and processors to process and sell local meat. Stakeholders have formed three workgroups: Market Demand, Regulatory and Rules Advisory, and Suppliers. Each workgroup highlighted some of the work underway.

The intent of this effort is not to change business models that currently work for producers and processors but to provide additional options to increase processing capacity, to support local, direct to consumer meat sales, and to support producers' ability to donate locally produced meat to food banks and other community assistance programs.

During the 2020 first special legislative session, the ODA was allocated funding and three positions to start-up a State Meat Inspection Program. That work is underway in the ODA Food Safety Program and the Regulatory and Rules Advisory workgroup.

The Supplier workgroup has identified needs/gaps and opportunities for both processors and producers. Processors have identified waste disposal, workforce, financial barriers, regulatory issues as areas of discussion. Producers have identified the lack of access to processing facilities, lack of cut & wrap facilities, small farms looking to start processing need for information on how to get started, and the distance to processors for different species as areas of discussion.

Next steps will be to continue the work in the stakeholder workgroups, identify resources to help with improving existing facilities or establishing new facilities, and to continue work on setting up the State Meat Inspection Program at ODA.

Resource:

- Meat Inspection Information Sheet
- ODA Meat Industry Stakeholder update presentation

Agenda Item 08 - Board Business (Audio = 3:01:17)

ODA Program Area Reports

Chair Hallock thanked the ODA program areas for the recent quarterly reports prepared for the Board. Discussion followed to address questions from Board members.

OWEB Report

No report provided.

Establish Nominating Committee

Chair Hallock asked former Board of Agriculture chairs Tyson Raymond and Barbara Boyer to serve with her on the nominating committee for Board of Agriculture officers that will change in September 2021. Recommendations will be presented at the May meeting.

Resolution Action Items

Chair Hallock asked for a report from Board Workgroup A on the resolutions under current review.

Workgroup A – resolutions under review

Draft – January 2021

Vice-Chair Bryan Harper reported on the work completed by Workgroup A on the Resolutions under review and recommended the following actions.

- **Resolution 024 – Pesticide Use for Insect Pest and Disease Control**
After review of public comments and discussion during the Workgroup meeting held January 19, Board members of the workgroup recommended the full board keep this Resolution active and adopt the proposed language as provided.
- **Resolution 203 – Soil and Water Conservation Cost Share Funds**
After review of public comments and discussion during the Workgroup meeting held January 19, Board members of the workgroup recommended archiving Resolution 203 and adding relevant language to Resolution 274.
- **Resolution 274 – Board of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture Involvement in the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**
After review of public comments and discussion during the Workgroup meeting held January 19, Board members of the workgroup recommended the full board keep this Resolution active and adopt the proposed language as provided.
- **Resolution 298 – Coexistence of Wolves and Livestock on Oregon’s Rural Landscape**
After review of public comments and discussion during the Workgroup meeting held January 19, Board members of the workgroup recommended the full board keep this Resolution active and adopt the revised language as provided.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Stephanie Hallock to support the proposed language revisions to Resolution 024, 274 and 298. Seconded by Elin Miller. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Bryan Harper to archive Resolution 203. Seconded by Luisa Santamaria. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.

Workgroup B – resolutions under review

Chair Hallock reported on the work completed by Workgroup B on the Resolutions under review and recommended the following actions.

- **Resolution 169 – Need for Documented Agricultural Work Force**
After review of public comments and discussion during the Workgroup meeting held January 19, Board members of the workgroup recommended the full board keep this Resolution active as written with technical updates to farmgate and other statistics.
- **Resolution 266 – Collective Bargaining for Agricultural Workers and Employers**
After review of public comments and discussion during the Workgroup meeting held January 19, Board members of the workgroup recommended the full board hold this resolution open to gather additional input and possible revisions. This Resolution will remain under current review.
- **Resolution 314 – Permitted uses on lands zoned exclusive farm use and on high-value farmland and agricultural land**

After review of public comments and discussion during the Workgroup meeting held January 19, Board members of the workgroup recommended the full board hold this resolution open to gather additional input and possible revisions. This Resolution will remain under current review.

- **Resolution 315 – Working Lands Conservation Easements**

After review of public comments and discussion during the Workgroup meeting held January 19, Board members of the workgroup recommended the full board keep this Resolution active and adopt the proposed language as provided.

- **Resolution 316 – Federal Minimum Wage Parity**

After review of public comments and discussion during the Workgroup meeting held January 19, Board members of the workgroup recommended the full board keep this Resolution active as written with technical updates to farmgate and other statistics.

- **Resolution 317 – Oregon Department of Agriculture’s role in the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Rule Implementation**

After review of public comments and discussion during the Workgroup meeting held January 19, Board members of the workgroup recommended the full board delay further review of this Resolution until 2022 to gather additional input and possible revisions. The current Resolution will remain active.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Josh Zielinski to approve Resolution 169 as written with technical updates. Seconded by Tyson Raymond. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Shantae Johnson to approve Resolution 315 with proposed edits. Seconded by Bryan Harper. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Elin Miller to approve Resolution 316 as written with technical updates. Seconded by Shantae Johnson. Discussion followed. 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. Resolutions are regularly reviewed by the Board.

Newsletter Topics

Suggested topics for the Board newsletter included: Resolution actions, Industry panel on legislative priorities, ODA budget updates, NW Cider presentation, and growing market demand and processing capacity for locally sourced meat products. Work continues on the 2021 Oregon Board of Agriculture Industry Report to the Legislature with a target date of completion by the end of January.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

**Next meeting:
May 18-19, 2021
Virtual meeting**