

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

June 18, 2020

GoToMeeting video/Conference Call

****Video/Audio file BoardofAgMtg06182020****

Thursday, June 18, 2020 (Audio = 0:00)

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Chair Marty Myers. Introductions of members followed by ODA staff and guest introductions.

Board members present: Barbara Boyer, Pete Brentano, Stephanie Hallock, Bryan Harper, Shantae Johnson, Grant Kitamura, Sharon Livingston, Marty Myers, Tyson Raymond, Luisa Santamaria, ODA Director Alexis Taylor, OSU Dean Alan Sams

Board members absent: none

Others present: Rebekah Ramirez, Amy Wong, Dave Losh, Tammy Dennee, Trevor Beltz, Amanda Hoey, Barbara Pearson, Karen Lewotsky, Hilary Foote, Ken Yates, Renee Klein, Scott Hilgenberg, Ann Johnson, Jeff Newgard, Cheryl Ensign, Audrey Comerford, Kate Allen, Lisa Hanson, Jonathan Sandau, Maria Snodgress, Ryan Beyer, Cheryl Hummon, Jim Johnson, Sunny Summers, Marganne Allen, Andrea Boyer, Sandi Hiatt, Helmuth Rogg, Isaak Stapleton, Jess Paulson, Stephanie Page, Karla Valness

Approval of minutes (Audio = 04:45)

Draft minutes from the February 11-13, 2020 board meeting in Salem, Oregon were presented for review and approval.

A motion was made by Tyson Raymond to approve the minutes with no changes or corrections. Seconded by Stephanie Hallock. Motion passed unanimously.

Director's report and COVID-19 – ODA actions and response (Audio = 05:44)

Director Taylor reported to the Board that much of the work ODA has focused on since our last meeting in February has been around our response to COVID-19. The Department's focus has been primarily around two areas: 1) ODA operations and how could we adapt our work to continue to provide critical services to all Oregonians in a way that protects our staff and customers; and 2) Ag supply chain and assisting ag operations to stay open and products moving.

One of the ways ODA has adapted has been to move the staff towards remote work and flexible schedules. Prior to COVID-19 approximately 50% of staff work in the field or from home offices. Currently ODA has about 72% of staff working remotely or on modified schedules. For example, since Laboratory work cannot be done remotely, laboratory staff have moved to a modified/split shift schedule to reduce the number of staff in the laboratory at one time. ODA field staff have focused on high-risk and high priority work during this time and have started using video conferencing for the initial visit and scheduling other visits at low traffic times at those facilities. Additional changes have been implemented to continue work in the field.

The ODA has been working with State level emergency response teams including the Emergency Command Center (ECC) from the beginning of the pandemic. The Director is serving on the State's MAC multi-disciplinary committee of State officials that works to prioritize what is happening in the State and the COVID-19 response to priorities such as the agricultural workforce, food security and food stability in the State.

The Director also reported on the efforts around supply chain issues and how the ODA could assist to overcome challenges to keep the chains open and products moving. Examples included working with livestock auctions, farmers' markets, u-pick operations. With restaurant closures the industry saw many changes in the food service supply chain. ODA worked to make connections for producers who had a supply of available products to new opportunities such as the school meal programs and food bank purchases where the demand was needed.

Additional work, over the last two months, has been done by the State to launch Oregon's Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program. The \$30 million dollars in funding is designed to secure Oregon's food supply chain and protect essential agricultural workers from COVID-19 exposure and illness. The program will assist producers to achieve compliance and meet the goals of the OR-OSHA temporary rules.

ODA has worked with the Oregon Health Authority, local public health officials and OR-OSHA consultative branch to create a food processing playbook designed to provide a roadmap to provide a coordinated government response to food processors in dealing with one positive report of COVID-19 in a facility. In addition, a tool kit has been developed for food processors to help them identify steps they could take proactively to help prevent positive COVID-19 cases.

The Director also commented on a proposed State Meat Inspection Program for Oregon. The ODA is working on developing a proposal to establish a new program. The program has industry support and support from State legislators and Federal congressional members.

2019-2021 ODA Budget Update (Audio = 35:05)

Deputy Director Lisa Hanson, Special Assistant Jonathan Sandau and Financial Manager Andrea Boyer provide the Board with an update on the ODA budget.

The ODA recognized early in the pandemic a potential for revenue issues and likely a revenue downturn for the state and began to take steps early to reduce spending. Actions included not filling vacant positions and rescinding employment offers to begin saving funds. Also, as the economy began to shutdown we anticipated a possible reduction in Lottery revenue to support ODA's natural resource programs.

ODA has received its full Lottery funding distribution for May, however we anticipate that no funds will be received in the August or November distribution.

We anticipate that 30-35% of the biennial revenue will be reduced. Which means all the reductions are taken in the 2nd fiscal year of the biennium.

Early changes in ODA Lottery funded programs include a shift of staff from the Noxious Weed Control Program to the Hemp Program. Limited noxious weed control work this summer will be done with Federal funding. ODA also chose not to hire seasonal staff in the IPPM Program to save approximately \$800,000.

General fund reductions during the current biennium can occur in two ways 1) the Governor can implement an across the board allotment reduction or 2) the Legislature would convene and implement line item program reductions. Over the last several weeks, the ODA has worked to prepare plans to deal with anticipated General fund revenue shortfalls.

Agencies were asked to prepare an 8.5% reduction list by General fund allotments for the Governor's consideration. Since the reduction could occur in the 2nd fiscal year it results in approximately a 17% reduction. The actual General fund shortfall has not yet been determined.

Estimated reductions by allotment include:

Administration Operations - \$199,445; Food Safety Operations \$866,785; Animal Rescue Entities \$26,871; Shellfish Preapplication Conf. \$17,000; Natural Resources Operations \$794,955; Removal/Fill Maintained \$21,339; Ag Development Operations \$282,872.

Agencies anticipate a release from the Governor's Office later this week laying out the reductions items that are up for consideration.

Resource:

- Agenda Item 03 A – ODA 8.5% Reduction Final 05062020 List

2021-2023 ODA proposed budget, legislative concepts and policy packages discussion
(Audio = 1:04:00)

ODA Special Assistant Jonathan Sandau reviewed the 2021-23 ODA Legislative Concept (LC) and Policy Option Package (POP) prioritized list. He walked the Board through the LC list and shared the related POPs.

The lists being reviewed were submitted on April 15. Legislative Concepts 2 and 3 were submitted as placeholders for any possible COVID-19 response needs. The ODA did not identify any specific needs for COVID-19 response LCs and those placeholders were withdrawn. The LC numbers were assigned by ODA and are not the official LC numbers.

Board member Hallock asked that future lists have both the LC and POP numbers listed and fund types be added to the charts where appropriate. She also asked based on the State budget situation, how realistic are these requests.

The POP list was developed pre-COVID-19 and ODA had a very aggressive POP budget request. Since agencies were well underway in the budget request process, the State budget instructions remained the same to move forward and submit original requests.

The ODA has prioritized the POP list based on the ODA's prioritized program list, the need for an Emergency Response Coordinator and other ongoing programs that require funding to support on-going efforts and maintain core programs.

Questions from Board members related to inflation adjustments to budgets, CAFO program services & supplies adjustments, and package 070 technical adjustment related to revenue shortfalls. Priorities were set based on policy decisions and practicality as well as reviewed by the ODA Directors' and Program Area Directors.

The Governor's office has approved all of the ODA LCs to move forward and are currently being drafted.

Resource:

- Agenda Item 04 A – 2021-23 ODA LC/POP List
- Agenda Item 04 B – 2021-23 ODA LC/POP prioritized list

Public comment (Audio = 1:44:43)

Chair Marty Myers acknowledged receipt of written comments from Cherry Amabisca and Elizabeth Lindsey and copies of the comments have been distributed to the Board members and posted on the ODA website. Since we are not meeting in person, the Board is asking future public comments to be submitted in writing.

Resource:

- Agenda Item 05 A – Cherry Amabisca 05112020
- Agenda Item 05 B – Elizabeth Lindsey 05182020

The Board recessed at 10:20 am and reconvened at 10:25 am

2021 Board of Agriculture Industry Report discussion (Audio = 1:53:48)

ODA Special Assistant Karla Valness reviewed with the Board the timeline and next steps to complete the 2021 Board of Agriculture Industry Report due to the Legislature in January 2021. Additional feedback from the Board regarding content was discussed and additional comments will be collected from Board members via survey. The Board suggested adding a section on the impacts the agricultural industry has faced during the COVID-19 pandemic to the 2021 report. The purpose of the report is to provide information on the status of the agricultural industry in the state.

Board Business (Audio = 2:05:32)

OWEB report

Board member Barbara Boyer provided an update on the recent OWEB meeting held last week. Much of the meeting was focused on the budget situation facing OWEB and the approval of grant projects. Based on limited Lottery dollars, the OWEB Board discussed options on distributing remaining and future grant funds. The OWEB staff will be administering the Oregon's Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program reimbursements.

Resolutions

No action was taken on seven Board resolutions currently under review during the meeting. To allow for additional review and to gather public comment, the review will be added to the September meeting agenda. A Resolution packet, with suggested edits, was distributed to the Board and posted on the ODA website. All written public comments received prior to September 17, 2020 will be distributed to the Board for consideration and posted on the ODA website. Board member Pete Brentano commented for the record on Resolution 310 and recommended the resolution stay as written including the minor edit provided.

Nominating committee report

Chair Myers reported the nominating committee met and would like to recommend Stephanie Hallock to serve as the Board chair and Bryan Harper to serve as Board vice-chair for the upcoming year beginning September 2020. A motion was made by Marty Myers to accept the nominating committee recommendations for chair and vice-chair. Seconded by Tyson Raymond. Motion passed unanimously. Board member Barbara Boyer thanked Chair Myers for his year of service as chair.

Newsletter topics

Suggested newsletter topics include: COVID impacts and new programs, ODA budget impacts, PPE and hand sanitizer distribution efforts, election of new Board of Ag officers, thank you to Pete Brentano and Sharon Livingston, open positions on Board and one or two examples of innovative programs such as the new solutions farmers markets have implemented to continue to operate in recent months.

Additional topics

Director Taylor and Board members expressed thanks to Chair Myers for his year serving as chair of the board and to Pete Brentano and Sharon Livingston for their leadership and eight years of service on the State Board of Agriculture. Pete Brentano and Sharon Livingston commented on their time and service on the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

**Next meeting:
September 22-24, 2020
Meeting details to be confirmed**