



Oregon State Board of Agriculture Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
08/17-18/2022	Ontario, OR and hybrid	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:

August 17: https://youtu.be/mAwPXb_CC4s

August 18 – part 1: https://youtu.be/yIQke_YjqJk

August 18 – part 2: <https://youtu.be/IZJZuduKjbo>

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

During the morning board members, guests, and ODA staff toured the Owyhee Project constructed from 1928-1932. The project consists of the Owyhee Dam, the 53-mile Lake Owyhee, pipelines, tunnels, 9 pumping plants and more than 900 miles of canals and drains. During the tour the board learned about the many benefits of the project including irrigation, reduced flood damage and water for fish and wildlife, recreation, and the generation of electricity.

Agenda Item 01(Audio = 0:00)

Chair Bryan Harper called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Introductions of board members followed.

- Board members present: Chair Bryan Harper, Vice-chair Luisa Santamaria, Barbara Boyer, Miguel Lopez, Elin Miller, Eric Orem, Randi Svaty, ODA Director Alexis Taylor
- Board members present by remote: Shantae Johnson, Josh Zielinski, OSU Dean Staci Simonich
- Board member excused: Chad Allen
- Others present: Lauren Henderson, Jonathan Sandau, Jess Paulson, Isaak Stapleton, Jim Johnson, Karla Valness, Regan Coordes, Bill Miller, Shawna Peterson, Grant Kitamura, Sandy Porter, Chad Cruickshank, Courtney Crowel
- Remote: Chris Benemann, Andrea Cantu-Schomus, Megan Kemple, Mary Anne Cooper, Claire Waggoner, James Fraser, Mateusz, Tiffany Monroe, April McDonald, Jan Lee, Lucia Rodriguez

Approval of minutes (Audio = 4:19)

Draft minutes from the May 4-5, 2022, 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 = 4:50)

Director Taylor shared the following updates with the Board.

- We are working to complete the ODA 2023-25 agency request budget which is due September 1.
- USDA has approved Oregon to operate a State Meat Inspection Program. Oregon is the first state in 20 years that has been approved for a program.
- ODA has awarded six grants to improve the infrastructure and operating capacity of Oregon meat processors who will operate under the new State Meat Inspection program or are currently under federal inspection. Additional funding is being requested via the Emergency Board and with a 23-25 budget Program Option Package (POP).
- The ODA Market Access team is back to conducting in-person trade missions and hosted the first inbound mission from Japan in July. Deputy Director Lauren Henderson represented ODA on the USDA Agricultural Trade Mission (ATM) to the United Kingdom in June and is planning to travel with the USDA ATM to East Africa in October. In addition, the Governor will conduct a Business and Education mission to Japan and South Korea this fall.
- The Oregon Disaster Assistance Program (ODAP) has issued 275 loans totalling about \$20 million dollars.
- Director Taylor has been nominated by President Biden to serve as the USDA Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs and is awaiting a nomination hearing with the US Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. The timeline of the nomination hearing is not set as of this time. Upon Director Taylor's departure, Governor Brown will appoint an ODA acting director and the new Governor will appoint a permanent director. Director Taylor expressed thanks to the board for their time to offer their perspectives and share their knowledge during her time here in Oregon.

Agenda Item 02 – ODA's Budget and Legislative Update (Audio = 15:17)

Deputy Director Lauren Henderson and Assistant Director Jonathan Sandau discussed with the Board the 2023-25 Agency Request Budget (ARB) summary which includes a comparison between the 2021-23 Legislative Approved Budget, 2023-25 Current Service Level and the 2023-25 Agency Request Budget by fund types in the agency. In addition, Assistant Director Sandau reviewed a key policy packages by ODA Program Area. The agency ARB budget is due September 1. The ODA ARB has the following themes: 1) investments in core services 2) internal agency operations 3) community engagement/equity and 4) support market development for Oregon agriculture. Further budget details will be available later this Fall. He shared the budget timeline as follows: December 1 – Governor Brown's proposed budget is due; the new Governor elect will create a proposed budget which will be due in February 2023 ahead of the Legislative Session. Agencies will begin to prepare and discuss the 2025-2027 in the Fall of 2023.

Resource:

- ODA 2023-25 Agency Request Budget (ARB) Summary

Agenda Item 03 – Workforce Availability and Skills Development Programs (Audio = 34:57)

The board heard from a panel of speakers Sandy Porter with Treasure Valley Community College; Dirk DeBoer with Malheur County Poverty to Prosperity Project; Chad Cruickshank, District FFA Advisory; and Shawna Peterson with Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board. Each speaker talked about their programs and the importance of the long-term investment in education and getting youth excited about working in agriculture and how to help direct them into the correct channels to meet those goals. Outreach with existing farmers and industry representatives is critical to help connect the students with educational opportunities and to see potential career opportunities in agriculture and create more jobs. Some of these programs are seeing an increased interest in adult vocational programs.

Agenda Item 04 – Public Comment (Audio = 1:29:07)

Board members received written public comments from James Fraser, Trout Unlimited; and Karen Lewotsky, Oregon Environmental Council regarding support for the ODA Agricultural Water Quality Budget Package. The Board heard verbal comments from Mary Anne Cooper, Oregon Farm Bureau in support of the Climate Smart Grant proposal submitted by ODA, encourages the ODA to conduct FSMA inspections, and encouraged the Board to have further discussions around the Pesticide Stewardship Program and the data viewer information.

Break

The Board recessed for a 20-minute break and reconvened at 3:00 pm.

Agenda Item 05 – Regional Economic Development Programs (Audio = 2:01:04)

Representatives on the panel included Shawna Peterson with the Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board, Courtney Warner-Crowell the Regional Solutions coordinator for Eastern Oregon and the Governor’s Water Policy advisor and Grant Kitamura managing partner with Baker & Murakami Produce Company, and. Each panel member talked about the roles they have in the region to support economic and community development projects across the region and highlighted some of the projects and concerns in the area.

Shawna Peterson serves as the Executive Director for the Eastern Oregon Border Board and provided background on the Border Board and information about the border region and the challenges the area faces. The Border Board works on and prioritizes projects that enhance the prosperity in the border region, improve the border region’s property tax base, improve competitiveness in the region, increase workforce availability and skills, improves the image of the border region and projects that leverage border funding with a complement of outside funding.

Courtney Crowell spoke about the Wallowa Dam Project which has worked to rehab the dam to increase water for both agriculture and fish. Other projects include re-opening of the Prairie Woods sawmill in Prairie City, emergency issues related to natural disaster assistance, the drinking water issues in the LUBGUAMA area and working to identify barriers to expanding meat processing facilities in Eastern Oregon.

Grant Kitamura is a managing partner with Baker & Murakami Produce Company as well as the President of the Malheur County Development Corporation. Grant provided statistics about Malheur County and the economic conditions in the area. Agriculture is the backbone of Malheur County with beef and onions the lead commodities. This area grows about 23,000 acres of onions and provides about 40% of the national consumption of onions between September and April. He talked about the transportation challenges to move that amount of product out of the region and the high costs of shipping. Solving transportation issues will be critical to keep this region and help keep the onion industry viable.

Resource:

- Eastern Oregon Border Board Presentation

During the afternoon board members, guests and ODA staff toured Baker & Murakami Produce Company which is the largest volume onion shipper in Idaho and Eastern Oregon and one of the largest shippers in the United States. During the tour, the board learned about the vertically integrated operation from growing to the state-of-the-art packing and shipping.

The meeting recessed at 5:00 pm until Thursday, August 18, 2022.

Meeting recording available at:

August 18 – part 1: https://youtu.be/yIQke_YjqJk

August 18 – part 2: <https://youtu.be/IZJZuduKjbo>

Thursday, August 18, 2022 (Audio - due to technical difficulties no audio recording is available)

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Chair Bryan Harper. Introductions of board members, ODA staff and guests.

- Board members present: Chair Bryan Harper, Vice-chair Luisa Santamaria, Barbara Boyer, Miguel Lopez, Elin Miller, Randi Svaty, ODA Director Alexis Taylor
- Board members present by remote: Chad Allen, OSU Dean Staci Simonich
- Board member excused: Shantae Johnson, Eric Orem, Josh Zielinski
- Others present: Lauren Henderson, Jonathan Sandau, Jess Paulson, Isaak Stapleton, Jim Johnson, Karla Valness, Regan Coordes, Bill Miller, Ron Jacobs, Leslie Thompson
- Remote: Chris Benemann, Andrea Cantu-Schomus, Les Ruark, Claire Waggoner, Lynne Terry

Agenda Item 07 – ODA Produce Safety Program Overview (Audio – due to technical difficulties no audio recording is available)

Susanna Pearlstein, ODA Produce Safety Program Manager and Casey Prentiss, ODA Market Access Assistant Program Area Director reviewed the status of ODA’s Produce Safety current program and discussed how the ODA program would change if the ODA contracted to perform the FDA inspection work.

ODA’s current program, funded by FDA, includes education and outreach, technical assistance and creating a farm inventory. While funding is currently available from FDA to conduct inspections, it is unclear if the FDA funding went away if the monetary burden would fall to the states to fund. ODA is currently conducting outreach with Oregon growers about ODA contracting with FDA to take on the role of the inspection program. Listening sessions have been held with blueberry and tree fruit growers in the Salem and Hood River areas, a third session will be held in Malheur County next week and a fourth session will be held in the Medford area later this month. If ODA decides to take on the inspection role the last date to apply for funding is March 2023. The program will continue to conduct outreach and provide updates to the Board as requested.

Agenda Item 06 – ODA Shipping Point Inspection Program and Services (Audio = 0:00)

Casey Prentiss, ODA Market Access Assistant Program Area Director manages the ODA Shipping Point Inspection Program facilitates transactions between buyers and sellers by providing third party inspection and certification services that add value to products by making them more marketable. Working with producers, packers, and processors to provide inspection, grading, verification, testing, and certification objectively evaluate growers’ crops and assure that customers receive a quality product that meets purchase specifications and international phytosanitary requirements. This work is done in five Shipping Point districts located throughout the state in Hermiston, Hood River, Medford, Salem, and Ontario.

Labor shortages has been an issue for the program, for example they are currently operating with 26 inspectors and to be fully operational they should have about 40 inspectors. In addition to the inspectors, they have nine managers and about 30 laborers in the districts and fully staffed they would have about 70 laborers. Recruiting and maintaining staff in these positions has been difficult. For example, they have had nine failed recruitments in the Medford district for an assistant program manager position.

In 1998 USDA in cooperation with the ODA developed and implemented the Customer Assisted Inspection Program (CAIP) to assist with the labor shortage and reduce the cost of inspection in some of the fresh sheds. This is a cooperative program between USDA and the States that provides federal inspection on the product by using the staff hired and maintained by the facility and trained and overseen by the USDA and the State. This program has helped with the labor shortage and has reduced the cost of inspection.

In 2007 the ODA Ontario office partnered with the Snake River Correctional Institute to develop and implement an adult in custody labor program to assist with inspection work in the Heinz processing facility. This has been a very successful program and has helped with the ongoing labor shortages in the area as well as provide training for the adults in custody to learn skills they can use when released from custody. The program operates in the Ontario district and a similar program operates in the Hermiston district.

During the COVID restrictions, the adults in custody program was suspended. Staff from other ODA program areas were assigned duties to help provide the necessary inspection services.

Educational partners in the region, the agricultural industry have assisted with recruitment efforts to fill the labor shortages in the program. ODA has worked with Worksource Oregon to identify and hire laborers.

Casey thanked the board for meeting in Ontario and invited board members to visit the Ontario office if they are in Eastern Oregon or contact the office if they have any questions.

Agenda Item 08 – Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Cost Share Program (Audio = 13:06)

ODA Deputy Director Lauren Henderson and ODA Market Access Assistant Program Area Director Casey Prentiss provided a brief history of the ODA grasshopper program that has been in place since the early 1990s to help manage grasshopper outbreaks in the state. As a result of severe outbreaks in 2020 and 2021, the Legislature passed SB 5561 provided one-time funding of \$5 million to the ODA to develop a Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Program. This program includes one-time funding to help combat the severe outbreak expected in 2022. The funds will provide resources to support grasshopper and Mormon cricket control and a cost-sharing program to reduce the cost of eligible suppression efforts and for pre-treatment and post-treatment surveys. Applications for the program will be due by August 2022. More information about the program and how to apply can be found on the ODA website.

Break

The Board recessed for a 15-minute break and reconvened at 10:20 AM

Agenda Item 09 – Public Comment (Audio = 51:50)

The Board heard verbal comments from Ron Jacobs, Malheur County Commissioner. Commissioner Jacobs thanked the board for meeting in Ontario and discussed the needs and support for the grasshopper and Mormon cricket suppression programs.

Agenda Item 10 – Board work session for the 2023 Board of Agriculture Industry Report (Audio = 58:52)

ODA reported work continues on the board industry report, however the draft report is not available at this time.

Agenda Item 11 – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission farmer/rancher application review (Audio = 1:02:41)

As required by statute ORS 541.986 five members of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission shall be recommended by the Board of Agriculture. The second term for Commissioner Ken Bailey will end January 1, 2023. Commissioner Bailey is not eligible for re-appointment.

The Board received two applications for review and consideration for the farmer/rancher position. The board members reviewed and discussed applications received from Gary Horning and Laura Masterson.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Elin Miller to recommend Laura Masterson for the farmer/rancher position on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Seconded by Randi Svaty. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

A letter will be prepared for Chair Harper’s signature to send the recommendation to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

For future reviews by the board, the board would like to encourage all applications to include letters of support and calls to references be made prior to the boards review of applications.

Resource:

- OAHC Memo and Application Packet

August 18 – part 2: <https://youtu.be/lZJZuduKjbo>

Agenda Item 12 - Board Business (Audio = 0:35)

ODA Program Area Reports

Chair Harper asked if Board members had any questions on the ODA Program Area Reports. Board member Barbara Boyer thanked ODA staff for the quarterly reports. Board member Elin Miller requested clarification on assistance provided to OLCC regarding cannabis analysis. The primary work done by the ODA lab is the pesticide analysis on cannabis however OLCC does not have its own lab and ODA has conducted other analysis work on cannabis on behalf of OLCC.

Resource:

- ODA Program Area Reports to the Board August 2022

OWEB Report

Barbara Boyer reported on the highlights from the July meeting in Enterprise. During the meeting the OWEB board toured the Wallowa Dam project, awarded \$3 million in grants, and have started the review of the grant renewal process. OWEB currently manages 30 grant programs. OWEB has General Fund dollars for the first time and are working to shift from limited duration employees to permanent employees where possible.

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	Recommend approval with proposed edits.
Resolution 281	Conservation Plan for the Oregon Coast Coho	Recommend approval with proposed edits.
Resolution 319	Climate Change Policy Considerations	Recommends keep active and continue to review based on public comments. Recommends additional work session to continue review.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Elin Miller to approve Resolution 107 with proposed edits. Seconded by Barbara Boyer. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Elin Miller to approve Resolution 281 with proposed edits. Seconded by Randi Svaty. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Barbara Boyer reported on resolutions under review by Workgroup B.

Resolution 307	Farmworker Housing	Recommends keep active and continue to review based on public comments. Recommends additional work session to continue review.
Resolution 317	Oregon Department of Agriculture’s role in the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Rule Implementations	Keep active. Continue review based on public comment and presentations.
Resolution 318	Siting of energy transmission and generation facilities on agriculture land	Recommend approval with proposed edits.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Randi Svaty to approve Resolution 318 with proposed edits. Seconded by Elin Miller. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee Report

Bryan Harper reported the nominating committee met and are recommending Luisa Santamaria to serve as Board chair and Shantae Johnson to serve as Board vice-chair for the upcoming year beginning at the November 2022 meeting.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Elin Miller to accept the nominating committee recommendations for chair and vice-chair. Seconded by Randi Svaty. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board of Agriculture liaison with the DEQ-Environmental Quality Commission

The EQC has contacted the Board of Agriculture to identify a representative to be a liaison between the EQC and the BOA. This role was previously filled by former board member Stephanie Hallock. Discussion followed. Board member Elin Miller would be interested in learning more about the role.

Newsletter Topics

Suggested topics for the newsletter include ODA shipping point program, FSMA update, board resolution updates, tours, eastern Oregon highlights, grasshopper, and Mormon cricket update.

2023 Meeting dates and locations

Meeting dates and locations were selected for 2023. Meetings will be scheduled for in-person with a virtual option and are subject to change prior to each meeting.

February 14-16, 2023 – Salem, OR

June 13-15, 2023 – Southern Oregon (location to be determined)

August 15-17, 2023 – Tillamook, OR

November 14-16, 2023 – Eugene, OR

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Next meeting: November 16-18, 2022

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

DRAFT