

**GOVERNING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES**

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

12:00 p.m.

Virtual Public Meeting

1) Call to Order: (Anne MacDonald, Board Chair)

Chair MacDonald called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

2) Introductions: (Anne MacDonald, Board Chair and Staff)

Chair Anne MacDonald, Vice-Chair Tiffany Thomas, and Board Members Ruth Dittrich, Mary Faith Bell, and Paul Edison-Lahm were all in attendance via Zoom video/phone.

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) Staff in attendance:

Ruarri Day-Stirrat, Director/State Geologist

Lori Calarruda, Recording Secretary/Executive Assistant

Sarah Lewis, MLRR Program Manager

Alex Lopez, Public Affairs Coordinator

Steve Dahlberg, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Jason McClaughry, GS&S Program Manager

Christina Appleby, Legislative Coordinator and Geologist

Others in attendance:

Diane Lloyd, Department of Justice (DOJ)

Ali Webb, Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO)

3) Review 2027-29 Agency Request Budget (ARB):

Ruarri Day-Stirrat, Director, reviewed the 2027-29 Agency Request Budget (ARB) for DOGAMI.

Chair MacDonald said the Board's role is to look at the budget to ensure it aligns with the strategic plan, meets fiduciary standards, is consistent with the Governor's priorities, and the KPMs align.

Day-Stirrat said Chair MacDonald laid out the lens the Board should review the budget document, reminding them that the Policy Option Packages (POPs) and Key Performance Measures (KPMs) have been reviewed in previous Board meetings, and the Strategic Plan is up for review in September. The Board action needed today will be to give Chair MacDonald the authority to sign the completed budget on behalf of the Board. It was opened up for questions.

Chair MacDonald asked Day-Stirrat to discuss what happens next in the ARB process. Day-Stirrat explained there are multiple reports currently in audit that will need to be embedded into the ARB and the numbers extracted then copied into the correct places in the budget document. The completed ARB will be sent to Chair MacDonald for final review and her signature on the certification page. DOGAMI is an early submittal agency, and the ARB must be submitted by July 31, 2026. The

next stage of the budget cycle is the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB), which will be released on December 1, 2026. It will then go into the legislative process with Session starting in January 2027. Historically DOGAMI has presented its agency budget to the legislature in early February and the Full Ways and Means Committee in May. DOGAMI's budget is typically one of the last ones voted on or signed, so the agency ends up in continuing resolution until the budget is signed, along with most agencies. A 3-month continuing resolution is signed at the end of the Legislative Session to cover all agencies' budgets until they are signed by the Governor.

Dittrich asked why the Lidar is still in the budget when the Board has heard it is being phased out. Day-Stirrat explained that since the Consortium reached full coverage Lidar projects have fallen off, but the Agency does not want to close it because it is a vehicle to acquire other remote sensing data, and the staff member in charge is being covered on other federal grants. McClaughry added there may be a need to coordinate with individual state and federal agencies, and the Lidar Program is focused on data management and delivery of the data to the public.

Dittrich asked why the GS&S budget seemed to decrease drastically compared to the previous one. Day-Stirrat said it was due to the one-time special project in Other Funds related to geologic carbon sequestration, where the total is reducing as the project goes on, but the Agency still needs to roll the limitation request into the next budget cycle and ask for position authority. Federal Funds are expected to increase slightly.

MacDonald asked about the two new positions. Day-Stirrat explained one is a limited duration (LD) position the Agency is wanting to make permanent, and the other is related to the reclassification of the Program Managers. The Agency cannot ask for any new money, so it is moving a small amount of money from Services and Supplies to cover them.

Thomas asked about the note regarding a need for significant IT upgrades and general infrastructure improvements, how are they are being accounted for in the budget and can costs be shared with other agencies by scaling up. Day-Stirrat said ESRI costs have significantly increased and DOGAMI has the most users per capita compared to other agencies. He stated that one more IT position is needed but the Agency is unable to ask for it at this time, which is the reference in the document. Dahlberg added the life cycle upgrades are being staggered out, due to the increased costs of the workstations compared to the days of COVID, which he believes is related to AI data center dilemmas. He explained that the Agency asked for a POP that was received this biennium for the increase in the ESRI licensing and it is being asked for again in this budget cycle.

Chair MacDonald asked if there is any coordination with other state agencies with regards to incorporating AI into work processes. Dahlberg said the State is still slow to add it in, currently CoPilot is the only authorized approved AI source, as it is embedded in the normal Microsoft products. With regards to coordination, he does lean on Department of State Lands (DSL), but currently no sharing of resources is happening.

Chair MacDonald said she noticed the biggest impact is the reduction in federal funding for geologic hazards work and asked if the Agency is going to be on the back foot for the next biennium. McClaughry said there is still funding for another year to a year and a half, but the Agency is still seeking out new avenues of hazard funding. The position GS&S is trying to add permanently is to take up the current workload and efficiently handle it into the future. Day-Stirrat added FEMA has

changed its programs, but the Agency is still bringing in federal grants from USGS and looking to be as creative as possible.

Chair MacDonald asked if the reduction scenarios are locked in or a roadmap for the Agency. Day-Stirrat explained it is a legislatively required exercise. It is a painful exercise and is a roadmap to get the Agency to the required percentages.

Chair MacDonald asked about a comment in the DEI Plan regarding the challenge of community capacity to participate in technical and regulatory processes and discussions, and if additional resources are needed. Day-Stirrat said he thought it was acknowledging the difficulty of community participation in public meetings held during office hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and not after hours.

Bell thanked staff for the work and infographics put into it the budget document.

Board Action: Edison-Lahm moved to approve the DOGAMI Governing Board authorizes Chair MacDonald to sign and certify the DOGAMI 2027-2029 Agency Request Budget on behalf of the Governing Board. Bell seconded. Yes Votes: MacDonald; Thomas; Dittrich; Bell; Edison-Lahm. Motion carried.

4) Discuss September 16, 2026 Board Meeting:

Chair MacDonald discussed planning the next quarterly meeting in September. It will be an in-person/hybrid meeting.

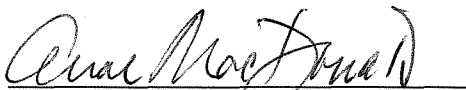
5) Public Comment:

Only written comments received prior to or by 1:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting were to be accepted. Chair MacDonald asked for any written public comments. No public comments.

5) Board Adjourn:

Chair MacDonald adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

APPROVED


Anne MacDonald, Chair