1) **Call to Order:** (Scott Ashford, Board Chair)

Chair Ashford called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2) **Executive Session – Annual Director Review:** (Scott Ashford, Board Chair)

Chair Ashford announced the start of the Executive Session for the Director’s Annual Review.

3) **Return to Public Session:** (Scott Ashford, Board Chair)

Chair Scott Ashford reconvened the regular public session at 9:40 a.m. following the Director’s evaluation.

4) **Introductions:** (Scott Ashford, Board Chair, and Staff)

Chair Scott Ashford, Vice-Chair Linda Kozlowski, Board Members Diane Teeman, Anne MacDonald, and Erica Medley were all in attendance via Zoom video/phone.

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) Staff in attendance:
Ruarri Day-Stirrat – Director/State Geologist
Sarah Lewis, MLRR Program Manager
Lori Calarruda, Recording Secretary/Executive Assistant
Alex Lopez, Public Affairs Coordinator
Steve Dahlberg, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
Jason Mc Claughry, GS&S Program Manager
Christina Appleby, Legislative Coordinator/Geohazards Analyst
Laura Gabel, Coastal Field Geologist/KPM Coordinator
Dayne Doucet, Consolidated Mining Permit Lead
Justin McGillivary, MLRR Permitting Specialist

Others in attendance:
Diane Lloyd, Department of Justice (DOJ)
Dorian Kuper – Kuper Consulting
Dr. Thomas Seal – Grant County Natural Resource Advisory Council – Mining Engineer

5) **Annual Director’s Evaluation:** (Scott Ashford, Board Chair)

Chair Ashford stated the Board conducted the Annual Director’s Evaluation/Review.

Chair Ashford entertained a motion to adopt the Board’s Annual Director’s Evaluation/Review as discussed in Executive Session.
Board Action: Kozlowski moved to accept the Annual Director’s Evaluation/Review. Teeman seconded. Motion carried.

6) Review Minutes of March 6, 2023 Board Meeting:
Chair Ashford asked if there were any changes to the minutes as presented. No changes.

Board Action: Kozlowski moved to approve the minutes of March 6, 2023 as submitted. Medley seconded. Motion carried.

Chair Ashford left the meeting and Vice-Chair Kozlowski took over chairing the meeting.

7) Financial Report:
Steve Dahlberg, Chief Financial Officer, presented the DOGAMI FY2021 Budget Status Report, as of April 30, 2023, for the Geological Survey and Services (GS&S) and Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation (MLRR) programs.

Dahlberg stated the Board Packet contained the financial actuals, graphs, and projections, he would provide highlights and brief summary. The current biennium projection for the General Fund budget is $6.44M, with expenditures of $6.06M, resulting in being $385,000 under budget (6%). This amount is lower than previously reported, primarily due to planned spending and lower indirects received because of the delay in Lidar projects now happening in the next biennium. As for the investment in radiometric and aeromagnetic data collection, four of the five data areas have been collected, with the fifth currently underway.

Other Funds has a current projected Expenditure Limitation Authority budget of $3.21M with expenditures of $1.47M, resulting in being $1.74M under the authorized limitation. This is due to the Private Forest Accord project being delayed because of weather which will now be completed next biennium; this is also one reason for the lower indirects and General Fund, and a higher Expenditure Authority than needed. The projected revenues consist of roughly 60% coming front grants, 40% from Lidar projects, and 10% from the Strong Motion Instrument Fund (SMIF). There are currently fourteen active grants with several being multi-year projects, and three Lidar projects. DOGAMI successfully completed the large undersea cable project; and is collaborating with other agencies through the Lidar Consortium by adding a new Willamette Valley Lidar project that includes nine other funders plus DOGAMI.

Federal Funds has a current projected Expenditure Limitation Authority budget of $5.77M with expenditures of $4.8M, resulting in being $960,000 under the authorized budget. The Agency sets the expenditure budget up to be large enough for the projects it expects to be completed, but a few have been pushed out to next biennium. For the projected revenues, roughly 42.5% is from grants: FEMA (48%), NOAA (42%), USGS (10%); and 57.5% is from Lidar projects: FEMA (42%), BLM (34%), USGS (24%). This is a healthy distribution and mix from federal funders.

Vice-Chair Kozlowski asked if fourteen different grants being worked on is an average number and how much can the staff handle. Dahlberg replied fourteen is a healthy number, and the Agency tries to maintain $3M-$4.5M in grant balance to keep staff working.
MLRR has an Expenditure Limitation Authority budget of $4.29M with expenditures of $4.11M, resulting in $180,000 under the authorized budget (4.1%), which is a very good number. The projected revenues of $4.93M come from strong production, permit fees, and DEQ Clean Water Quality Permits. MLRR continues to look at ways to address the very high permit application workload, currently at about 94 in process; this has included hiring a Limited Duration position, and a new staff replacement starting on July 10, 2023. MLRR is on target for the 6-month operation reserve by the end of the 23-25 biennium.

Some updates and highlights include: DOGAMI recently submitted several federal grant proposals ranging from $40,000 to $830,000; there are no vacant positions; and an intern was recently hired in the landslide focus area. Regarding the 2023-25 budget, DOGAMI is still waiting for final approval and the Governor’s signature on SB 5510, DOGAMI’s funding bill; SB 5506, the Omnibus or “Christmas Tree Bill” that includes two positions related to water scarcity; and SB 221, MLRR’s permit surcharge for on-going ePermitting system maintenance once the system is in place.

Kozlowski asked if the Agency sees any changes with the new Governor and its perspective in working with the CFO and LFO. Dahlberg said DOGAMI has new LFO and CFO analysts, Leadership is working with them closely and has developed a very good working relationship, they are advocates for the Agency. Day-Stirrat agreed and added there has been a change in the State CFO Office, and the message received is there is going to be a closer relationship with the CFO Office across all agencies, and he looks forward to that mutual working relationship and change.

Kozlowski asked if the significant expenditures at the end of the biennium is normal practice. Day-Stirrat said it was due to multiple reasons: the Agency had some struggles getting things out the door; it took the opportunity to buy some data that was a very high cost, but the data will be used as match for future Federal Funds/grants; but it was all targeted spending as an investment in the Agency. Leadership has been working with LFO and CFO for several months about how much General Fund would be returned at the end of the biennium.

Teeman asked if these were allocated funds, actual expended funds, or a combination. Dahlberg explained the numbers are projecting where the Agency is going to end the year or biennium, it includes 22 months of actual spending and 2 months of anticipated or projected spending, not where the Agency is at on a year-to-date basis.

Kozlowski thanked Dahlberg for the very good report, saying the graphs and way he explains the information helps the Board understand the financial picture of DOGAMI.

Board Action: **Teeman moved to accept the Budget Status Report as presented. Medley seconded. Motion carried.**

8) **Legislative Update:**

Christina Appleby, Legislative Coordinator, provided a Legislative update.

Appleby stated the Legislative Session ended yesterday, Sunday, June 25, 2023 at around 4:30pm. For DOGAMI, it was a good session. The Agency’s Budget Bill SB 5510 passed in the Senate and House, and is now awaiting the Governor’s signature. It is for FY 23-25, is just over $22M, and covers: the existing 35 current staff positions and added four more positions; the MLRR ePermitting system
was approved, along with $2M General Fund for the system creation and two limited duration (LD) positions for the Project Manager and Information Systems Specialist to assist with implementation; POP 104 - MLRR’s Consolidated Permitting Lead was bumped up to 1 FTE from .75, position is paid for through cost-recovery agreement with the applicant; POP 107 – MLRR’s Unpermitted Surface Mining Program, added two FTE LD positions, a Compliance Coordinator and a Permit Reviewer, both covered by permitting fee revenue; POP 801 – LFO Analyst Adjustments, funds the upward reclassification of Program Managers as part of the TOMP classifications.

SB 221 has been approved – It supports MLRR’s ePermitting system once it has been created and rolled out, by collecting a surcharge of up to 10.7% on invoices created by the system, to fund the costs for running and maintaining the system. The Agency will have the flexibility to reduce the surcharge to match actual costs if they potentially decrease in the future as time goes on.

The Omnibus Bill/Christmas Tree Bill – Funds a wide array of projects across the State and many agencies; it was $3.4B of government spending, with only $1.1B of General Fund associated with the work. DOGAMI received two positions in the GS&S Program, an NRS 4 Mineral Resource Geologist focused on studying State mineral and energy resources, and an NRS 2 – Mapping Geologist focused on groundwater mapping and water resources; with an additional $381,097 General Fund to support them. Both of these positions fit well into the GS&S Program and their parallel work has been started with support from USGS’s Earth Mineral Resources Initiative grant and STATEMAP programs. This also allows the Agency to leverage General Fund dollars as match for Federal Fund dollars to re-double work based on the investment the State has made.

This has been a very fruitful session for DOGAMI. Early on in the Session, DOGAMI had given a lot of presentations in front of a wide variety of key legislators on different committees and subcommittees for Natural Resources, that gave the Agency an opportunity to help them understand the work it does. Appleby said it was exciting to share and present to them this picture for a better future for the Agency. The session has ended, but strategic outreach will continue with some of the legislators throughout the rest of the year.

Appleby added that one of the reasons the Agency was successful is its good working relationship it has established with the Chief Financial Office (CFO) and Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) analysts, which DOGAMI looks forward to continuing to work with them in the future as well.

Kozlowski said this was the most enthusiastic reports she has seen. DOGAMI’s relationship with CFO and LFO is a major step in the right direction. She asked if anything was left on the table, or the Agency was not able to get. Appleby said there are always optimistic pieces in the Policy Option Packages from the ARB, but overall the Agency did quite well.

Day-Stirrat said the Agency proposed good ideas but due to budgetary constraints, it will do what it can with the opportunities given; DOGAMI ended up in a very positive place. He added there is a Budget Note on ePermitting the Agency will need to provide a progress update on the Legislature during the Short Session. This will be a topic for the Board to focus on and discuss over the next 2 years.

Kozlowski asked for clarification if DOGAMI is using the DEQ model and that it is a foundation the Agency can build from. Day-Stirrat answered yes, the Agency will likely be using the same vendor
DEQ used and learning from their rollout, but it will be branded DOGAMI, and have an access portal on the Agency’s website.

Lewis added MLRR has been working with DEQ closely and recently met with them regarding moving forward. The Agency may be using DEQ staff on rotation or paying cost recovery to get it up and running; the anticipated project start date is January or February 2024 and MLRR will work on an outreach plan, so permittees are aware of what is going on.

Medley said she was excited for the Agency to get all the bills passed and have a way to help fund the online permitting process.

Briefing: No Board Action Required.

9) Key Performance Measures (KPMs) Customer Service Follow-up:

Laura Gabel, Coastal Field Geologist/KPM Coordinator, reviewed/provided an update on the Customer Service KPM for the Agency.

Gabel stated at the last Board meeting the discussion was on ways to increase engagement in the Customer Satisfaction Survey, KPM 5, which was due to the reduced numbers received for the last reporting period. Since the last meeting, there have been several brainstorming meetings to find different ways to increase engagement in the survey.

Gabel said due to the implementation of new methods of receiving feedback, the survey numbers have increased, and she reviewed the previous numbers for comparison. The new methods include: QR Code on GS&S Oregon GEO Newsletter; link on DOGAMI website and LinkedIn page; staff sending to stakeholder groups; and listservs. Moving forward, additional ideas to be implemented are prompts to take the survey for publication download and the interactive geologic maps SLIDO/HAZVU/OGDC. Gabel stated it is important to maintain a consistent survey mailing calendar, updated distribution lists, and standardized communication process. This effort was focused on GS&S, as MLRR has a formal method for communications, but she is sure the Agency can look at possible ways to increase engagement for them as well.

Kozlowski asked if the goal is to get back up to the 2020 levels and why the numbers were higher then. Lewis said 2020 was when DOGAMI was having budget difficulties and there was more stakeholder engagement around giving response to the Agency on how to move forward.

Day-Stirrat said the goal is not necessarily to hit a target, but to make sure the number of respondents is reflective of the program, picking up the positive and negative comments, and to stay on top of numbers and take action where required.

Medley asked if respondents are able to provide feedback or if it is purely quantitative. Day-Stirrat replied there is a comment box, and the Agency reports the statistics but does not always share the comments due to privacy details, however, all the comments are looked at.

Briefing: No Board Action Required.

10) Calico Grassy Mountain Gold Mine Project Update:
Sarah Lewis, MLRR Program Manager, and Dayne Doucet, Consolidated Mining Permit Lead, gave a technical presentation on Calico Grassy Mountain Gold Mine Project Update.

Lewis stated the Grassy Mountain Project update is usually part of the MLRR Program Update, but it was requested at the last Board Meeting to provide a broader overview because the project has been advancing quite rapidly, which she credited Dayne Doucet, Consolidated Mining Permit Lead for this advancement. Lewis said his position is becoming full-time from .75 FTE starting on July 1, 2023 as part of the new budget; she then turned it over to Doucet for the presentation focused on logistics, timeline, and partners. It was noted that technical details would not be discussed during this presentation because there is not a finalized application at this point, but there is a future opportunity to present to the Board after that happens.

Doucet introduced himself, saying he joined DOGAMI in September 2022, and was previously the Oil & Gas Permitting Manager with the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining. He stated the presentation would discuss the Consolidated Mining Permit Process in general, then specifically the Grassy Mountain Project.

The overall goals of the Consolidated Mining Permitting Process in Oregon are to:

- Ensure coordination between State agencies, federal agencies, and local governments
- Consolidate Baseline Data requirements for needed State permits
- Provide for a single comprehensive environmental analysis and socio-economic study
- Provide a clear path for application processing including required opportunities for public input
- Designate a single lead agency to provide coordination, accountability, and to mediate disagreements between agencies
- Provide certain and limited permit requirements for applicant
- Ensure environmental standards are met

The ten (10) key steps in the Chemical Process Mining Application are:

1. Notice of Intent to submit a Consolidated Permit Application (CPA)
2. Notice of Applicant’s Readiness to collect Baseline Data
3. Collection of Baseline Data
4. Filing of a Consolidated Permit Application including an operating plan, Baseline Data, reclamation and closure plan, and an alternatives analysis
5. Review Consolidated Permit Application for completeness and Baseline Data verification
6. Notice to Proceed if the application is complete
7. Preparation of an Environmental Evaluation and Socio-Economic Impact Analysis
8. State agency preparation of draft permits
9. Final Permits
10. Consolidated Contested Case (if requested)

One of the requirements in the Division 37 Rules is the creation of a Project Coordinating Committee (ORS 517.965), referred to as PCC. The purpose of the PCC is to share information and coordinate county, state, and federal permitting requirements in order to avoid contradictory requirements; facilitate the exchange of ideas, promote interdisciplinary decision making, optimize communication, and avoid duplicative effort. DOGAMI is the facilitating agency of this committee, and the members include: all permitting and cooperating agencies; affected federal agencies; local government agencies; and any affected Tribal Nation.
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The Division 37 Rules also require the creation of a Technical Review Team (ORS 517.967), referred to as TRT. The purpose of the TRT is to:

- Provide an interagency and interdisciplinary review of technical permitting issues and serve in an advisory capacity to a Project Coordinating Committee
- Approve the methodology to be used in the collection of Baseline Data
- Coordinate with the applicant the collection and verification of Baseline Data
- Determine the study areas for a proposed mine
- Identify any reasonable alternatives that were not analyzed by the applicant or contractor in a Consolidated Application and direct staff or a third-party contractor to analyze such alternatives
- Determine whether any part of a Consolidated Application, including an Environmental Evaluation, is complete
- Determine whether a proposed mining operation complies with the standards established in ORS 517.952 to 517.989, the (Div. 37) rules and the statues and rules governing the issuance of all applicable permits
- Reconcile contradictory permit conditions
- Advise an applicant of the application requirements relevant to a proposed mine

DOGAMI is the facilitating agency of the TRT, and the members include: all permitting agencies, which are those agencies that issue permits, and cooperating agencies, which are those agencies that achieve compliance with State standard or policies via DOGAMI permit conditions.

Doucet shifted the discussion to the Grassy Mountain Project. The mine site is located 22 miles south of Vale, OR in Malheur County in Eastern Oregon. He showed a map outlining the project boundary, access road, proposed power line, and mine mill/processing plant; and an aerial photo of the mine site.

Doucet provided a very simple Mine Overview, stating it is an underground mine that will be using closed loop processing, and includes a permanent tailings storage facility.

The Grassy Mountain Technical Review Team (TRT) Permitting Agencies are: DOGAMI; Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD); and Oregon Health Authority (OHA). The Cooperating Agencies are: Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW); Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO); Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA); and Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL).

The Grassy Mountain Project Coordinating Committee (PCC) Members are: TRT member agencies; Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Burns Paiute Tribe; City of Nyssa; City of Vale; Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD); Malheur County; Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA); and US Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS).

DOGAMI Participants are: Sarah Lewis – PCC; Bob Brinkmann – TRT; Dayne Doucet – Consolidated Mining Permit Lead; Becky Johnson – administrative support; Stantec – DOGAMI’s technical consultant; and other staff as needed.

Doucet reviewed a brief Project History.
- June 2012: Calico files a Note of Intent (NOI) to develop a gold extraction and processing mine in Malheur County
• July 2016: Calico Resources is acquired by Paramount Gold Nevada Corp
• February 2017: Calico files a new NOI that expands the proposed permit boundary to include the access road and power line route
• November 2019: Calico files a Consolidated Permit Application (CPA)
• February 2020: DOGAMI informs Calico that the CPA is not complete
• December 2021: Calico files a revised CPA (not determined complete)
• February 2023: The Technical Review Team (TRT) accepts the final Baseline Data Report as complete

Doucet reviewed the Consolidated Permit Application (CPA) Timeline flow chart, which he described as swim lanes for the applicant, PCC, TRT, and Public Process. Phase 1 is the Application Review, and Steps 1-4 have been completed based on the project history reviewed.

It is currently at Step 5 in the process, Review CPA for completeness and Baseline Data accuracy, which has a maximum of 90 days for the initial submission, that has been completed, but was determined not complete; A revised CPA has been filed but not determined complete yet, as they are currently working to resolve the comments. The revised CPA generated about 500 comments and the TRT has resolved close to 300 comments. He reviewed a chart showing the number of remaining unresolved comments necessary for completeness, which some can be addressed with permit conditions. Once the completeness determination is made, DOGAMI will issue a Notice to Proceed (NTP), which is Step 6.

Phase 2 of the CPA is Drafting Permits. Step 7 is Preparation of an Environmental Evaluation (EE) and Socio-Economic Impact Analysis (SEIA); with Calico’s approval, DOGAMI’s consultant Stantec has already started preparing these documents. Doucet noted that the EE is happening in coordination with the BLM and concurrently with the EIS/NEPA process, information is being shared so there is no duplication of efforts and there is some consistency between the federal and state process. Once the NTP has been issued, State agencies have 225 days to issue draft permits (Step 8). Draft permits cannot be issued until at least 60 days after the EE is complete.

Once the EE is complete, there will be Public Notice and Public Comment for 14 days, and after the Consolidated Draft Permit is issued, there will be a Consolidated Public Hearing. Within 45 days of this hearing, DOGAMI shall issue or deny the final Consolidated Permit (Step 9) and provide Public Notice of the issuance of final permit. Once the Notice to Proceed is issued, there is a 1-year statutory deadline to either issue or deny the permit.

The applicant or any person who appeared before a permitting agency at the Consolidated Public Hearing, either orally or in writing, may file with the State Geologist a written request for a Consolidated Contested Case Hearing withing 30 days after the date the permit was granted or denied (Step 10).

Key Issues: Finalizing a completeness determination on the CPA – progress is being made but the remaining few comments need to be resolved; the chemical process used by the proposed mine – this is the first chemical mining permit in Oregon and agencies and the public want to get it right since it involves cyanide, causing heightened awareness and concern; and the regulatory timeline of issuing or denying a permit – agencies are concerned that 1 year is not enough time to finalize the permit.
Doucet wrapped up by saying he will do everything he can to facilitate the process and the TRT will strive to meet the timelines. One step that has been taken is to start the Environmental Evaluation process early, in hopes of allowing permitting agencies to begin drafting permits sooner than what would be feasible if the EE is not started until after the Notice to Proceed is issued.

Medley asked if they plan to impound water with the tailings dam. Lewis said there is a tailings storage facility and it is not expected to have a significant liquid storage, mostly materials that have already been through the closed process; mostly tailings as opposed to wet slurry. She believes WRD is the agency responsible for the dam assessment and classification, and DEQ will be issuing permits related to the operation of the facility.

Medley said mine tailing dams are renowned for having poor construction and although they do not plan to impound water, if a flood event or a rainstorm happens, essentially there will be a dam. She guesses it is fairly low risk because of the low consequence potential downstream. She is happy an assessment is being done since it will be another dam in the State. Day-Stirrat said the risk assessment is being reviewed to look at those elements and make sure the tailings facility is secure.

Doucet added that the design for the tailings storage facility, the storm water management design was designed for a 500-year flood, so they designed it to handle a significant amount of storm water. Medley said to her, 500 years is really frequent. She understands they are doing the assessment and there is a chance to review.

Kozlowski asked if there is any prediction for when the application will be deemed complete. Doucet said he is cautiously optimistic, maybe by the end of the year.

MacDonald asked if there is any support or work element he anticipates tasking the Board with between now and the Notice to Proceed. Lewis said she does not believe there is a decision-making component for the Board in the permitting process.

Kozlowski thanked Doucet for the comprehensive report, stating it was an excellent presentation and a very long, complex process, that his entrance into the project has expedited the process.

**Briefing: No Board Action Required.**

**11) MLRR Update:**

Sarah Lewis, MLRR Program Manager, provided a brief update on MLRR.

**Permit Status Summary**

Lewis stated there is a lot of information in the Board Packet and she would just touch on some highlights. The general permit activity and total permit number continue to be high. The number of active applications continue to increase, including new applications received around the exploration for lithium in the Southeast Oregon along the Nevada border. For March through mid-June, 20 new applications were received, consisting of 2 transfers, 2 amendments for Operating Permits, and 16 new applications comprised of: 1 Exclusion Certificate, 2 Operating Permits, and 13 Exploration Permits. During the same period, MLRR issued 1 Exclusion Certificate, 1 Exploration Permit, 1 Site Closure, and transfer of 3 Operating Permits. The Program continues to spend a significant amount
of time responding to complaints, resulting in the issuance of Suspension Orders at 4 sites. The need for additional capacity around complaints and compliance is recognized in the two new positions focusing on compliance issues and permit review approved by the Legislature for the 2023-35 biennium.

Two new Civil Penalties for non-payment of renewal fees have been approved by the State Geologist. Lewis stated the Program has been working to prepare an update for the Board regarding the Ekroth Pit case previously approved for Mining Without a Permit (MWOP). Due to staffing shortages, MLRR has enlisted the help of the Department of Justice (DOJ) in preparing the case for review.

MacDonald asked if MLRR has been seeing any substantive change in the complexities of the applications. Lewis said the complexity of the technical sites is not changing, but due to pre-application meetings, staff have been seeing more applications closer to being complete when they are submitted; there is a definite improvement in the materials received.

Lewis introduced Justin McGillivary, a limited duration (LD) Permitting Specialist who started in April, his background is in geography and wastewater management, and he has already made a demonstrative change in the work process. She stated in May 2023 Nick Tatalovich left the Agency after accepting a position in the private sector, he had been the lead Aggregate Permitting Reclamationist for all the permit applications; she acknowledged the contributions he made and said he will be missed. The recruitment to fill that position is in the final stages, with plans to onboard the new employee on July 10, 2023. MLRR is adjusting the responsibilities of the position and looking at making improvements to how the process is completed to reduce the workload of the aggregate lead, as it not reasonable for one person to track that many applications. This is also an excellent opportunity to help move the Program into a better project management workflow, as it will directly support the move to ePermitting and required of the new system. This whole transition to ePermitting will take a couple of years, so MLRR is asking for patience while it gets everything into place.

Kozlowski asked if MLRR will be hiring another staff member. Lewis explained the two positions added through the budget package are for compliance and permit review, and not funded through General Fund but Other Funds; it is more the funding of existing positions already hired for workload.

Kozlowski said the information in the Board Packet was excellent and she particularly liked the newsletter, there is a customer warmth that comes through.

Briefing: No Board Action Required.

12) GS&S Update:

Jason McClaughry, GS&S Program Manager, provided a brief update on the GS&S program.

McClaughry said the Board Packet contains detailed information on recent publications that have been released and grant proposals currently being worked on and their status in the process.

Since the last Board Meeting, the Program has hired Dr. Michael Darin as the Eastern Oregon Regional Geologist, since McClaughry is now the permanent GS&S Program Manager. Darin came from the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology and was also an Associate Professor of Structural
Geology for the University of Nevada, Reno. In the past year, GS&S has hired two additional higher educated staff in the Lidar Program and Remote Sensing, and Geologic Hazards section focusing on earthquakes, both with PhDs. The two new legislatively approved mapping positions will significantly enhance the capacity for current workloads in geologic mapping and leverage additional funding in the future. The Program has also brought on, through the BLM Program Coos Bay project, a landslide intern from PSU, who is a master’s candidate, and DOGAMI is working to establish a dedicated annual training program to continue to educate and train students, building the next generation of mappers.

One grant not highlighted in the packet is from the US Geological Survey (USGS) to do more work on post-fire debris flow monitoring and analysis in Oregon, and it is a 5-year cooperative agreement for $40,000 a year. A request for approval has been submitted to LFO.

The aeromagnetic and radiometric geophysical data collections in the Baker Valley are almost completed, this will help with current project in the Harney Basin and be used in leveraging additional funds and resources needed for future projects.

The cooperative project with the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) studying the geology of undersea cables coming onshore was completed on June 15, 2023 and the publication will be released on June 30, 2023 as DOGAMI Special Paper 54, Dr. Reed Burgette is the main author and the Agency’s Lidar Coordinator and Remote Sensing geologist.

Kozlowski said the grant applications are significant and asked if the Agency has capacity to perform/complete the work. McLaughry said yes, it is tracked carefully and there is a detailed process for determining the grants the Agency goes after. At the beginning he and Dahlberg review staffing capacity, how the project meets Agency mission and goals, a plan is done, and then it goes to LTM for approval to move forward. The two new NRS positions for a Mapping Geologist and Mineral Resource Geologist, approved by the Legislature, will work on existing STATEMAP and Earth MRI projects.

Kozlowski asked how the technical publications and reports are distributed to people outside the Agency. McLaughry said most are released on the Agency website and are free for downloaded. He added Alex Lopez, DOGAMI’s Public Affairs Coordinator, does news releases; there are public meetings and outreach for the project; and the Agency is starting to reach out to legislative representatives in the area of the upcoming release to make them aware of the publications, as well as getting them in the hands of decision makers.

Medley asked about fault mapping work being done in the Mt. Hood area. McLaughry said the study she referred to was done by Dr. Ashley Streig at Portland State University and Scott Bennett of the USGS, the work stemmed from the USGS STATEMAP funded work geologic mapping done in the Hood River Valley 2011 and published in 2012. DOGAMI has been collaborating with them ever since and the data fault and earthquake data is incorporated into the Agency’s publications. Plans for future proposals are being worked on. A longer discussion took place on future Lidar plans associated with hazards work.

**Briefing:** **No Board Action Required.**

**13) Director’s Report:**
Ruarri Day-Stirrat, Director & State Geologist, provided an update on the Agency.

**Agency Update**

Director Day-Stirrat stated DOGAMI has made a big push on mapping in the last year in terms of bringing in new staff and significant federal grants. He believes the Legislature has agreed that mapping the State is really important and it is gratifying to have the 2 positions being granted to the Agency. He is firmly of the opinion that a lot of data in Eastern Oregon is needed over the next few years to help with the questions related to water and minerals. The Agency has put into place an opportunity to provide the State with data so it can make data-based decisions.

It has been a positive Legislative Session. DOGAMI was in front of the Legislature several times for a variety of things, not just the Ways and Means Committee for the budget, that included presenting grant opportunities to the Natural Resources Subcommittee related to FEMA grants. This has been a team effort, at least five staff members presented on behalf of DOGAMI to the Legislature, and even when the Agency had nothing to say, staff were present, which he believes was noticed.

A big highlight from the budget is General Fund being approved for MLRR’s ePermitting System. Day-Stirrat said he was flagging the Board now about future discussions on the need to correct size the MLRR program and have more staff brought in, which is going to be a long running theme over the next year.

Day-Stirrat said he was quite disappointed in the OPB story related to a mine site in Prineville, because it really did not reflect the work that the Agency has done. When it first came to his attention, he essentially performed an audit, and all the steps taken by the MLRR program. When the story came out, he sent an email to staff saying how impressed he was with the work they had done and did not see any issues with the process the Agency had undertaken. There has been significant coordination with the Governor’s Office since this is now a jurisdictional issue question, if the situation is not related to mining. Those conversations have begun.

On Tuesday he hopes to meet with representatives from the community and their technical support, and from the company and their consultant, to understand all of the data, not just the data DOGAMI has. On Wednesday of next week, there will be a small meeting in Prineville where residents will get to express their concerns directly to him and he will help them navigate the State system.

Day-Stirrat wanted to let the Board know that what was printed in the press is not a reflection of the work the Agency has done, and its broader understanding of the situation. He stated DOGAMI’s role now is helping the residents get to an appropriate solution through other agencies, and in part to educate them on the unique geology of Crook County, which through the STATEMAP Program, the Agency has gathered a very rich data set that allows it to understand the situation quite well.

Kozlowski thanked Day-Stirrat for his proactive progress on the issue, the research, and being present at the public meeting with the community.

**Briefing: No Board Action Required.**

**14) Confirm Time and Date for next meeting:**
15) **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 Ashford asked for any written public comments. No public comments.

16) **Board Adjourn:**

Vice-Chair Kozlowski adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

APPROVED

Scott Ashford, Chair