

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

Friday, November 21, 2025

8:30 a.m.

Teleconference Public Meeting

1) Call to Order: (Linda Kozlowski, Board Chair)

Chair Kozlowski called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

2) Introductions: (Linda Kozlowski, Board Chair, and Staff)

Chair Linda Kozlowski, Vice-Chair Anne MacDonald, Board Members Tiffany Thomas, and Ruth Dittrich were all in attendance via Zoom. Board Member Diane Teeman was not in attendance.

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

Ruarri Day-Stirrat – Director/State Geologist

Lori Calarruda, Recording Secretary/Executive Assistant

Alex Lopez, Public Affairs Coordinator

Sarah Lewis, MLRR Program Manager

Steve Dahlberg, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Jason McClaughry, GS&S Program Manager

Laura Gabel, KPM Coordinator and Coastal Field Geologist

Others in attendance:

Diane Lloyd, Department of Justice (DOJ)

Addison Rowe, DAS Office of the Chief Financial Officer

3) Review Minutes of September 15, 2025 Board Meeting:

Chair Kozlowski asked if there were any changes to the minutes as presented. No changes.

Board Action: **Thomas moved to approve the minutes of September 15, 2025 Board Meeting as submitted. MacDonald seconded. Yes Votes: Kozlowski; MacDonald; Thomas. Motion carried.**

4) Confirm 2026 Board Meeting Dates and Board Retreat:

The Board discussed the Proposed 2025 Board Meeting Dates.

The 2026 DOGAMI Board Meeting dates are:

March 10, 2026 (Tuesday)

June 22, 2026 (Monday)

***Special Board Meeting July 22, 2026 (Wednesday)**

September 16, 2026 (Wednesday)

December 2, 2026 (Wednesday)

Confirmed dates by no Board Members stating any issues with suggested dates.

5) Financial Report:

Steve Dahlberg, Chief Financial Officer, presented the DOGAMI FY2025 Budget Status Report, as of September 30, 2025, for the Geological Survey and Services (GS&S) and Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation (MLRR) programs. The Board Packet contained the financial actuals, graphs, and projections.

Chair Kozlowski stated the following: "Before Steve starts, I'd like to just make a couple of comments. Steve said in our last meeting, the 23-25 Budget, the Agency has gone has done well, and is doing well, by doing what it said it would do, and is reverting approximately \$150,000 of the \$7.8 million general fund back to the State. That's a pretty amazing statement, and I think the Board should be very pleased and proud of what DOGAMI has accomplished. Now we begin to look at the 25-27 budget, and I'm particularly appreciative of the tutorial on process that staff took us through this last meeting, and will take us again through this meeting. The thought and the communication that has gone into this reporting has been one of the best practices I have seen, in the boards that I've been on. The staff has clearly thought through about what the Board needs to know in order to do our job, and has quickly addressed any issues surfaced by the Board. So I just want to give kudos to the staff. You all have just done an exceptional job, and part of your job is keeping the Board educated and up-to-date, and you've done that just beyond all expectations. So I just wanted to take a moment and thank you all for the work that you've done."

Dahlberg thanked Chair Kozlowski for the kind words. He shared a graph of the Biennium Comparison – Actual results from 2015-2025 with the 2025-27 LAB Budget. Looking at the current biennium that just started, there has been substantial growth from what the Agency had in the past, which is primarily driven by the POPs listed at the bottom of the chart, and includes normal incremental increases for inflation and adjustments that take place per year. Since 2019-21 DOGAMI's Budget has been growing and the Agency has been managing its resources well, this biennium will look different but it will still be managed the same as in the past. The substantial GS&S Other Funds increase is from the \$10M project for the Subsurface Geology and Mapping Program. MLRR has a nice substantial increase as well.

Dahlberg reviewed the 2025-27 Biennium Summary for actuals as of September 30, 2025. The General Fund Expenditure Budget is \$8.8M, which is \$1M more than the previous budget. He is keeping it at about \$500,000 underbudget for the moment, because there is budget reduction option of up to 5%, due to the State's budget imbalance. The GS&S Other Funds Expenditure Limitation is about \$12.8M with projected expenditures of \$9.3M, resulting in being \$3.5M under the Expenditure Limitation. The GS&S Federal Funds Expenditure Limitation is about \$6M with projected expenditures of \$2.5M, resulting in being \$3.5M under the Expenditure Limitation due to the shallow Lidar projects pipeline; however, it is still full of staff-focused grant projects. The MLRR Other Funds Expenditure Limitation is almost \$7.3M, which is \$1.5M greater than last biennium. The projected expenditures are \$6.7M, resulting in being \$600,000 under the Expenditure Limitation. Due to the

fee increase negotiations with industry, the revised Operating Reserve Balance will be \$1M, which is approximately 3.6 months and lower than the previous 6-month required Operating Reserve Balance.

Dahlberg explained the Agency does not know what the actual reduction will be, in regard to the 5% reduction option, as the original revenue forecast budget shortfall was \$370M and the most recent is around \$65M. There is one more revenue forecast in the first quarter of 2026, which will likely be the basis for the reduction the agencies need to commit to.

Vice-Chair MacDonald asked if the budget reduction only applies to General Fund dollars. Day-Stirrat explained that the Agency was directed to offer 5% reduction scenarios in 2.5% increments for General Fund and Other Funds. The State's projections are for General Fund, but DOGAMI was asked to put up two pots of money for the cut reduction. Chair Kozlowski asked if it affects the \$10M State Lands funding. Day-Stirrat replied yes it does affect the geologic carbon sequestration project, and there was coordination with DSL to match the reduction scenario so they aligned. He does not know how Other Funds reductions will actually play out, as nothing has been enacted.

Dahlberg said the Other Funds projected ending balance looks to be under budget by a fair amount. This is because the original ARB was created with information based on previous budgets, but the Lidar Program did not receive the expected funding as anticipated. He is not overly concerned because the Lidar Program has big dollars associated with it, but minimal impact on the staffing, and the pipeline for grants focused on staff resourcing and support is full. Chair Kozlowski asked if he knew it was coming. He said no he did not, the budget was planned 2 years ago, but the Agency is planning accordingly on how the money is spent for the current biennium. It is the similar explanation for the Federal Funds, which still has the budget capacity to pursue additional grants.

MLRR's approved fee increase and right-sizing POP will help increase the Program's delivery and service over the current and future biennium. The new ePermitting platform is expected to go-live between December 2026 and the first quarter of 2027. The \$1.8M in General Fund is for the ePermitting project, where approximately \$1.3M was rolled over from last biennium, with a little extra added in. There may be a need later to go back to the Legislature to request an additional \$500,000 to complete the project, which is the unspent money from the original project scope.

Wrapping up, Dahlberg stated the Agency has a healthy outlook and is doing well. DOGAMI continues to work and communicate well with Federal and State agencies, LFO/CFO analysts, and the Governor's Office. He looks forward to the Agency continuing to grow and add value to the State and communities.

Board Action: **Thomas moved to accept the Budget Status Report as presented. Dittrich seconded. Yes Votes: Kozlowski; Thomas; Dittrich. Motion carried.**

6) Review DOGAMI Governing Board Key Performance Measure (KPM) 6 Guidance Document:

Laura Gabel, KPM Coordinator and Coastal Field Geologist, reviewed the revised DOGAMI Governing Board Key Performance Measure (KPM) 6 Guidance Document.

Gabel reviewed the changes made to the guidance document based on the discussion from the September Board meeting.

Day-Stirrat asked Gabel to provide a brief update to the Board regarding the research she did on the history of KPM #5 – Customer Service. Gabel said it originally started out at 90% in the early 2000s, then was raised to 95% where it has stayed. The Agency has routinely scored below that percentage rate for some time now. She looked at other natural resource agencies, and they seem to only change by 5% increments either way. She found the survey can be administered a number of ways and there are no rules or guidance on how the survey is disseminated. An internal meeting discussed starting with proposing to LFO that DOGAMI lower the target from 95% to 90% during the next Budget Cycle, to reflect where the Agency scores have been at and that it is a regulatory agency. Day-Stirrat stated that this was to answer Vice-Chair MacDonald’s question from the last meeting as to why it was set at 95%. Chair Kozlowski clarified with Day-Stirrat that this will not inhibit the Agency’s challenge of looking at new and better ways to get customer service input. She believes the education component and outreach are important for DOGAMI to make sure people understand what the Agency does. Gabel added for other regulatory agencies nobody has reached 95%.

Board Action: **MacDonald moved to accept the Governing Board Key Performance Measure (KPM) 6 Guidance Document as presented. Thomas seconded. Yes Votes: Kozlowski; MacDonald; Thomas; Dittrich. Motion carried.**

7) 2026 Short Session:

Ruarri Day-Stirrat, Director & State Geologist, reviewed the Short Session timeline and process.

Day-Stirrat stated legislators and the Governor are limited by the number of bills they can introduce in Short Session. Currently, there are not any bills that directly impact the Agency, and DOGAMI is not bringing any bills into Short Session. The Agency should receive clarity around the reduction scenario and what percentage of General Fund rescission it needs to provide to the State. On a positive note, the recent IT position recruited for was at a higher level than what was budgeted for, based on a DAS HR assessment, so there will be small increase in General Fund to reflect that action. This is not an Agency action, but an HR action. There is also the potential for the plus-up for the ePermitting system, as it is anticipated the project will finish this biennium.

Chair Kozlowski asked if there is a specific timeframe for the budget reductions. Day-Stirrat said it will take place sometime during the Short Session, but there should be an answer by the next Board meeting scheduled for March.

Briefing: **No Board Action Required.**

8) Agency Key Performance Measures (KPMs) Changes:

Ruarri Day-Stirrat, Director & State Geologist, discussed the Agency’s Annual Key Performance Measures (KPMs) Changes.

Day-Stirrat stated there is no substantive update for this meeting due to other priorities that came up.

9) MLRR Update:

Sarah Lewis, MLRR Program Manager, provided the MLRR program update. The Board Packet contained the standard summary tables and figures.

Lewis stated this quarter the Program received 8 new applications and issued 7 permit decisions. The application load is holding steady at just under 100 applications. Of the 89 active surface mining applications, 34 are with DOGAMI for action, and 55 have been returns to applicants for revisions, additional information, or third-party comments.

During this time, MLRR has completely ramped up on the e-Permitting project, working with the vendor to develop the functional requirement specifications for the system; this is the first step in the process. The second step in the process is the configuration of the system, which may require small modifications to meet the Program's scope of work. The final step is to approve the documents and move into user testing. At the beginning of November Jamie Burroughs started as the new MLRR IT Support Specialist. She is currently in the e-Permitting meetings with the vendor, as 50% of her role is to support the new system. She will provide dedicated IT support to MLRR, and also backup support to the Agency. The e-Permitting system is on track to be completed in the 2025-27 biennium with the first system going live in late November of 2026. The Program will roll out each permit type and program individually to ensure appropriate customer support is provided to permittees and the public as it moves forward. Lewis wanted to be clear that the money that will be requested is not additional funds, but a request for reappropriation of the money reverted last biennium because it was not spent. The project is still on budget, as originally scoped 3 years ago. There may still be extra costs as the Program begins to re-baseline the budget and timelines get more firm. Chair Kozlowski said it is really impressive and the project is currently under budget.

Vice-Chair MacDonald asked if the e-Permitting project timeline will be affected if the reappropriation of the 2023-25 biennium monies does not happen. Lewis said she hopes not. There is some staff time built into the General Fund request that could be funded by fee dollars if needed. If the appropriation does not happen, discussions with Leadership and the Board will take place to determine where the appropriate sources might be to fill the funding gap. Once the system is online, it will be supported by technology fees on the transactions in the system. It is the Program's intention to stay within budget. She added that if the services the Program would like to see rolled out have higher dollars than expected attached to them, they may be postponed from being added to the base system until funding is available.

Vice-Chair MacDonald asked Lewis if she has heard anything about DEQ's experience with the system. Lewis said, not speaking on behalf of DEQ or their experience, the Program is using the Project Manager and Business Analyst that have been with the DEQ System for 8 years and one of the challenges for DEQ was consolidating a variety of different permit systems into one single electronic system, which is a challenge that DOGAMI does not face. Based on what the Program has heard about user interaction, it is being very mindful about change management and how best to communicate over the next year to help prepare people for interacting with the system, and there is a steering committee as well. Lewis stated the Program should be able to provide the Board a preview of the system at the September Board meeting.

Dittrich asked Lewis what she thinks the biggest challenges are going to be with the new system. Lewis thinks the biggest challenge is going to be providing the level of customer service the permittees need to be successful in navigating the system. The Program does not currently have emails for all of them and do contact through paper mail and phone calls. Staff are currently thinking of ways to address the issue, and are planning on significant time and energy spent on having people

available to answer the phone and help. The biggest hurdle is going to be reaching everyone in the first year, so they know they need to go online and not to expect a paper renewal.

Lewis stated the newsletter in the Board Packet immediately starts off with information about the fee increase that takes effect on January 1, 2026. This increase is going to help bring on more staff, and there are still five more positions to be recruited for. The Program is following the same outreach plan they did for the previous increase in 2021, which includes sending a paper notice to everyone's mailing address, updating the website in December with the new fee schedule, and putting the fee increase start date information on the website banners.

The Grassy Mountain Project in eastern Oregon is in the final stages of draft permits. The Program is planning to release them in early December for public notice. There will be a 45-day period where they are posted online for public comment. In late January MLRR will hold a public hearing, most likely in Vale, Oregon, to present the project to the community and receive any comments back. This is a momentous occasion for the State and Agency. Lewis commended the team that has been working on this so diligently over the last few years, and specifically the last 3 months. Each phase of this project is brand new for folks, so nobody knows what the challenges are going to be, and staff have continued to meet them head-on and do an excellent job in creating a permit that is going to be environmentally protective, following State regulations, and supportive of the project moving forward.

Chair Kozlowski said there were concerns about the process at last meeting and asked what changed for it to move forward. Lewis answered the Program was navigating getting the appropriate review of cultural resource information and contracted with a third party to provide review by a federally licensed accredited archeologist, who provided the support needed to make sure the permit conditions were protective of the identified cultural resources and the appropriate work had been done. The Program will still be relying on the federal Section 106 process that the State Historic Preservation Office in Oregon is responsible for contributing to. That will still be the process for the final permits, but the Program was able to get the input needed for the draft permits, to allow moving forward with publishing them for public comment.

Chair Kozlowski asked how long this project has been in process. Lewis said the Notice of Intent, which began the actual process, was issued in 2017. The project itself had two prior Notices of Intent, one was as early as 2012. With each revision of the project that is substantive, the process had to restart. This process kicked off in 2017, the application was received in 2019, and MLRR issued a Notice to Proceed in 2023. The Program is now ready to draft permits in 2025, with the final permits process still left to go. It was very gratifying to work through each step. Kozlowski stated it was good work.

Lewis mentioned the Agency was contacted last month by someone else interested in Division 37 Chemical Process Mine Permit under the consolidated process, so there is additional interest in this process. The Program will take the lessons learned from Grassy Mountain to use on the next one.

Chair Kozlowski asked about the partnership with Grassy Mountain. Lewis said one of the most important things is to develop a communication pathway with the applicant, to ensure the Program is clear about its expectations and communicating its needs to them, and the applicant can talk openly about their challenges. It is a much better situation for everyone if DOGAMI and the applicant are able to have those conversations and be in a solution space to talk about paths forward, instead of

252 butting heads and arguing. A Memorandum of Agreement that described those communication
253 pathways was developed in 2018 with the applicant.

254
255 Vice-Chair MacDonald asked if MLRR is running into challenges with the federal staffing cuts. Lewis
256 said the Program did not see a significant impact on the process. Her understanding, based on her
257 conversations with BLM, since it is funded by external funds they were able to continue work. MLRR
258 is in alignment with BLM's process timeline, and their final EIS is expected to be available late
259 December or early January, which she believes is posted on BLM's NEPA website. MLRR requires that
260 federal approval, the record of decision, in order to issue the final permits. MacDonald asked if a
261 public hearing date has been set yet.

262
263 Vice-Chair MacDonald asked if the new expression of interest is starting at the exploration phase or
264 has the exploration already been done and they believe they have an economic resource. Lewis
265 answered the latter and it is another gold project. There is a pre-application meeting with the
266 applicant scheduled in December. MLRR is required to publish that information on its website as
267 soon as it is settled and she can put out that information as well. Day-Stirrat added the Notice of
268 Intent is on patented claims, with a federal process, so it will only be a State patenting process and is
269 less complicated than Grassy Mountain based on the information put in the notice. MacDonald
270 asked if that means they can not only do the mining but all the processing, lay down and everything
271 else on patented claims. Day-Stirrat stated that is their claim.

272
273 Briefing: **No Board Action Required.**

274
275 **10) GS&S Update:**

276 Jason McClaughry, GS&S Program Manager, provided the GS&S program update. The Board Packet
277 contained all of the summarized GS&S activities.

278
279 McClaughry discussed two recent hires that make the GS&S Program fully staffed to handle the grant
280 load. First, Vanessa Swenton, a Geologist with DOGAMI, was promoted to the Mapping Lead, and
281 the second recruitment was for a Mapping Geologist, who has accepted the offer and will be starting
282 in January. He will share that information at the next meeting.

283
284 On the outreach theme, two really important publications came out this week. The first one is by Bill
285 Burns, Open-File Report O-25-09, "Debris Flow Hazard, and Risk Reduction in the Eagle Creek,
286 Beachie Creek-Lionshead, Holiday Farm, and Archie Creek Fire Areas, Multnomah, Hood River,
287 Marion Lane, and Douglas Counties, Oregon". It is on post-fire debris flow research in the Western
288 Cascades, following the 2020 Labor Day fires. He reviewed the details of the publication and showed
289 the different maps. A large amount of data was analyzed to create the report for the public. There
290 are also some generalized fact sheets that describe to the public what some of the likely outcomes
291 are in the burned areas, as well as providing some guidance on what to do before a storm and during
292 an extreme storm to help the public be prepared for the type of cataclysmic events that could
293 happen. It was funded by the FEMA CTP Program.

294
295 Chair Kozlowski said it was an excellent report and asked if they are being proactive with the
296 communities and emergency managers in the areas of this report and having discussions with them.
297 McClaughry said yes, there was a 2 hour meeting on Tuesday to go over the results with the
298 important stakeholders in each of the areas to discuss how to use it and what are the best practices

to disseminate it to the public. Public engagement is an essential part of the FEMA grants. Kozlowski asked if there was additional information needed by the communities, is there a process to have them get that information. McClaughry said yes, they often get requests to do more detailed talks. One thing the FEMA CTP grants require is DOGAMI has to have stakeholder engagement and public support in the areas before the grant request is made. Kozlowski asked if OEM and OREM has been informed of this report. McClaughry said yes, several members of OEM and DLCD are co-authors on the report and have been involved in the scientific study all along. Lopez added that the community outreach meetings were recorded and are on DOGAMI's website under the post-fire debris flow area.

The second publication was also funded by FEMA CTP to help enhance people's understanding of groundwater resources, specifically in eastern Oregon, Fact Sheet FS-17, "Outreach Materials for Exploring Geologic Mapping in Eastern Oregon" by Vanessa Swenton and Jon Franczyk. It is a trifold brochure that describes many of the natural hazards that can be taken to outreach meetings or when in communities discussing projects. There are more detailed four-pager Fact Sheets on the DOGAMI website.

A new component being added to the outreach arsenal is called the Esri Experience Builder. It is an interactive webpage the public can go through that covers different topics. It also links to DOGAMI's natural hazards maps, including HazVu and the landslide viewer SLIDO, to make it easier for the public to engage with DOGAMI's resources. He did a brief preview for the Board.

Chair Kozlowski said pictures help the public get their arms around what is happening and the team has done an excellent job.

Vice-Chair MacDonald asked what the plan is for getting this information out to every state legislator, all elected officials, county and local, and SWCDs in eastern Oregon. McClaughry said they had intended to attend a variety of public meetings with the Agency's partner, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), but the schedule did not work out. Those are now planned in the near future in a number of communities in targeted areas such as Burns, Milton-Freewater, and the Dalles. DOGAMI's Legislative Coordinator, Christina Appleby, will have these to hand out to the legislature. The Program is thinking about future ideas of how to get this into larger hands and to a broader audience. MacDonald said she thinks a push campaign would be helpful. This could also help the MLRR program related to the role of mining in Oregon. McClaughry added that Experience Builder can be adapted to many different topics and this is a living document that can be added to.

McClaughry briefly reviewed two grant proposals that have been submitted. One is a partnership with OEM, submitted to FEMA, to start studying post-fire debris flows in eastern Oregon on burned areas in the dry areas of the state. Previous studies have been in the heavily forested rainy areas of the western Cascades, this one would allow staff to do a comparison and contrast on how those events in burned areas relate to one another from west to east. The second is the USGS geologic mapping in the historic Cornucopia Mining District near the town of Halfway. This is a significant look at critical mineral potential in this area. This is Oregon's largest historic gold mine, that historically had 26 miles of underground workings. The USGS has been flying detailed geophysical surveys, collecting high-resolution airborne magnetics and radiometric data over roughly 8,000 square kilometers of northeast Oregon, and it is almost complete. This will directly support the Cornucopia project and additional geochemical sampling in the mineral belt of Northeast Oregon that the Agency will propose in the future.

Kozlowski said there have been several articles about probabilistic mapping of the coastline, which will probably change some of the signage, and asked if there are any maps currently available. McClaughry said yes, the Coastal Office is currently working on this and there are pending publications for that type of work that will get maps out shortly. McClaughry and Jon Allan, DOGAMI's Coastal Geomorphologist, are currently looking at moving in that direction in the future, as this is something the Washington Geologic Survey has moved to.

Briefing: **No Board Action Required.**

11) Director's Report:

Ruarri Day-Stirrat, Director & State Geologist, provided an Agency Update.

Day-Stirrat said in January 2023 the Governor issued several agency expectations, which included the Strategic Plan, which the Board was very involved in. There are several more the Board is less involved in, but are part of the expectation portfolio, which include: the Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan, that is required yearly that was submitted in October to OEM and approved; a Succession Plan that defines key roles and responsibilities in the agencies and contingencies around changes, which is due at the end of the year; and every year an Employee Engagement Survey is done through Gallup with the results submitted to DAS, this is happening in December. Leadership takes the Employee Engagement Survey extremely seriously. They review the results to see if there are any changes that can be made to address key concerns or issues from staff.

The MLRR program is about to enter the second phase of hiring funded by the fee increase. The Geological Carbon Sequestration project will go through a recruitment phase, and is close to having an Interagency Agreement (IAA) signed with the Department of State Lands (DSL), as well as a Project Charter. DOGAMI is scheduled to be in front of the Land Board early February to provide an update on the progress made to date. He is anticipating having a more substantive update with regards to contracting, recruiting, the community and Tribal engagement, and the geological work. Day-Stirrat added for new Board Members, the Department of State Lands is governed by the Governor, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

Day-Stirrat asked the Board if they have any technical presentation they are interested in for the March meeting. Thomas asked what is the appropriate steps to get those ideas submitted. Ideas are to be submitted to Chair Kozlowski by the end of the year to get them scheduled. Vice-Chair MacDonald mentioned the MLRR terms around mining.

Briefing: **No Board Action Required.**

12) Public Comment:

Only written comments received prior to or by 11:35 a.m. on the day of the meeting were to be accepted. Chair Kozlowski asked for any written public comments. No public comments.

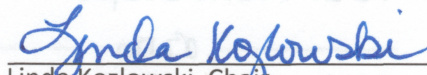
Thomas asked if the letter sent to the Board will be addressed at some point. Lewis said the Program has been working with the permittee and applicant over many years to come up with paths forward for the project. There has been a significant change in staffing on both sides of the equation. Post the meeting referenced in the letter, the Program immediately reached out and has had additional meetings, which were not included/referenced in the letter. She can provide additional information

offline. The Program does have timelines around the application process and is being open to practical and feasible suggestions from the applicant. Day-Stirrat added staff have spoken with the consultant of the permittee and it was a functional conversation designed to solve the problem.

13) Board Adjourn:

Chair Kozlowski adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

APPROVED


Linda Kozlowski, Chair