



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of State Lands

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State Land Board

Tina Kotek

Governor

Tobias Read

Secretary of State

Elizabeth Steiner

State Treasurer

State Land Board

July 9, 2025
10:00 am – 10:30 am
Meeting Agenda

*This is a virtual meeting that can be viewed online through the
Department of State Lands' livestream video:
www.youtube.com/@oregonstatelands*

ACTION ITEMS

1. Appointment of the Department of State Lands Director and bond of Director
Public testimony will be taken on this item.
2. Appointment of an Interim Director of the Department of State Lands
Public testimony will be taken on this item.

WATCH THE MEETING ONLINE

Meeting video and audio will be livestreamed, and the recording available after the meeting, on the DSL YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/@oregonstatelands

PROVIDE PUBLIC TESTIMONY

The State Land Board places great value on information received from the public. The public may provide written or spoken testimony regarding consent and action agenda items, time permitting and at the discretion of the Chair.

- **Providing Written Testimony:** Testimony received by 9:45 am on July 9, 2025, will be provided to the Land Board before the meeting. Written testimony

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received after 9:45 am will still be provided to the Land Board, but after the meeting has concluded.

Submit your input in writing to: landboard.testimony@dsl.oregon.gov. Please indicate the agenda item your testimony relates to.

- **Providing Spoken Testimony by Video/Phone:** Advanced sign-up is required for the public to provide spoken testimony (by Zoom) at the July 9, 2025, meeting. The sign-up deadline for this meeting is 9:45 am on July 9, 2025.

Please note: When the number of people interested in speaking exceeds the time allotted for an agenda item, speakers are randomly selected for testimony slots to ensure all have an equal opportunity to testify.

Additional Testimony Information

- Testimony on the July 9, 2025, action items will be taken at the beginning of the meeting, before the Land Board votes. Please be prepared to provide testimony promptly at 10 am.
- The Board typically accepts testimony on consent and action items only.
- The standard time limit is three minutes for each individual; the actual time available for testimony during Land Board meetings is at the discretion of the Chair.



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State Land Board

State Land Board

Special Meeting

July 9, 2025

Agenda Item 1

Tina Kotek

Governor

Tobias Read

Secretary of State

SUBJECT

Appointment of Department of State Lands Director and bond of Director.

Elizabeth Steiner

State Treasurer

ISSUE

Whether the State Land Board should appoint the Department Director and set a fidelity bond penal amount for the Director position.

AUTHORITY

- ORS 273.161(1); Appointment of Director of Department.
- ORS 273.165; Oath and bond of Director.

BACKGROUND

Director Appointment

In December 2024, Department of State Lands Director Vicki L. Walker formally notified the State Land Board of her intent to retire June 30, 2025. By statute, the State Land Board shall appoint a Director of the Department of State Lands to serve for a term of four years (ORS 273.161 (1)).

On February 27, 2025, the Land Board approved a recruitment framework for the Director position and delegated authority for implementing a recruitment process to identify a final candidate or candidates to Geoff Huntington as Governor Kotek's Land Board Assistant and Senior Natural Resource Policy Advisor.

The recruitment process sought multiple perspectives on the Department's next Director and included candidate conversations with state staff; representatives of communities and organizations the Department works and partners with; Tribal leaders; each individual Land Board office; and an interview with the Land Board in executive session.

Mr. Huntington is recommending appointment of Kaitlin Lovell of Colton, Ore. as Director of the Department of State Lands. *See Appendix A for Ms. Lovell's biography.*

Throughout the interview process, Ms. Lovell was identified as one of the top candidates in the applicant pool. She possesses strong substantive expertise in multiple areas of relevance to the DSL portfolio of issues, and has demonstrated the leadership qualities necessary to succeed as the next Director of the Department.

Director Bond

ORS 273.165 requires the Director of the Department of State Lands to give to the state a fidelity bond in a penal sum fixed by the State Land Board, with the premium on the bond paid from moneys available for operational expenses of the Department.

Following consultation with Department of Administrative Services Risk Management, the Department determined that a bond of \$100,000 would be appropriate for the Director position and is consistent with bonds posted for two other natural resource agency directors. Because the bond is for the position, rather than a named individual, the bond covers the person holding the position regardless of whether they are serving in an acting, interim, or permanent capacity. The three-year premium for a \$100,000 bond is estimated to be \$346.20.

RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Huntington recommends the State Land Board appoint Kaitlin Lovell to serve for a term of four years as the Department of State Lands Director at a salary to be set consistent with state policy and the position announcement; and that the Board fix the penal sum for the Director position fidelity bond at \$100,000.

APPENDIX

A. Kaitlin Lovell biography

Kaitlin Lovell Biography

A scientist and lawyer, Kaitlin Lovell has since 2007 led habitat protection and restoration efforts for the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, overseeing aspects of environmental regulation, permitting, and land use. Recent focus has included developing a publicly owned and managed mitigation bank in Portland and establishing a financing strategy for critical environmental projects.

Lovell previously served as salmon policy coordinator and counsel for Trout Unlimited, where she sought effective science-based state and federal policy solutions and helped draft Oregon's first recovery plans for Oregon Coast Coho and for Lower Columbia and Willamette coho, chinook, and steelhead. Prior to that role, Lovell served as assistant university counsel at Cornell University.

Lovell earned a J.D. from Cornell Law School with a concentration in public law and a B.S. from Bucknell University in environmental science.

She has served on multiple DSL advisory groups, most recently the Elliott State Research Forest Board of Directors and an advisory committee considering updates to Oregon's rules for wetland and waterway permitting and mitigation.



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State Land Board

State Land Board

Special Meeting

July 9, 2025

Agenda Item 2

Tina Kotek

Governor

Tobias Read

Secretary of State

SUBJECT

Appointment of an Interim Director of the Department of State Lands.

Elizabeth Steiner

State Treasurer

ISSUE

Whether the State Land Board should appoint an Interim Director to ensure clear authority and responsibility for administration of the laws conferring powers or imposing duties upon the Department.

AUTHORITY

- ORS 273.161(1); Appointment of Director of Department.

BACKGROUND

Department of State Lands Director Vicki L. Walker's effective retirement date was June 30, 2025. Bill Ryan, the Department's Deputy Director of Aquatic Resource Management, was named Acting Director under a delegation of authority from Director Walker through June 30, 2025. On July 1, 2025, Governor Kotek as Chair of the State Land Board and under the authority of ORS 273.175 provided a delegation of authority to allow specified DSL staff to sign, approve and execute certain official documents which are by law, rule, or other authority to be executed by the Director.

Until a new Director is appointed by the State Land Board and takes the oath of office required in ORS 273.165 to enter upon the duties of the office, appointment of an Interim Director is necessary to ensure clear authority and responsibility for administration of the laws conferring powers or imposing duties upon the Department (including authorizing expenditure of funds and entering into contractual relationships).

Bill Ryan is prepared to serve as Interim Director, effective immediately, until a new Director is appointed by the State Land Board and takes the oath of office required in ORS 273.165.