



## Agenda/Notes

Office of Governor Tina Kotek — RJC Environmental Equity

October 16, 2024 – Zoom

1:00 - 2:30pm

Moderator – Javier Cervantes

### MEMBERS

x	Ana Molina	x	Clara Soh		Robert Komoto
	Alai Reyes-Santos		Janet Komoto	x	Tiffany Monroe
x	Candace Avalos	E	Jill Fuglister		

### OTHER ATTENDEES

	Andre Bealer	x	Chandra Ferrari		Karin Power
x	Yasmin Solorio				

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
Welcome	Javier initiates meeting.	
Determining and setting the committee's budget priorities.	<p><b>Javier:</b> This is an off-month we are meeting. Governor wants to hear back from our committee. The attached template the Co-Chairs will share with Governor at 10:30am on October 29<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>Javier:</b> Identify what top priorities are for the committee, are there any that didn't make the list. These are equity impacts for the Governor and committee to think about. Rate 1-5.</p> <p><b>Tiffany Monroe:</b> What are priorities of the Governor? Strategically where should we put support?</p> <p><b>Javier:</b> Any thoughts?</p> <p><b>Chandra:</b> Concepts of resiliency. Focus on water space, natural working lands, climate space. Another is LUBGWAMA and Umatilla drinking area. Public water sources, things that connect into her absolute top priorities, like housing. We are trying to marry Natural Resources into housing – how can we improve and intertwine development going forward. Who is being impacted by our past decisions?</p> <p><b>Javier:</b> Let's look at page two of Environmental Equity POP priorities</p>	Learn more about DLCD POP 502 training planners and permit reviewers.

**Clara:** Are these five across all agencies or just those listed?

**Javier:** If its not listed here, then bring it up to our attention and let us know.

**Chandra:** These came up because of agency and budgets, but there are also other conversations happening with other areas that are not here.

**Clara:** These seem more *agency* driven then RJC driven. These seem to be needs from agencies brought to us.

**Javier:** What are other equity impacts? That will be shared with the Governor.

**Chandra:** Look at this POP in this light. If you know of external concepts.

**Clara:** It's hard to pigeonhole into one agency, it's hard to get big ideas into specific POPs.

**Chandra:** Natural Resource team – should we come across additional funds, we are trying to bucket them into topics to make a workplan.

**Clara:** Sensitive to how we need to think of how government and budget works. Thanks for laying it out. Doesn't matter how great ideas are if we can't operationalize them.

**Ana Molina:** Community resilience hubs through OEM, started in 2023 and was awarded millions. They are *just* notifying folks of funding. Would be great to mention somewhere.

**Javier:** Do you want it in the top 5 or on the "other things to keep in mind" list?

**Ana:** Top 5

**Tiffany:** We started this committee because of the time where we had a lot of federal funding and had limited barriers. Due to challenging environment with the state, it's been shared this isn't the same time as before. I appreciate Clara's question. Due to begin in a different environment, that's how we got here.

**Chandra:** Great point. Natural Resource budget is always constrained and sometimes doesn't rise to the level to get priority for certain consideration. Sometimes a lot of

the priority is just making sure that the budget doesn't erode and its on par with other key issues Oregonians think about. I hope that's out there and there isn't an extra influx going elsewhere. We have a lot of fee requirements going forward. Will be dicey during session.

**Jaiver:** Are we ok to list that comment?

**Ana:** Yes, that's a good mention to share at the start.

**Javier:** Priorities we select here will set up the workplan for 2025. Highlighting importance.

**Ana:** Picking POPs – There are a lot of different water issues, is it a broad scope we want to highlight or is it more specific to certain work (like equity work, nitrate stuff in Umatilla)?

**Chandra:** Broad theme is important. Note both past and present context, what you would like for Governor to know.

**Javier:** Water equity/clean drinking water for communities. Will list a certain POP if you have one.

**Chandra:** Folks recognize its important but don't have capacity to do it or do it well, that's where frustration shows. That could be something too, community orientated approach. Seems more top down, when they want to be more bottom up.

**Tiffany:** Specifically to water, on the document, the one that is related to staff need and legislative agenda. Advocate for us to hire two communications staff over EJ position. There is so much need for us to get and communicate out information (multiple languages). Getting fund out to people that's accessible and having capacity, I think that's what is needed. Staffing for OWRD and LUBGWAMA that's where support is needed.

**Clara:** Not as familiar with specifics, I do want to put my vote for water on one of the top five priorities. Brought this up before, but didn't go anywhere, would love to revisit the name "water master". It is problematic and will likely not cost money. The idea to have someone go to a "water master" and ask for water is wrong. The people using this term are being the most injured.

**Javier:** Great point, language is important. Want to unpack that.

**Chandra:** Referring to water code?

**Clara:** That's where you go when water is being determined.

**Chandra:** The term is in water code for water distribution, and allocation. This was also brought to our attention and is an example of names that shouldn't exist. There is a conversation thread going about renaming in the water context. This may fit in nicely.

**Clara:** Would love to see that be included. Especially because this has public interaction.

**Javier:** This could be a priority to work on for 2025. This committee could advocate for, and this committee has capacity to do. How do people feel? Is it a priority? It doesn't cost anything other than a good debate.

**Chandra:** If you want it, there pros and cons on focusing on one item or building on another conversation. I can see pros and cons for both.

**Javier:** Yes, we can use it as an example. Is that what you want?

**Tiffany:** Would like to build on it but I would like to have it tied to a different conversation other than this one, due to this one being more focused on the funding.

**Ana:** Agreed, maybe something easier to do in 2026 to uplift.

**Javier:** Can add the "water master" language on the "other items to bring up" as something to share with Governor.

**Clara:** Sounds good, just wanted to bring it up since water is being discussed.

**Javier:** The priorities I have are community resilience hubs, hiring of two communication staff and the EJ position.

**Javier:** Pesticide communication in other languages.

**Chandra:** Yes, they were going to update their language for non-native English speakers.

**Tiffany:** Under DLCD, one area I marked is Natural

Hazard planning. I know they aren't exactly the same but maybe we can have a conversation there. The item under Dept. of Agriculture, I'd like to see funding to support the pesticide education program.

**Javier:** Farmworker labor and them being exposed; they want good training for that. They will want to work with HECC to collaborate.

*Committee consensus on adding pesticide education program for priorities.*

**Tiffany:** Would love to hear Candance's expertise.

**Candace:** Not the expert on my team. Taking notes and will take them back to my team. Will share thoughts once I have them.

**Ana:** Highlighting incentive programs like heat pump program, POP for ODOE, community navigator program. There is no long-term planning in place for these life saving programs for those who are BIPOC and lower income. How can we secure funding long term to provide stabilization.

**Clara:** Would love to see more structure around the incentive programs' focus on those in need. Lots of folks who did not need it qualified. Would like to extend support to fund and maintain them, but we need structure to ensure those qualify actually need them.

**Ana:** What are the community navigator programs?

**Chandra:** These are people in the community that connects people to resources and programs.

**Javier:** Any other additions?

**Tiffany:** Ana, do you think the item under DLCD under natural hazard planning could correlate to your initial thoughts on community resilience?

**Ana:** I don't remember what the Natural planning was, but we can include it. In alignment with what we've been talking about.

**Javier:** Do we combine with another one or is this separate bullet point?

**Ana:** Yes, separate bullet point.

**Javier:** Support for DLCD

**Ana:** I don't know if they have a budget already and needing to adjust or if they need funding?

**Chandra:** I believe they have a budget and are needing to adjust, but there might be more funding here.

**Javier:** DLCD, budget, climate, and Natural hazard planning.

**Clara:** We need to include something about fire. As long as that can be include in Natural Hazard planning, that would be great.

**Tiffany:** Training planners and reviewers, increased housing and tech assistance (POP 502 and 503). With natural resource considerations, of these two is there one that could be considering something we want people to be mindful of but also moving the needle to get goals completed?

**Chandra:** I think so but will need to look closer, not positive. Leaning towards 502. If you want to put that as a note to Javier, I can do a little digging.

**Javier:** Learn more about DLCD POP 502 training planners and permit reviewers.

**Chandra:** Did DLCD chat with this group?

**Javier:** Yes, they presented these pops personally. What else is missing that we need to discuss?

**Clara:** If we can lend our support to health areas – 70% of health issues come from intersectionality with environment. Would be great to echo support from other communities and help with EJ.

**Javier:** Are there public health issues and environmental concerns where each committees' work intersects for potential collaboration. Does that fit?

**Clara:** Could be true across all differing subcommittees.

**Tiffany:** Good point to keep efforts on. When OHA presents to us on LUBGWAMA, or other things, we could also invite other subcommittees to join (vice versa). Of issues OHA has brought up that cross correlate – it would be fire, water, and air quality. Those are just two of many. We can focus on these two for budget

priorities that are applicable.

**Javier:** Are there other priorities that are important that didn't make the list? We have "learn more about DLCD POP 502 and trainer reviewers."

**Clara:** Wouldn't put in top 5 but want to talk about food security. It is related to environmental equity and touches on health. With cost of living and inflation being expensive, food insecurity is a concern.

**Javier:** Will add that to the list.

**Clara:** In year one we did a lot of outdoor recreation, now we are focused on budgetary items. Just saw Oregon state parks are raising daily rates; annual fee is staying the same. Just want to put it out there to flag – equitable access to outdoors as we see prices go higher. Important to bring up but not in top 5.

**Ana:** Wild Diversity in Portland has mentioned that, and the lack of funding for organizations that do that work.

**Tiffany:** I'd like to request for presentation. Two bills that were impacted and if they need help, they can provide an update on where they are. Can help us bring the idea going forward.

**Javier:** What were the agencies?

**Clara:** SB 289 - passed a law that said enhanced penalties. Exclusion of Oregon public lands for up to 5 years and can lose hunting and fishing licenses. We provided alternative path for educational rehabilitation. Oregon state park and ODFW for hunting and fishing license.

**Javier:** Andre and I will offer off-month opportunities to meet during the legislative session. We will send out calendar invitations, if we don't need to meet, we can cancel. Be that working on a letter, advocacy efforts, etc. we will try to keep them on the same days as the off-months. Will share this template with chairs, and you can move it forward.

*Consensus. Chairs called end of meeting at 2:22pm.*