



Agenda/Notes
Office of Governor Kotek — Environmental Equity Committee (RJC)
4/24/2024 – Zoom
1:00-2:30 p.m.

CHAIR

	Governor Tina Kotek
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CO-CHAIR

x	Ana Molina

MEMBERS

x	Bob Komoto	x	Janet Komoto		
x	Chandra Ferrari	x	Clara Soh		
x	Jill Fuglister				
x	Candace Avalos				
x	Alai Reyes-Santos PhD				

OTHER ATTENDEES

x	Andre Bealer	x	Karin Power		
x	Javier Cervantes				
x	Susana Sandoval				

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
Welcome and Introductions	Welcome and overview of the agenda.	
Update on the water justice funding restored in the short session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Comment/Question: Groundwater Testing and Farming Practices:○ There was groundwater testing for nitrates in water due to farming practices in Malheur County 15 years ago.○ OHSU (Oregon Health & Science University) suggested that changing farming practices wouldn't be helpful.○ Over the past decade, improvements have been observed.○ Over-fertilization and excessive watering have led to nitrate contamination, affecting water quality.○ The water eventually flows into rivers.○ The retired superintendent is asked to discuss this	

	<p>issue in Umatilla.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will funding be used for research in Umatilla to drive practice changes. ○ Answer: Capacity Building: ○ Aim is to focus on capacity building, community service, and education. ○ Numerous grant programs in the state address these aspects in northeast Oregon. ○ Concerns about Water Quality: ○ Water quality issues in agricultural areas, considering both farming practices and climate change. ○ Small grants alone are insufficient; a comprehensive team approach is needed. ○ Looking ahead to 2025, learning from different hotspots (e.g., well issues, drought, climate change) is crucial. ○ Monsanto Settlement: ○ The Monsanto settlement involves \$700 million for pollution caused by Monsanto Company. ○ Legislation has been passed to create a council with three lanes of distribution: general, tribes, and disadvantaged communities. ○ The state has a significant resource, but specific parameters are yet to be defined. ○ Priorities should align with new opportunities arising from this settlement. ○ Community Awardees and Water Projects: ○ The first nine awardees in May are community organizations through the University of Oregon's water education program. ○ These diverse groups, previously unfunded, will work on culturally specific water practices. ○ A significant \$1 million ask has been made. ○ Community Requests and Webinar on Water Law: ○ Community members seek specific projects, such as those costing around \$100,000. ○ A webinar on water law is being considered, with some individuals willing to participate. 	
EEC membership update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Housekeeping and Committee Applications: ○ An invitation has been sent out for committee members to reapply. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Co-chairs will serve in RJC committee meetings. ○ If you haven't applied yet, please do so. Governor approval is required for all members. ○ This is the last call for applications. ○ Reapplication details are at the bottom of the agenda. ○ Susana and I can assist with the process. ○ Susana has created a helpful cheat sheet for navigating Workday. ○ Start a new profile if needed and understand the distinction between external and internal applications. ○ New member recruitment will take place in May. ○ Emphasis on racial and geographic diversity. ○ Sometimes the same individuals serve on different committees. ○ The governor recommends a working committee size of 8-15 people. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organizational Representation on the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Organizations can have more than one representative on the committee. ○ Diversity is encouraged, and it's not solely about organizational representation. ○ The governor seeks new volunteers, especially those not currently serving in other areas. ● Javier's Input on Onboarding and Term Length: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proper onboarding is crucial, and committee terms last two years. ○ Recruitment isn't limited to a specific time of year; the "sweet spot" remains uncertain. ● Reaching Out for Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Everyone can be a recruiter. ○ Utilize your experience and let us know how we can assist. ○ We'll compile a list of potential candidates. 	
Evaluating previous and exploring new priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Renters' Rights and Water Quality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Three students conducted research on renters facing 	Request for Email Notifications:

	<p>issues when water is not potable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Precedents from three other states have passed legislation related to this. ○ Emergency response during ice storms has been crucial. ○ Proper information dissemination, especially linguistically and culturally specific, is essential. ○ Radios are a useful communication tool during emergencies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Joanna and State Resiliency Officers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Joanna, a state resiliency officer, shared valuable information after the ice storms. ○ Co-chairs can bring this information back to the committee. ○ Karin has facilitated connections with agencies, leading to fruitful collaborations. ○ Having directors involved enhances the committee's effectiveness. • Policy, Priorities, and Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The governor is keen on agencies' community service and implementation. ○ Identifying holes or blind spots is crucial for an effective response. ○ Implementation matters, even beyond legislative policy. ○ Last fall, discussions began about federal funds for environmental initiatives. ○ Solar for All received \$99 million for low-income solar efforts. ○ The state's equity advisor group and partnerships with communities of color play a vital role. ○ Tic Tac, a new initiative, can be explored further. • Governor's Water Policy Scope: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The governor's office aims to shape water policy for the next session. ○ Policy changes, not just budget considerations, are essential for water security goals. 	<p>An email notification system for sessions and budget updates would be helpful.</p>
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REIS and 2025 budget process for feedback from EEC Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation Status: The current agenda item is in the preliminary stages of preparation and requires further development. • Action Plan: We will reconvene to review and enhance the agenda item to ensure its completeness. • Process Importance: It is imperative to facilitate a process that allows ample time for meaningful engagement and participation. • Deferred Discussion: The discussion of this agenda item will be postponed to a future date to allow for adequate preparation and consideration. 	
Adjourn Next Meeting June 26, 1:00 PM	Checking In on Meeting Times Q: Is this time slot going to suit most of us for the upcoming meetings for the rest of the year? A: Yes, it does.	

Materials	Jam Board	
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