

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
September 25-27, 2019
Inn at Cross Keys Station
66 NW Cedar St
Madras, OR 97741

MINUTES

*****Audio file 2019-09-25 1*****

Wednesday, September 25, 2019 (Audio = 0:00)

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 pm by Chair Marty Myers. Introductions of members followed by ODA staff and guest introductions.

Board members present: Barbara Boyer, Pete Brentano, Stephanie Hallock, Grant Kitamura, Marty Myers, Tyson Raymond, Luisa Santamaria, Director Alexis Taylor, Associate Dean Joyce Loper.

Board members absent: Bryan Harper, Shantae Johnson, Sharon Livingston

Others present: Clair Klock, Jeremiah Dung, Jess Paulson, Jim Johnson, Lauren Henderson, Lisa Hanson, Isaak Stapleton, Helmuth Rogg, Stephanie Page, Samantha Bayer, Karen Lewotsky, Mateusz Perkowski, Gary Harris, Tammy Dennee, Mickey Killingsworth, Sue Vanek, Regan Coordes, Karla Valness

Workgroup update to full Board on meeting with Governor's office regarding climate change in agriculture (Audio = 2:00)

Marty Myers, Chair Board of Agriculture provided an update to the Board on the meeting in early August with Governor's office staff members Nik Blosser and Kristen Sheeran regarding climate change and House Bill 2020 and discussing why it failed and problems at the end of the Legislative session. The main theme of the discussion was communication and how important it is to have a strong communications plan on issues that will have an impact across the state and will impact agriculture, forestry and many others in natural resources.

The meeting was scheduled at the request of the Governor's office who expressed interest, at the conclusion of the legislative session, in hearing concerns from the agriculture industry and asked to begin the conversation by meeting with a subset of the Board of Agriculture. The meeting included the climate change resolution working group members Pete Brentano, Bryan Harper and Grant Kitamura along with the Board chair and vice-chair Tyson Raymond and Marty Myers.

Other concerns talked about at the August meeting included challenges for other sectors of agriculture like farm to market and issues around fuel, fuel for processing and the potential competitive disadvantages for some industries in the eastern part of the state who are near the Idaho border. Grant Kitamura expressed concerns about losing land value and the value of

multi-generational family businesses and they seemed very receptive to hearing the concerns. Also challenges from smaller operations regarding how to access the incentive programs and the paperwork required to access the incentive programs was discussed.

Following this meeting with this group of Board members, the Governor had phone conversations with some of the meeting attendees and other individual Board members to continue the discussion as the Governor and her office develop a strategy for moving forward.

During the phone calls, Board members continued to express the need for a good communications plan. The communications plan should not only be around the exemptions for agriculture but also include information around the costs that would impact agriculture. It was also suggested the Board could be a way to share information with the industry.

The ODA has received a follow-up call from the Governor's office to discuss future communication strategies that could be implemented going forward.

As the Board moves forward with discussing the BOA climate change resolution, Director Taylor shared NASDA's revised policy statement on climate resiliency has been included in their meeting materials packet.

Resource:

- NASDA policy on Agriculture, Resiliency and Climate Adaptation

Board to discuss draft climate change resolution (Audio = 13:30)

Stephanie Page, Program Director, Natural Resource Programs presented to the Board the revised draft of the proposed Climate Change Policy Considerations resolution the working group had drafted. The full Board had no edits to the revised resolution. Stephanie Page commented that she had grammatical edits that will be made. Further discussion and recommended action by the Board is scheduled on the agenda for Friday.

Resource:

- Resolution packet

The Board recessed at 5:15 pm and reconvened at 5:30 pm.

*****Audio file 2019-09-25 2*****

Public comment (Audio = 0:30)

Five speakers provided public comment to the Board: Gary Harris, Jefferson County Farm Bureau and farmer; Samantha Bayer, Oregon Farm Bureau; Karen Lewotsky, Oregon Environmental Council; Mickey Killingsworth, Jefferson County Farm Bureau; Sue Vanek, President, Jefferson County Farm Bureau.

Resource:

- Gary Harris, written comments

The meeting recessed at 6:00 pm until Thursday, September 26th.

*****Audio file 2019-09-26 1*****

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Joint meeting with the Environmental Quality Commission

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by BOA Chair Marty Myers and EQC Chair Kathleen George.

Board members present: Barbara Boyer, Pete Brentano, Stephanie Hallock, Grant Kitamura, Marty Myers, Tyson Raymond, Luisa Santamaria, Director Alexis Taylor, Associate Dean Joyce Loper.

Board members absent: Bryan Harper, Shantae Johnson, Sharon Livingston

EQC Commissioners: Molly Kile, Wade Mosby, Sam Baraso, Greg Addington, Kathleen George and Richard Whitman DEQ Director, Gary Vrooman DEQ Legal Counsel

Others present: Clair Klock, Joe Justice, Dave Losh, Theresa DeBardelaben, Mike M?, Shielah Olson, Ransom Horner-Richardson, Natalie Danielson, Quinn Burket, Gary Harris, Samantha Bayer, Harry Esteve, Rian Hooff, Karen Lewotsky, Linnea Wittekind, Eric Nigg, Rose Kachadoorian, Linda Hayes Gorman, John Terpening, Ron Nelson, Anthony Barber, Jeremiah Dung, Lori Laysbell?, Bridget Moran, Kyle Gorman, Mike Britton, Jan Lee, Mickey Killingsworth, Megan Hill, Elysia Treanor, Desiree Berstrom, Laura Gleim, Brad Hisuslet, Jess Paulson, Jim Johnson, Lauren Henderson, Lisa Hanson, Isaak Stapleton, Helmuth Rogg, Stephanie Page, John Byers, Wym Matthews, Regan Coordes, Karla Valness.

Welcome and overview of agenda and meeting goals (Audio = 1:00)

Marty Myers, Chair Board of Agriculture and Kathleen George, Chair Environmental Quality Commission welcomed all to the joint meeting of the State Board of Agriculture and the Environmental Quality Commission. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss programs of mutual concern, respective priorities in programs where ODA and DEQ intersect and hear directly from joint stakeholders. Introductions of members followed by ODA staff and guest introductions.

Water quality roles and responsibilities (Audio = 4:00)

Jennifer Wigal, Deputy Administrator Water Quality Department and Gene Foster, Manager, Watershed Management staff from DEQ and Stephanie Page, Director of Natural Resources & Pesticides Programs and John Byers, Program Manager with ODA presented information regarding the roles and responsibilities each agency has to protect, maintain and enhance Oregon's water quality.

When a waterway does not meet water quality standards, DEQ is responsible for developing a water quality improvement plan. In the plan, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), DEQ sets out responsibilities for Designated Management Agencies (DMAs) who are tasked with achieving particular targets or goals related to improving water quality.

The ODA is the DMA for non-federal agricultural lands in Oregon and working with local partners is implementing Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans and Rules across the state, based primarily on watershed boundaries, in Oregon. Of the two agencies, ODA is the primary contact for the on-the-ground work with agricultural landowners and operators to make changes in riparian condition and other waterway functions needed to improve water quality. The ODA and DEQ work together under a Memorandum of Agreement to prioritize and coordinate their work.

Presentations included approaches for recent and future TMDLs, water quality status and trends, a DMA map, ODAs coordinated streamside management roles and responsibilities and the coordinated approach to implement programs.

Resource:

- DEQ Water Quality Roles and Responsibilities presentation
- ODA Water Quality Roles and Responsibilities presentation

The Board recessed at 10:40 am and reconvened at 10:50 am.

*****Audio file 2019-09-26 2*****

Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program (Audio = 0.30)

Panel members Kevin Masterson, Toxics Coordinator, DEQ; Kirk Cook, Pesticide Stewardship Specialist and Stephanie Page, Program Director Natural Resource Programs, ODA provided an overview of the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) program. The PSP program began in the Hood River area to address pesticide and water quality concerns through monitoring, education, and outreach. The program received additional state funding starting in 2013, and has expanded over time to include ten PSP watershed projects in 2018-2019. In November 2019, a recently established PSP stakeholder advisory group will have its first meeting. Other program goals include implementation of watershed level strategic plans and continuing to improve program outreach to meet communication needs and increase transparency.

The PSP overview included an introduction to the Middle Deschutes PSP, which began with exploratory monitoring in 2014. Based on results, the Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) unanimously voted in July 2019 to participate in a longer-term PSP project.

Resource:

- DEQ_ODA Pesticide Stewardship Partnership presentation

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

*****Audio file 2019-09-26 3*****

Panel discussion: Deschutes Basin water management issues (Audio = 0:00)

Panelists Martin Richards, Fox Hollow Ranch; Mike Britton, North Unit Irrigation District; Ron Nelson, Deschutes River Conservancy; Bridget Moran, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Kyle

Gorman, Oregon Water Resources Department who represent a variety of local, state and federal agencies, organizations and a local land owner spoke to Board and Commission members in a panel discussion regarding water quality and management issues in the Deschutes Basin.

The meeting continued in the afternoon with on-site visits and tours in and around the Madras area and toured the Pelton Round Butte Dam to learn about water quantity and influence of dams/reservoirs on water quality of the Deschutes River. Board and Commission members also toured a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit holder Symons Beef Company. The CAFO program is implemented by the ODA, under a Memorandum of Understanding with DEQ. The program issues CAFO permits to livestock owners to protect surface and ground water quality, and monitors compliance with the permit.

Resource:

- DEQ Pelton Round Butte Project presentation

The meeting recessed at 5:00 pm until Friday, September 27th.

*****Audio file 2019-09-27 1*****

Friday, September 27, 2019 (Audio = 0:00)

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Chair Marty Myers. Introductions of members followed by ODA staff and guest introductions.

Board members present: Barbara Boyer, Pete Brentano, Stephanie Hallock, Grant Kitamura, Marty Myers, Tyson Raymond, Luisa Santamaria, Director Alexis Taylor, Associate Dean Joyce Loper.

Board members absent: Bryan Harper, Shantae Johnson, Sharon Livingston

Others present: Samantha Bayer, Rose Kachadoorian, John Terpening, Jeremiah Dung, Mickey Killingsworth, Shari Sirkin, Vicky Roff, Jess Paulson, Jim Johnson, Lauren Henderson, Lisa Hanson, Isaak Stapleton, Helmuth Rogg, Stephanie Page, Regan Coordes, Karla Valness.

Approval of minutes (Audio = 2:00)

Draft minutes from the June 11-13, 2019 board meeting in Silverton, Oregon were presented for review and approval.

A motion was made by Stephanie Hallock to approve the minutes with no changes or corrections. Seconded by Barbara Boyer. Motion passed unanimously.

Director's report (Audio = 2:30)

Director Taylor provided an update to the board on the ODA hemp program. Currently ODA has registered over 62,000+ acres and approximately 1,900 growers have registered. The program is collecting for the first-time actual planted vs harvested acres and should have information compiled by early 2020.

We are waiting on USDA to come out with their regulations around state plans and then at that time we will be working to create our plan around based on those federal regulations and then also if we need any additional authorities based on that plan. There will be an enforcement component required in the plan and then we will need to have some conversations around what an enforcement program we will need and what that might look like in the ODA hemp program.

ODA recently presented at the Legislative Days in Salem. Presentations were given regarding the trade and tariff impacts, farm mediation program update and joined a panel on beginning farming and rancher challenges.

Director Taylor will be participating in the November Governor's Trade Mission to South Korea and Japan. The mission will have a focus on food and agriculture business and outdoor and apparel industry sectors.

Planning is underway for two possible Director's missions in 2020 which would include Vietnam to support the blueberry industry and products for the hospitality/food service markets and a grass seed mission to the mid-west states to explore cover crop opportunities.

The ODA has been working on a one ODA initiative to create a unified vision for ODA. Included in that work is a review of how ODA is currently branding the agency and the programs. Over time many of the ODA programs have developed program identities that don't necessarily tie all together with other ODA efforts. We have hired a contractor to assist with this project and will be working with stakeholders and employees to make any changes.

Director Taylor also addressed questions related to the ODA Program Reports to the Board from board members.

Resource:

- One ODA project

Oregon's 100-year water vision update and discussion (Audio = 26:00)

Stephanie Page, Program Director, Natural Resource Programs reviewed the information Director Taylor provided to the Board regarding the next phase of Oregon's 100-year water vision project launched in August 2019 by Governor Brown. Since water is integrally tied to the production of food and agriculture in Oregon, the Board had a robust discussion on the vision, the need for a long-term focus on the state's water resources and investments in the water infrastructure needed for a strong agricultural economy for future generations. The Board identified the need to strengthen the vision's connection to agriculture, including the geographic scope of the vision, identifying additional critical issues and proprieties that could be included in the vision document and strengthening the stakeholder engagement and communication strategy about the vision as feedback to be provided to the Governor's office and project team that may help to refine the goals as the Water Vision moves forward into the next phases.

A motion was made by Stephanie Hallock to prepare a letter to the Governor's office and project team to provide feedback on the water vision based on the discussion. Seconded by Tyson Raymond. Motion passed unanimously.

2019-21 ODA Legislative Session Implementation Action Plan (Audio = 1:16:00)

Lisa Hanson, Deputy Director, ODA distributed to the Board three documents the ODA has developed to track tasks that need to be completed or monitored as a result of the 2019-21 Legislative Session.

Resource:

- ODA 2019-21 Legislative Session Implementation Plan New Laws
- ODA 2019-21 Legislative Session Implementation Plan Administrative Rulemaking and Workgroups
- ODA 2019-21 Legislative Session Implementation Plan Action Items

The Board recessed at 10:00 am and reconvened at 10:15 am.

*****Audio file 2019-09-27 2*****

Public comment (Audio = 1:00)

Three speakers provided public comment to the Board: Shari Sirkin, Oregon Friends of Family Farmers; Vicky Roff, Roff Farms; Mickey Killingsworth, Jefferson County Farm Bureau.

Resource:

- Shari Sirkin comments and handout

Land Use Update (Audio = 15:00)

Jim Johnson, Land Use & Water Planning Coordinator, Oregon Department of Agriculture reported to the Board that Jefferson County has dealt with many issues related to land use in agriculture over the years including siting of destination resorts, what is the definition of high-value farm land, solar facility siting, non-farm dwelling development. These are all key issues in Jefferson county.

Jim discussed the issue of siting a resort destination on agricultural land as part of an urban renewal project brought to the attention of the Board during public comment. In this situation, urban renewal is not really a land use statute it is a tax statute and it is about giving tax incentives to allow for development, historically in urban settings related to blighted areas. Using this approach may be a way to try a backdoor way around land use rules. This project is currently a County issue, however does involve the State Parks Department.

Mickey Killingsworth, Jefferson County Farm Bureau, shared where the project stands now. State Parks is currently reviewing their 20-year plan and made a presentation to the County and are currently putting together committees for review. The County has put the development proposal forward and they want to put the Cove Palisades project in the State Parks 20-year development plan. They hope to have committees together by January 2020.

No land use process has been started on this development. Director Taylor asked Jim to learn more about this issue and provide an update to the Board in December. The Director also asked

Mr. Johnson if any of the current Board Resolutions on land use and agri-tourism covered any of these concerns and he confirmed they do.

Mr. Johnson also updated the Board on the Legislative session related to land use issues. He touched base on HB2001 -- related to housing, affordable housing and the availability of housing, SB 2 – related to ten eastern Oregon counties gives them ability to rezone up to 50 acres, outside of the urban growth boundary, for commercial, industrial or employment lands development, HB2329 – related to siting energy facilities, HB2844 – related to small scale farm processing, SB 287 – related to farm breweries on farm land and HB2790 – related to mass gatherings of more than 3,000 people on EFU zoned lands must obtain a land use permit.

Mr. Johnson recently met with staff from METRO to reevaluate the long range 2040 land use plan they have adopted. They wanted to discuss how to incorporate agriculture as a larger concept of their long range 2040 vision including things like urban agriculture and agriculture on the fringe. This is encouraging to see METRO reaching out to the agriculture community to talk about agriculture as part of the urban landscape.

Other issues of interest include the working be done to create a land trust in Oregon solely focused on agricultural lands and working lands. It would be called the Oregon Agricultural Lands Trust.

ODA has received a request from LCDC to help staff a technical advisory committee dealing with the green energy corridor near Boardman.

More time continues to be spent on questions related to hemp. For example, when is something considered processing vs farm use since different regulations apply. Other questions include the siting of processing facilities on EFU land vs industrial sites. Other right to farm questions and coexistence questions related to the hemp program are mostly related to odor. More calls from growers related to cross pollination concerns.

ODA is the considered the expert on right to farm issues but has no authority to make any determinations under right to farm. In a right to farm case a circuit court is going to make the decision. The ODA will provide technical assistance to both farmers and ranchers who come to us with technical questions as well as local governments who may have technical questions about what can be done.

Jim provided an update on a couple of court cases DLCD vs Douglas Count and Friends of Yamhill County vs Yamhill County.

Most recent numbers were shared from USDA, NASS related to crop land values.

Board Business (Audio = 58:00)

OWEB report

Barbara Boyer will be attending the OWEB meeting next week. Barbara has been asked to serve as OWEBs ex-officio representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

Resolution Action Item

Stephanie Page presented the proposed resolution 'Climate Change Policy Considerations' to the board for further discussion and action. Based on the discussion on Wednesday evening, which include grammatical corrections, Barbara Boyer recommended accepting the edits and move the resolution to the December meeting for voting.

A brief discussion was held regarding the Board's policy & procedures regarding resolutions. Stephanie Hallock volunteered to review the current policy & procedures and provide draft changes for review and consideration.

OAH Commission Recommendations

Director Taylor reviewed the memo distributed to the Board regarding the OAH Commission member recommendations. As required by statute, the Board is responsible for making recommendations to appoint five members to the Commission. Four members who are actively engaged in farming and ranching and one with expertise in ag water quality. Currently the term for the farmer/rancher position held by Mr. Chad Allen will expire in December 2019.

Discussion followed by the Board to consider the options of 1) reappointing Mr. Chad Allen or 2) consider other candidates who applied in 2017 or 3) do a public notification to call for additional applications.

A motion was made by Tyson Raymond to prepare a letter to OWEB and recommend the re-appointment of Mr. Chad Allen to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Seconded by Barbara Boyer. Motion passed unanimously.

Newsletter topics

The Board suggested topics to be included in the Fall edition of the Oregon Ag Briefing Newsletter. Suggested topics included: highlights and photos from the joint Board of Agriculture/Environmental Quality Commission meeting and tours, panel discussions on ag water quality and the pesticide stewardship program, Oregon's 100-year water vision and the specialty seed field and seed cleaning tour.

2020 meeting dates & locations

The Board discussed meeting dates and locations for 2020. In an effort to hold meetings in various parts of the state, meeting locations from previous years was part of the discussion. The following dates and locations were selected February 11-13 in Salem; June 17-19 in SE Oregon; September 22-24 in Ontario; December 1-3 in Tillamook.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

**Next meeting
December 3-5, 2019
Astoria, OR**