



Oregon State Board of Agriculture Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
09/11-12/2024	Hermiston, OR and hybrid	8:30 AM	12:00 PM

FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE
Karla Valness	Karla.Valness@oda.oregon.gov	503.986.4554

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Meeting recording – Sept 11 – Part 1: <https://youtu.be/H4fIE3C7Rok>

Meeting recording – Sept 11 – Part 2: <https://youtu.be/X31A3iTzUrg>

Agenda Item 01 – Welcome and Introductions

Chair Elin Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Introductions of board members followed.

- Board members present: Chair Elin Miller, Chad Allen, Bryan Harper, Ty Kliewer, Ellie Norris, Eric Orem, Luisa Santamaria, Josh Zielinski, ODA Director Lisa Charpiloz Hanson, Dean Staci Simonich
- Board members absent: Barbara Boyer, Miguel Lopez
- Others present in-person/remote: Lauren Henderson, Jonathan Sandau, Lindsay Eng, Karla Valness, Andrea Cantu-Schomus, Jim Johnson, Rusty Rock, Mickey Killingsworth, Kris Schaedel, Sherry Kudna, Lauren Kuenzi, Isaak Stapleton, Laura Gleim, Jan Lee, Dave Losh, Sunny Summers, Mike McCarthy, Kathryn Jernstedt, Samantha Bayer, Casey Prentiss, Bill Miller, Shannon Davis, Three Rivers Audio Visual.

Approval of minutes

Draft minutes from the June 4-6, 2024, board meeting was presented for review and approval.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Josh Zielinski to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Ty Kliewer. Motion passed unanimously by: Chad Allen, Bryan Harper, Elin Miller, Eric Orem, Luisa Santamaria, Josh Zielinski, Ty Kliewer, Ellie Norris.

Director’s report

Director Lisa Charpiloz Hanson reported on several items in her update to the Board.

- Welcome to new board members Ty Kliewer and Ellie Norris.
- Personnel changes at ODA since the last meeting include Jess Paulson has left the agency, Lindsay Eng has joined the ODA as the new Chief Operating Officer (COO), Laura Passage is the new Executive Assistant to the Director, and Sherry Kudna has returned to the agency working on special projects. Renee Moulan, formerly with the Oregon Department of Justice, will assist with natural resource legal issues.
- The 2025-27 ODA Agency Request Budget was submitted by the September 1 deadline.

- We continue to move forward with the ODA Strategic Plan implementation and working on our goals for organizational excellence, modernization, and customer focused service.
- Other agency work continues around High Path AI, wildfire updates, and disaster relief work with the Governor's office.
- Oregon OSHA rules for Farm Labor Housing are current open for public comment. The ODA was allocated \$5 million to develop a grant program to help meet the OSHA final rules. Target date for grant program is early 2025.
- Upcoming events/activities include and ODA/OSU Leadership meeting in October and later this month the Director will attend the NASDA annual conference.

New board members Ty Kliewer and Ellie Norris were introduced as new board members. Ty Kliewer is a producer from Klamath Falls and Ellie Norris is a producer from Roseburg.

Agenda Item 02 – ODA's Budget and Legislative Update

Assistant Director Jonathan Sandau and COO Lindsay Eng talked with the board about the upcoming 2025 Legislative session.

Assistant Director Sandau walked through the draft 2025-27 ODA Legislative Concepts and reviewed the ODA 2025-27 Agency Request Budget summary document included in the meeting materials.

COO Lindsay Eng talked about the different fund types that support the agency and shared that about 68% of the agency funds are support by Other Funds, along with General Lottery and Federal Funds.

Since joining the ODA as the COO, she has been reviewing ODA financials and has been working with programs that are experiencing revenue shortfalls such as the brands program, commodity commission oversight, and the organic certification program to determine next steps.

Director Charpilloz Hanson added that the agency is about 31% General Fund. Much of our agency work is required in statute so it is difficult to make choices on what programs or services we are not going to continue.

Resource:

- 2025-27 ODA Agency Request Budget Summary

Agenda Item 03 – ODA Natural Resource Initiatives

Assistant Director Jonathan Sandau and Natural Resources Program Area Director Isaak Stapleton presented on Confined Animal Feed Operation (CAFO) permitting changes and the Lower Umitilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) Engagement work.

The presentation included an overview of Senate Bill 85 signed into law in July 2023 amends ORS 468B and ORS 537.545 and required rulemaking for ODA. Final rules are expected to be finalized this month. New Definitions for a new CAFO and expanding CAFO and new large CAFO and an expanding large CAFO were reviewed. The presentation also covered additional information related to the pre-application process for new large CAFOs and expanding large CAFOs, neighbor notice requirements, pre-population inspections, water supply plan, stockwater exemption limit, and individual permits in GWMA's.

The presentation continued with an update on the LUB GWMA Engagement work. The presentation covered the history of the Lower Umatilla Basin. LUG GWMA established in 1990 documented nitrate contamination impacting the communities of Hermiston, Boardman, Irrigon, Stanfield, and Echo.

An EPA petition was filed in 2020, and Morrow County declared a state of emergency in 2022. A state agency collaborative effort in 2024 began the development of a Nitrate Reduction Plan. This is a collaborative effort includes representatives from ODA, Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Health Authority, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The reduction plan will include collaborative governance, nitrate reduction strategies by source, monitoring, data, and analysis, and safe water drinking strategies. The plan is scheduled to be released by the end of September and will change overtime.

Agencies will work to develop a program that is reasonable and meaningful, including scaling requirements based on equity, a phased compliance implementation, be science based, and seek engagement with a broad stakeholder group. An effort will be made to keep farm management decisions with the producer, focus on nutrient and irrigation management to mitigate additionality, and establish a direct relationship with producers to ensure compliance.

It will take a collaborative process and no one agency can solve the issues. The immediate issue is clean drinking water for the communities and keeping the agriculture and food processing economically viable while working on solutions to reduce nitrates.

Resource:

- ODA Natural Resource Initiatives presentation

Break

The Board recessed for a 5-minute break and reconvened.

Agenda Item 04 – Public Comment

Board members received written public comments from 14 individuals/organizations related to the review of Board of Agriculture resolution 314 – Permitted Uses on Lands Zoned Exclusive Farm Use and on High-Value Farmland, Land Use and Meat Inspection.

The Board received verbal comments from Mike McCarthy, Samantha Bayer, and Kathryn Jernstedt.

Agenda Item 05 – Local Panel Discussion

Local producer Katie Walchli with Walchli Farms and Donna Lefore with M & F Apple Farm talked about food safety certifications required to meet buyer demands. Having a trained workforce to keep up with the requirements is very important. Supported mentorship programs with existing farms to help train and prepare new students and workers on food safety and audit standards would help with the lack of a trained workforce. The challenges of finding labor and the implementation of the agriculture overtime law is a concern. Trade development/non-tariff trade barriers for apples was also discussed.

Board member Josh Zielinski recommended the board draft a resolution on agriculture overtime to address some of these concerns.

The meeting recessed at 11:30 am until Thursday, September 12, 2024

[Thursday, September 12, 2024](#)

Meeting recording – Sept 12: <https://youtu.be/C1C8Anozk4g>

Chair Elin Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Introductions of board members followed.

- Board members present: Chair Elin Miller, Chad Allen, Bryan Harper, Ty Kliewer, Ellie Norris, Eric Orem, Luisa Santamaria, Josh Zielinski, ODA Director Lisa Charpilloz Hanson, Dean Staci Simonich
- Board members remote: Barbara Boyer
- Board members absent: Miguel Lopez
- Others present in-person/remote: Lauren Henderson, Jonathan Sandau, Lindsay Eng, Karla Valness, Andrea Cantu-Schomus, Jim Johnson, Rusty Rock, Mickey Killingsworth, Kris Schaedel, Sherry Kudna, Peter Kenagy, Lauren Kuenzi, Megan Chuinard, Dave Losh, Taylor Harding, Thomas Valente, Casey Prentiss, Bill Miller, Carlos Bonilla, Three Rivers Audio Visual.

Agenda Item 06 – OSU College of Agricultural Sciences – Dean’s Update

OSU Dean Simonich shared enrollment is up about 2-3% and the College of Agriculture continues to grow as well as online campus enrollment. Dean Simonich introduced Carlos Bonilla, Director of Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center (HAREC) who talked about the history of the station and the research work being done. HAREC is about 100 years old and is the second oldest Agricultural Experiment Station in Oregon. Some of the research done at the station include agronomy, enhancement of potato nutrition, irrigated agricultural entomology, and water and nutrient management.

Agenda Item 07 – Board member Updates

Board members shared their perspectives, priorities, and concerns affecting agriculture. Many had common concerns related to new pest and disease concerns and what the impacts will be, pollination issues, stabilizing water issues, market access issues, and viability of producers. Labor and wage concerns, succession planning and transition of farms to the next generation of farmers. Cost of production is rising, and it is difficult to sell your products for a profit and to find buyers of your products.

Concern was mentioned around the onset of avian influenza, but believes Oregon is well prepared and thanked ODA for the preparation to assist the dairy industry. It will be a matter of time when avian influenza arrives in Oregon. Oregon has lost over 100 dairies over the past 10 years.

Hazelnut crop is looking good, however concerned about fill of the nuts. With wildfire and smoke issues, some producers did not harvest this year.

Climate and water conservation are additional topics of concern.

The impacts of the Agriculture Overtime law for producers is being analyzed by OSU for the nursery industry.

ODA Director Charpilloz Hanson commented that water quality and availability are issues of concern by many western states, and she will be attending the NASDA conference later this month and is looking forward to discussing these issues at the national level with other State Department of Agricultures.

Director Charpilloz Hanson thanked board members for the discussion and sharing their perspectives.

APPROVED – September 2024

Break

The Board recessed for a 15-minute break and reconvened.

Agenda Item 08 – Farmers Ending Hunger

Farmers Ending Hunger President Fred Ziari and Executive Director John Burt spoke to the board about the mission of the organization to eliminate hunger in Oregon by increasing the amount of high-quality food available to hungry local communities through partnerships of farmers, food processors, Oregon Food Bank, and the public.

The organization was created in 2004 after Mr. Ziari learned that Oregon was one of the hungriest states in the country.

They asked the ODA and Board of Agriculture to help raise awareness about hunger issues in Oregon and to share the collaboration in Oregon to help solve the hunger issues.

Resource:

- Farmers Ending Hunger information sheet

Agenda Item 9 – Public Comment

Verbal comments were provided by Peter Kenagy, Mickey Killingsworth, and Tamra Mabbot related to land use and Board of Agriculture resolution 314 – Permitted Uses on Lands Zoned Exclusive Farm Use and on High-Value Farmland,

Agenda Item 11 - Board Business (partial)

OWEB Report

Board member Barbara Boyer reported to the board on the July OWEB meeting held in Springfield. The meeting included review of grant offerings, update on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) around rulemaking, and a tour of Rattlesnake Butte.

Agenda Item 10 – ODA Grasshopper Program and new Guidebook

ODA Deputy Director Lauren Henderson, Eastern Oregon Program Director Casey Prentiss, and Entomologist Tom Valente discussed the collaborative efforts to suppress the grasshopper and Mormon Cricket population in Oregon. Grasshoppers are native to Oregon. In 2024 ODA collaborated to conduct a survey and made over 4,000 plus survey stops. This year the survey showed up to 300 insects per square yard and in an average year it is about 8 insects per square yard.

Being able to identify the specific species helps with management decisions and treatments. Entomologist Tom Valente shared with the board information and a new publication to assist with identification. The Pest Grasshoppers in Oregon, A Field Guide to Nymphs and Adults booklet has been published and is available from the ODA.

Resource:

- ODA Grasshopper Program

Agenda Item 11 - Board Business (continued)

ODA Program Area Reports

Chair Miller thanked the ODA staff for preparing a quarterly report and asked Board members for any comments or questions on the ODA Program Area Reports.

Resource:

- ODA Program Area Updates to the Board September 2024

Workgroup A Report

Board member Josh Zielinski reported on the workgroup A meeting on Tuesday evening and the review of resolutions.

Resolution Title	Resolution No.	Work Group Recommendation
Need for Documented Agricultural Work Force	169	Hold for minor edits to update statistics.
Collective Bargaining for Agricultural Workers and Employers	266	Recommend approval including edits as posted.
Federal Minimum Wage Parity	316	Hold for further review and updated statistics.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Josh Zielinski to approve Resolution 266 as presented. Second by Chad Allen. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously by: Chad Allen, Barbara Boyer, Bryan Harper, Ty Kliewer, Elin Miller, Ellie Norris, Eric Orem, Luisa Santamaria, Josh Zielinski.

Workgroup B Report

Board member Bryan Harper reported on the workgroup B meeting on Tuesday evening and the review of resolutions.

Resolution Title	Resolution No.	Work Group Recommendation
Permitted Uses on Lands Zoned Exclusive Farm Use and on High-Value Farmland	314	Hold for further review.
Working Lands Conservation Easements	315	Recommend approval as presented.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Bryan Harper to approve Resolution 315 as presented. Second by Eric Orem. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously by: Chad Allen, Barbara Boyer, Bryan Harper, Ty Kliewer, Elin Miller, Ellie Norris, Eric Orem, Luisa Santamaria, Josh Zielinski.

Proposed new Resolution/Action Items

Board members discussed establishing a workgroup to draft a new resolution on Agriculture Overtime. Board members Josh Zielinski, Ellie Norris, Chad Allen, and Elin Miller will work to draft a new resolution and it will be posted for public comment.

Board members also discussed creating an action item to build awareness on the Hunger issues in Oregon and the collaborative work being done by farmers and other associations. No action was taken at this time.

2025 Board of Agriculture Meetings and Locations

The board discussed meeting dates and locations for 2025. To assist with scheduling, the board selected to meet the second week in March, June, September, and December each year.

For 2025 the following dates and locations were selected.

- March 12-14, 2025 – Salem
- June 11-13, 2025 – LaGrande or Baker
- September 10-12, 2025 – Klamath Falls
- December 10-12, 2025 – Hood River

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee for board chair and vice-chair met and made the following motion.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Barbara Boyer to ask Elin Miller to remain as chair of the board and Eric Orem to remain as vice-chair for the board. Seconded by Josh Zielinski. The motion was passed by: Chad Allen, Barbara Boyer, Bryan Harper, Ty Kliewer, Ellie Norris, Luisa Santamaria, Josh Zielinski. Board members Elin Miller and Eric Orem abstained from the vote.

Newsletter topics

Status of the newsletter and the status of the industry report was discussed. Board members would like to see the quarterly newsletter continue and provide updates on board and industry activities. The industry report key topics and workgroups were selected: water (Ty and Ellie), ag workforce (Josh and Ellie), fire and smoke impacts (Elin and Eric), market accessibility and trade (Ty and Ellie), and land use (Barbara, Ty, and Chad). Target will be to have the industry report drafted by the end of December.

Other Discussion

ODA Director Lisa Charpiloz Hanson and the board members thanked Bryan Harper and Luisa Santamaria for their eight years of service on the Board of Agriculture. They also thanked Lauren Henderson and Jim Johnson for their years of public service and wished them well as they retire from the ODA.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm

Next meeting: December 17-19, 2024
In-person – Newport, OR | Virtual option will be available.