OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Water Quality Program
635 Capitol St, NE, Salem, OR 97301-2532
503.986.4767 | Oregon.gov/ODA

Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
October 15, 2026	9970 Lonely Lane NE, Mt Angel, OR 97362	2:00 PM	3:30 PM

FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE
Connie Landis	Connie.Landis@ODA.Oregon.Gov	(971) 493-8257

Thursday, October 15, 2026
The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by CAFO Program Manager, Connie Landis. Introductions of virtual attendees were followed by in-person attendee introductions.

CAFO Advisory Committee members present: Dr. Carol Lorenzen (OSU), Tom Thomson (Public Seat), Alice Morrison (Friends of Family Farmers/Environmental Community Member), Zach Wilson (Beef Industry Representative), David May (Poultry Grower, alternate for Mark Oldenkamp), Stewart Kircher (Dairy Industry Representative).

CAFO Advisory members absent: Barbara Kahl (Public Seat).

Others present: Connie Landis (CAFO Program Manager, ODA), Katie Kearney (CAFO Inspector/Administrative Process Coordinator, ODA), Kellen Parrish (CAFO Permit Coordinator, ODA), Kinzey Landry (CAFO Program Support, ODA), Christopher Anderson (CAFO Inspector, ODA), Katie Duff (CAFO Inspector, ODA), Tami Kerr (Oregon Dairy Farmers Association), Mike Freese (Romain R/F Freese Lawyer & Lobbyists), Heather Patt (CAFO Permit Specialist, Washington Department of Ecology), Erick Garman (Trade Policy Specialist, ODA), Nicholas Peak (Regional Ag Advisor/Environmental Protection Specialist, EPA).

(Audio = 0.00:00)
Connie Landis (ODA)- Introductions

(Audio = 0.6:07)
Connie Landis (ODA)- Review of July 16, 2026, CAC Meeting Minutes. No comments given.

(Audio = 0.10:29)
Katie Kearney (ODA) Gave updates on projects within the CAFO Program**.**

Annual Reports and Recordkeeping Calendars. Annual Report forms will be mailed the last week of December to all NPDES-permitted facilities, including facilities operating under the 2016 permit and new 2026 permit. The 2027 CAFO recordkeeping calendars will be included. WPCF permittees who have requested a calendar will also receive one.

NPDES Registration Renewal Process. The renewal process is ongoing. Before a facility can be publicly noticed for renewal, it must have:

- An approved Water Supply Plan signed by the permittee, ODA, and the local Water Resources Department Watermaster.
- A completed renewal application, which is already on file.

- An approved or approvable Nutrient Management Plan. Facilities may use their existing plan or submit a new plan if changes are proposed.

Permit Renewal Process. Facilities with multiple operations will be renewed to the 2026 permit once all required paperwork is submitted for each facility, ensuring consistent permit requirements across all operations under the same registrant.

To date, 51 CAFO operations have completed registration under the 2026 permit. The public comment period for the third batch of 42 operations has closed, and ODA is preparing responses to comments. Once responses are issued, approved operations will receive registration notices. ODA will then begin the fourth batch, with approximately 20 operations ready for public notice.

Water Supply Plans. Completed Water Supply Plans are required for permit renewals and all new CAFO registrations. ODA is currently awaiting:

- 9 plans from WPCF-permitted operations.
- 85 plans from NPDES-permitted operations.
- 82 submitted Water Supply Plans are currently under review.

ODA plans to send reminders to permittees with outstanding plans at the end of the month. WRD has 45 days to review plans. Once reviewed, ODA sends permittees the final plans, including any comments, conditions, or requirements.

Nutrient Management Plans. ODA continues digitizing records and compiling Nutrient Management Plans into single documents for online access and review. This work supports the permit renewal process and is ongoing.

Tom Thomson (Public Seat) asked whether a permittee with multiple facilities could operate some facilities under the NPDES permit and others under the WPCF permit.

Connie Landis (ODA) clarified that facilities may be covered by different permit types, but facilities under the same registrant should not operate under different versions of the NPDES permit (2016 and 2026).

All facilities under the same registrant under the 2016 permit must complete the renewal process together to ensure consistent permit requirements.

Tom Thomson (Public Seat) asked when permittees could switch to the WPCF permit.

Connie Landis (ODA) explained that the new WPCF permit is still in draft development and is not expected to go out for public notice until next summer. The agency plans to prioritize completing NPDES renewals first.

Links posted below for Water Supply Plan Forms for renewing and expanding CAFOs as well as new CAFOs.

- Water Supply Plan Form for New CAFOs
- Water Supply Plan Form for Renewing or Expanding CAFOs

Link to find watermasters by district here.

(Audio = 23.:22)
Erick Garmin (ODA) gave a presentation on ODA's Economic Development Program. Link to presentation slides here.

The presentation was followed by a group discussion and questions. Erick's contact information is provided for any additional questions.

Erick Garman, Trade Policy Specialist
ODA Agriculture Economic Development Program
Work Phone: (503) 329-9799 Email: Erick.GARMAN@oda.oregon.gov

(Audio = 0.53:14)
Connie Landis (ODA) informed attendees about Oregon's Agricultural Mediation Program, administered through Six Rivers. Free mediation services are available for disputes involving USDA agencies and their programs. For neighbor or production-related conflicts, eligible participants may receive up to four hours of free mediation. Links posted below.

Agricultural Mediation Program:

- ODA : Mediation : About Us : State of Oregon
- USDA Agricultural Mediation - Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center

(Audio = 0.54:57)
Connie Landis (ODA) opened up the meeting for Partner Agency Updates.

Nicholas Peak (EPA) gave updates on the EPA Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee and Waters of the United States (WOTUS).

The group received an update on the reestablished federal advisory committee, which provides policy recommendations to the EPA Administrator on environmental issues affecting agriculture and rural communities. The committee held its first virtual meeting on September 11.

Representatives from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho serve on the committee. Two focus areas were identified: advancing artificial intelligence for precision pesticide application and reduced chemical use, and balancing agricultural conservation, nutrient pollution reduction, and farm viability. Regional representatives volunteered to participate in the respective workgroups. Recommendations are expected within one year.

- FRRCC Webpage: https://www.epa.gov/faca/frrcc
- FRRCC Charge Topics: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2026-09/frrcc-official-charge-topics.pdf
- YouTube Recording: https://www.youtube.com/live/PiJXxORLRXw

The group received an update on the EPA and Department of the Army's supplemental proposed rule regarding the definition of Waters of the United States, announced September 4 and published in the Federal Register on September 9. The proposal sought additional public input on revisions consistent with the Supreme Court's Sackett v. EPA decision. The public comment period recently closed.

The definition of WOTUS affects Federal Clean Water Act jurisdiction and NPDES permitting requirements. Meeting resources and recordings were shared below.

- Supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2026-09/wotus_snprm_9-2026_0.pdf
- Press Release: https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-army-seek-additional-input-proposed-waters-us-definition-while-advancing
- Fact Sheet: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2026-09/wotus_snprm_factsheet_508c.pdf

Heather Patt (EYC) asked who in Oregon was coordinating implementation of EPA's Phase II requirements for electronic reporting of annual reports and permit applications into EPA's database. ODA staff identified Christy Caldwell as the primary contact, noting that she was working with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

(Audio = 1.02:48)

Connie Landis (ODA) called for any industry updates. No updates given.

(Audio = 1.03:02)
Connie Landis (ODA) opened up the floor for any public comment. No comment given.

(Audio = 1.03:51)
Connie Landis (ODA) stated the next CAC Meeting will be held tentatively on April 15, 2027 and adjourned the meeting.