



Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
October 9, 2025	ODA Building, 635 Capital St. NE, Salem, OR 97301, Third Floor Media Room and virtual through Teams	1:30 PM	3:00 PM

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

Thursday, October 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 1:35PM by CAFO Program Manager, Connie Landis. Introductions of attendees followed by ODA staff and guest introductions.

CAFO Advisory Committee members present: Dr. Carol Lorenzen (OSU), Tammy Stark (Public Seat), Tom Thomsen (Public Seat), David May (Poultry Grower, alternate for Mark Oldenkamp).

CAFO Advisory Committee members absent: Alice Morrison (Friends of Family Farmers/Environmental Community Member), Dan Leuthold, Austin Piccone, Zach Wilson.

Others present: Isaak Stapleton (NRD Program Area Director, ODA), Connie Landis (CAFO Program Manager, ODA) Katie Kearney (CAFO Inspector/Permit Coordinator, ODA), Kinzey Landry (CAFO Program Assistant, ODA), Christy Caldwell (Operations Program Analyst, ODA), Victoria Binning (Initiatives Coordinator, ODA), Taylor West (Department of Environmental Quality), Jake Johnstone (Deputy Administrator for Field Services, WRD), Jenifer Cruickshank (Asst. Professor of Practice Dairy Management-Willamette Valley, OSU), Steven Potokar (EPA), Tarah Heinzen (Food and Water Watch), Tami Kerr (Oregon Dairy Farmers Association), Tammy Dennee (Oregon Cattlemen's Association), Amy Van Saun (Center For Food Safety), Taylor Sarman, Bruce Wilson, Neil Ferguson.

The meeting started at 1:35pm. There were a few minutes at the beginning of the meeting that were not recorded. The portion not included in the recording are as follows:

- The introductions of attendees.
- The review of meeting minutes from July 7, 2025. There were no comments or corrections.
- The start of Katie Kearney (ODA) updating that the NPDES Permit is expected to go to notice at the end of October; there was no date specified, and it will be available for public comment. The public

comment window will be open for 35 days. The WPCF permit has expired. As of now there is not a permit for producers to apply to.

(Audio = 0.00:00)

Katie Kearney (ODA)- Active permit is expected to be available slightly before January, no specific date given.

Tom Thomsen- Question raised about whether existing plans (e.g., Water Supply Plans) will need updates to align with new permit requirements.

Katie Kearney (ODA)- Stated that once the NPDES permit is formalized, current permittees will be notified to register on a rolling basis. Water Supply Plan form changes are expected to be minor but may require updates to existing submissions.

(Audio = 0.02:08)

Connie Landis (ODA) spoke on CAFO recruitments. The first being the Livestock Water Quality Specialist (Inspector) position in Hermiston, OR. The first recruitment failed and was posted again; as time moved closer to closing of the application timeline, the state budget was cut, and the position was pulled. As of now there is no recruitment for this position until further notice. Current inspectors will be continuing to cover the Hermiston area for routine inspections.

Connie Landis (ODA) spoke on the second CAFO position, which is a Natural Resource Specialist 4 (CAFO Permit Coordinator) position. This will be based in the Salem, OR office. Position description is currently at HR for review and approval before moving on the recruitment.

(Audio = 0.05:47)

Connie Landis (ODA) touched on the renewal process for the WPCF Permit. All renewals were received by the September 30th deadline. There will be updates to the Water Supply Plan form to address any concerns that came up through the renewal process of the WPCF Permit.

Connie Landis (ODA) shared how many permitted CAFOs are located in the state of Oregon, expressed belief in the value of local food production, and shared map of CAFOs per county across the state. Those maps can be found [Here](#).

(Audio = 0.10:40)

Jake Johnstone (WRD) spoke on Water Supply Plans; expressed appreciation for collaboration among ODA, CAFO community, and watermasters.

Upcoming Revisions

- New revisions to the Water Supply Plan are expected in the spring.
- Anticipated to provide greater clarity and benefit to water users, CAFO operators, and watermasters statewide.

Form Accuracy and Site Information

- It's crucial to list the actual site of the CAFO on the Water Supply Plan form.
- Mailing addresses are not sufficient; the physical location helps watermasters confirm water right pertinency.
- Some facilities are large and complex – providing the actual site avoids delays in verification.

Water Rights

- Ensure all applicable water rights are included in the appropriate form fields.
- Not all water rights allow for multiple uses – specify accordingly.
- If multiple uses exist (e.g., commercial, industrial, irrigation), list the specific certificate number in each applicable section on the form.
- Larger operations with numerous water rights may include an attachment listing all water rights, which has proven helpful.

Water Rights Information System

- The Water Rights Information System (WRIS) page and risk link were shared for public reference. [WRIS LINK](#)
- Participants can use the mapping tool to locate and verify their water rights.

Groundwater and Well Logs

- When claiming exempt groundwater use, list the source clearly.
- The Well Log page link can help identify wells using address or site details. [WELL LOG PAGE LINK](#)
- Note: Well logs were not legally required until the 1980s; older wells may not have records.
- Some groundwater sources (e.g., sumps, hand-dug wells) may also lack official documentation.

Clarification on Surface Water Exemptions

- There is no exemption for surface water use for commercial or agricultural purposes.
- The only surface water exemption allowed is for stock watering, under [ORS 537.141](#).
- Confusion often arises from mislabeling this exemption; participants are encouraged to review the statute's specific language regarding diverted water, troughs, and return flows.

Completeness of Water Supply Plan Forms

- Incomplete or blank forms will be returned to the applicant or ODA for completion.
- This ensures efficiency within the 45-day review timeline.
- ODA staff continue to review submissions for completeness before forwarding to watermasters.

General Guidance

- When uncertain, contact your local watermaster for assistance. [Watermaster LINK](#)
- Watermasters can help identify well logs, locate water rights, and clarify form requirements.
- Proactive communication helps reduce processing delays and improves data accuracy.

Jake Johnstone (WRD) announced Mike McCord's (Northwest Regional Manager, WRD) retirement at the end of October and that he (Jake) will be taking on that role, and to please reach out to him with any questions.

Jake Johnstone contact information- jake.d.johnstone@water.oregon.gov, Phone- (971) 707-0013

(Audio = 0.18:22)

Agency Partner Updates

Taylor West (DEQ) stated that her current position was funded through the Senate Bill 85, and that the funding has come to an end. She confirmed she will be transitioning out of her current role on October 31, 2025. Taylor stated that if there are any questions that any ODA staff cannot answer to reach out to her manager Rebecca Bodnar at DEQ, and Rebecca will direct you to the appropriate DEQ staff to handle questions.

Rebecca Bodnar contact information- rebecca.bodnar@deq.oregon.gov, Phone- (971) 269-5363

Taylor expressed gratitude for serving in the DEQ CAFO role for the past 1.5 years and reflected on learning about Oregon's CAFO industry and environmental protection efforts. Acknowledged the dedication of CAFO operators, community members, and agency staff. Thanked the group for their openness and collaboration. Encouraged continued partnership and learning.

Group thanked Taylor for her support, statewide travel, and thoughtful engagement.

Taylor responded with appreciation and shared she enjoyed building relationships across the state.

Steven Potokar (EPA) stated that there are no major updates from EPA. Confirmed that EPA submitted comments on the CAFO permit draft. Clarified that Nick Peak is still with EPA but is currently furloughed.

(Audio = 0:23:05)

Connie Landis (ODA) called for any public comment.

Amy Van Saun (Center for Food Safety) asked for clarification on the nutrient application plan rulemaking, if it was discussed at all, and what are the timelines.

Katie Kearney (ODA) stated that it had not been discussed and that in terms of priority it will come after the WPCF Permit renewal.

Connie Landis (ODA) added that it will start being worked on sometime in 2026, but no specific date given.

Tom Thomsen asked if the changes to the Water Supply Plan will be significant or minor.

Connie Landis (ODA) responded that the changes are minor and focused on improving clarity, the main issue being incomplete form submissions due to instructions being on a separate sheet, and that the solution is to merge instructions into the form to reduce confusion and errors. This will result in a longer form, but same content with clearer guidance.

(Audio = 26:05)

Adjourn