



Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
April 16, 2026	ODA Building, 635 Capital St. NE, Salem, OR 97301, Third Floor Media Room and virtual through Team	1:30 PM	3:00 PM

FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE
Connie Landis	connie.landis@oda.oregon.gov	(971) 493-8257

Thursday, April 16, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 1:30PM by CAFO Program Manager, Connie Landis. Introductions of in-person attendees followed by virtual attendees.

CAFO Advisory members present: Tom Thomson (Public Seat), David May (Poultry Grower, alternate for Mark Oldenkamp), Alice Morrison (Friends of Family Farmers/Environmental Community Member)

CAFO Advisory members absent: Dan Leuthold (Dairy Industry Representative), Dr. Carol Lorenzen (OSU), Tammy Stark (Public Seat), Austin Piccone (Pork Industry Representative), Zach Wilson (Beef Industry Representative)

Others present: Erika Hamilton (Department of Justice), Tammy Dennee (Cattlemen’s Association), Kinzey Landry (CAFO Program Assistant, ODA), Kellen Parrish (CAFO Permit Coordinator, ODA), Connie Landis (CAFO Program Manager, ODA), Katie Kearney (CAFO Inspector/Admin Process Coordinator, ODA), Jenifer Cruickshank (Dairy Extension Specialist, OSU), John Boyes (Tribal Liaison, ODA), Isaak Stapleton (Natural Resources Division Director, ODA), Tami Kerr (Oregon Dairy Farmers Association), Wes Killion (Beef Northwest), Christopher Anderson (CAFO Inspector, ODA), David Feldman (DEQ), Jesse Kandra (Oregon Farm Bureau), Lauren Kuenzi (Oregon Farm Bureau), Nicholas Peak (EPA), Steven Potokar (EPA), Ryan Krabill (Oregon Farm Bureau), Stewart Kircher (Forest Glen Oaks Dairy), Suzannah Smith (Center for Food Safety), Nikki Hendricks (OWRD), Mike Freese, Josh Hall (State Agronomist, NRCS), Blake Price (Draper Valley Farms)

(Audio = 0.5:39) Review of October 9, 2025 meeting minutes. The meeting begins with an overview of the agenda.

The October 9, 2025 meeting minutes were displayed via screen share for review and confirmation.

(Audio = 0.07:12) Review of the Annual Report.

Connie Landis (ODA) presented updates to the CAFO Annual Report, noting it is due March 31 annually and has been redesigned to improve readability and reduce length by approximately half, with added visuals.

The report includes:

- **Program overview and staffing:** Inspectors are assigned to geographic areas but work flexibly across regions; a map is included.
- **Facility totals:** 328 NPDES facilities, 142 WPCF facilities, and 3 individual NPDES permits.
- **Facility types:** Classified primarily by beef, dairy, poultry, with some mixed species operations.
- **Inspection types:** Routine (78%, 10-month cycle), complaint, follow-up, construction, and close-out inspections.
- **Outcomes:** 85.2% of all inspection types combined resulted in “Found in Compliance.”
- **Enforcement:** Summarized following inspection results.
- **Administrative workload:** Includes Nutrient Management Plan approvals and manure storage facility reviews.
- **Key performance metrics:** 497 routine inspections conducted in 2025 with a 99.2% compliance rate.

Additional 2025 program activity included:

- 25 CAFO permit registrations
 - 14 permit transfers
 - 8 WPCF registrations
 - 2 permit type changes
 - 1 expanding facility registration
- (Both permits remain administratively extended, limiting new registrations.)

Civil penalties are used solely for education and technical assistance, not program operations.

Permit Development

Work continues on NPDES permit development with DEQ; WPCF updates will follow.

Water Supply Plans (WSP)

Coordination with OWRD continues. Many plans have been received, with a 45-day review period generally met. Minor delays occur due to incomplete submissions.

Complaints

Five complaints were received:

- 1 unfounded
- 4 investigated (2 resulted in Notices of Non-Compliance, 2 no action)

Other Program Updates

- Advisory Committee meets three times annually.
- Active participation in Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area efforts.
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza preparedness efforts continue, including compost planning with producers and the State Veterinarian.

(Audio = 0.22:16) NPDES General Permit and planned permitting process

Upon issuance, the permit will become active. ODA will begin with the renewal of facilities from the 2016 permit, processed in batches with public notice. Initial batch will include 20 facilities with complete documentation and no significant Nutrient Management Plan changes. Later batches will include facilities making significant NMP changes requiring more detailed notice. Renewals will be prioritized before new applications, with tribal notification coordination ongoing.

Connie Landis (ODA) noted that public notices will be organized on the CAFO website by county to facilitate public access.

Wes Killion (Beef Northwest) asked about renewal requirements. **Katie Kearney (ODA)** and **Connie Landis (ODA)** confirmed that facilities that submitted 2021 renewal paperwork and those current with annual fees and annual reporting are considered in good standing for renewal.

Tammy Kerr (Oregon Dairy Farmers Association) asked about permit changes from public comments. **Katie Kearney (ODA)** said updates related to soil sampling and application limitations are being finalized and will be included in the response-to-comments, which will be posted online and sent via GovDelivery along with a full commenter list.

(Audio = 0.32:50) John Boyes (ODA) gave a presentation on Tribal Notification Requirements.

Presentation slides are posted [here](#). Discussion and questions from the meeting participants followed the presentation.

(Audio = 0.39:25) Upcoming Inspector Recruitment.

The CAFO Program opened the recruitment for the Livestock Water Quality Specialist based in Hermiston, Oregon. The deadline to apply for this position is 4/26/2026. Link to apply [here](#).

(Audio = 0:43:19) Partner Agency Updates

Josh Hall (NRCS) noted limited engineering staff capacity, so that work is being contracted out to Technical Service Providers (TSPs). They have a TSP certification process and they have several certified TSPs that can do designs for engineering practices that they have. If someone is seeking NRCS funding, it typically takes 2–3 years and requires development of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) to address resource concerns and environmental impacts to water quality. Discussion and questions about this topic continued amongst meeting participants.

David Feldman (DEQ) expressed positive anticipation about working with ODA on the upcoming WPCF Permit.

(Audio = 0.47:33) Industry Updates

No industry updates

(Audio = 0.47:50) Public Comment

Suzannah Smith (CFFS) asked if there are updates on the rollout of the Nutrient Application Permit.

Connie Landis (ODA) responded with timelines and finalization of the NPDES and WPCF Permits. Following the completion of those permits, the tentative timeline for the Nutrient Application Permit is early 2027.

Nikki Hendricks (OWRD) Spoke about a new water rights rule introduced on April 1 that affects water users who are still in the permit phase. The rule changes how extensions are granted, limiting them to one extension at a time. There is an increased emphasis on getting water rights certificated rather than remaining indefinitely in the permit phase. Water users who have not yet certificated their water rights may be at risk of losing those rights under the new rule. She recommended that anyone reviewing or managing water rights in the permit phase contact their local watermaster for guidance. Link to the new rule [here](#).

(Audio = 50:45)

Adjourn