OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Water Quality Program
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Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
July 16, 2026	6825 Officer Row, Tillamook, OR 97141	12:00 PM	1:30 PM

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

Thursday, July 16, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 12:00PM 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), Tom Thomson (Public Seat), Alice Morrison (Friends of Family Farmers/Environmental Community Member), Barbara Kahl (Public Seat).

CAFO Advisory Committee members absent: Zach Wilson, David May (Poultry Grower, alternate for Mark Oldenkamp).

Others present: Connie Landis (CAFO Program Manager, ODA), Katie Kearney (CAFO Inspector/Administrative Coordinator, ODA), Kellen Parrish (CAFO Permit Coordinator, ODA), Kinzey Landry (CAFO Program Support, ODA), Christy Caldwell (CAFO Program Analyst, ODA), Armando Macias (CAFO Inspector, ODA), Christopher Anderson (CAFO Inspector, ODA), Katie Duff (CAFO Inspector, ODA), Julie Leone (Food Safety Specialist, ODA), Jenifer Cruickshank (Asst. Professor of Practice Dairy Management-Willamette Valley, OSU), Tami Kerr (Oregon Dairy Farmers Association), Ryan Krabill (Oregon Farm Bureau), Heather Medina (NRCS), Mike Freese (Romain R/F Freese Lawyer & Lobbyists), Jon Carpenter (CAFO Compliance, Washington Department of Ecology), Heather Patt (CAFO Permit Specialist, Washington Department of Ecology), Kyleen Kosirog.

(Audio = 0.00:00)

Connie Landis (ODA)- Introductions

(Audio = 0.5:19)

Connie Landis (ODA)- Review of April 16, 2026 CAC Meeting Minutes, no comments given.

(Audio = 0.11:43)

Connie Landis (ODA) reported that the department anticipated litigation from environmental organizations regarding the new 2026 NPDES permit. The deadline to file was July 15, 2026, and the complaint was filed on July 14, 2026. The matter has been referred to the Department of Justice, which will be responsible for handling the litigation. Link of filing here.

(Audio = 0.12:29)

Connie Landis (ODA) announced the implementation of a new CAFO geographic boundary map following Katie Duff's (ODA) addition to the team. The updated map replaces the previous five numbered inspection areas with a county-based approach. Public notices for facilities registering under the permit will now be organized by county rather than by the former area designations, making the information more accessible and easier to understand. The new map generally reflects inspector coverage by county. Some exceptions remain based on program needs. In general, inspector assignments align with the geographic boundaries shown on the map. Link to map here.

(Audio = 0.15:13)

Kellen Parrish (ODA) presented on the renewal to the NPDES General Permit and new CAFO Processes. Presentation slides linked here.

Links shared before and during the presentation.

Heather Pratt (ECY) Federal guidelines for substantial changes to NMP. Link found here.

Connie Landis (ODA) Substantial changes for Oregon CAFO NPDES General Permit are detailed on page 18 of the permit. Link found here.

(Audio = 0.25:49)

Connie Landis (ODA) reported that there are currently 330 facilities registered to the 2016 NPDES General Permit and that the department is in the process of renewing those registrations to the 2026 NPDES General Permit. The first batch of 20 renewals was released for public notice, a public hearing was held on July 7, 2026, and the public comment period remained open through 5:00 p.m. on July 13, 2026. The department received a small number of comments and is currently preparing responses before issuing the registrations under the new permit. Although litigation has been filed regarding the permit, no stay has been issued. As a result, the department will continue with the renewal process as planned. The next batch of renewals is nearly ready for public notice. The renewals will continue to be issued in batches to facilitate timely processing. The initial batches focus on facilities without substantial changes, while subsequent batches will include facilities with substantial changes as well as new facilities. Preliminary consultations are underway for these upcoming registrations.

(Audio = 0.28:31)

Julie Leone (ODA) presented about the ODA Food Safety Program and their regulations and inspections on farms**.** Presentation slides linked here.

Questions about egg processing, regulation, and selling were asked by attendees following the presentation.

(Audio = 0.50:01)

Agency Partner Updates

Heather Medina (FPAC-NRCS) is now covering Western Oregon and shared information on current funding opportunities and staffing updates. Applications for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) are due August 24, 2026. Potential partners have expressed interest in participating, and agricultural organizations, including the Farm Bureau, Oregon Dairy Farmers, and other interested groups, were encouraged to contact Heather Medina for Western Oregon, Nathan Adelman for Eastern Oregon, or Damon Brosnan for Central Oregon to discuss partnership opportunities. Planning meetings are being scheduled in advance of the application deadline. Technical Service Provider (TSP) funding remains available through NRCS for services such as developing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs) and designing manure storage and composting facilities. While NRCS currently has approved TSPs available, additional qualified providers are being sought. NRCS Oregon continues to experience significant staffing shortages, particularly in Northwestern Oregon, where there is currently no full-time engineer. Deferred resignation programs have further reduced staffing levels in several counties, limiting the agency's engineering capacity. These shortages are expected to persist for the next two to three years. NRCS leadership is awaiting details of an upcoming agency reorganization plan and will evaluate its potential impacts on Oregon operations once it is released. In the meantime, staff continue to manage increased workloads while implementing new programs. Patience is requested as the agency works to fill vacant positions and producers are advised to carefully evaluate the qualifications of TSPs before contracting for services, noting that provider quality can vary.

Links below.
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/technical-assistance/technical-service-providers
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/regenerative-pilot-program
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/regional-conservation-partnership-program

Contact information
heather.medina@usda.gov Cell (541) 974-5268

(Audio = 0:55:33)

Connie Landis (ODA) calls for any public comment.

No public comment

(Audio = 56:14)
Adjourn