

Board of Forestry Special Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2021

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1. BOARD DELIBERATION ON ACTING STATE FORESTER APPOINTMENT	1

Items listed in order heard.

Complete recordings from the meeting are available on the web at www.oregonforestry.gov.

In accordance with the provisions of ORS 526.016, a meeting of the Oregon Board of Forestry was held virtually on May 27, 2021 and hosted by the Oregon Department of Forestry online.

All Board members joined online by 6:45 a.m. into Zoom meeting. Chair Kelly called the public meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

Board Members Present by Video:

- Karla S. Chambers
- Ben Deumling
- Chandra Ferrari
- Joe Justice
- Brenda McComb
- Jim Kelly

Board Members Absent:

None

ACTION AND INFORMATION:

1. **BOARD DELIBERATION ON ACTING STATE FORESTER APPOINTMENT**

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 – (13 minutes and 51 seconds– 6.34 MB)

[View video](#) on YouTube (17:16)

Chair Kelly commented on:

- Outlined Board proceedings for Board members and the public.
- Noted the public meeting will be live streamed, recorded, and posted online.
- Noted no public comment will be accepted for the special meeting.
- Performed Board roll call to confirm quorum.

Chair Kelly outlined the scope of the discussion in front of the Board, mentioning if any process questions emerged from Board members on the direct appointment process there are representatives from Department of Justice, the Governor’s Office, and from the Department of Forestry available.

Chair Kelly announced the candidate name under consideration, Nancy Hirsch, Emergency Fire Cost Committee Administrator for the direct appointment as the Acting State Forester. He asked if any Board members had some thoughts or comments to offer regarding this candidate. Board members and State Government representatives remarked on the following:

- Board Member Justice commented on how he respected work conducted by Ms. Hirsch, explained how continuity is important as the Department heads into fire season, takes on essential work in the coming months, and level of consistency needed. He believed Ms. Hirsch

could fill this vital leadership role and aired support for her to be appointed. Closed by encouraging fellow board members to support this candidate.

- Board Member Chambers noted she has received feedback from several constituencies about the candidates abilities, pragmatism, and substantial expertise. She aired appreciation of Ms. Hirsch considering to take on this leadership role for the Department, and supported her candidacy.
- Board Member McComb agreed with the comments shared by her fellow Board members, and explained how emerging issues will have to also be addressed in a timely manner. She shared in speaking with colleagues, they aired support for Ms. Hirsch as someone who can provide continuity as well as handle emerging issues.
- Board Member Deumling affirmed that Ms. Hirsch would be an ideal candidate to be appointed as Acting State Forester. He expressed his understanding about the candidates availability through October, and noted how this may present a realistic, but tight timeline to recruit a new State Forester. Board Kelly clarified there is no agreement with Ms. Hirsch regarding the duration of service, but stated the Board will proceed with due diligence and speed towards the recruitment of a new State Forester.
- Board Member Ferrari agreed with her fellow Board members, noting Ms. Hirsch's continuity of service, commitment, and expertise. She explained how important it is for Ms. Hirsch to have discussions with appropriate parties on what the priorities are for the coming months and level of assurance on the available funding, resources, and support in the near-term.
- Jason Miner, Governor's Office Natural Resources Policy Director, shared appreciation of Ms. Hirsch's candidacy and willingness to serve. He recalled the level of expertise, leadership, and guidance Ms. Hirsch provided the Governor's office through the Chetco Bar fire. Board Chair appreciated the comments provided, and the aired support by the Governor's office for Ms. Hirsch's candidacy.

ACTION: BOARD APPOINTED NANCY HIRSCH AS ACTING STATE FORESTER.

Karla S. Chambers moved to appoint Nancy Hirsch as interim State Forester of Oregon. Joe Justice seconded. Board Chair Kelly outlined the motion in front of the Board and proceeded with a Board vote. Voting in favor of the motion: Karla S. Chambers, Ben Deumling, Chandra Ferrari, Joe Justice, Brenda McComb, and Jim Kelly. Against: none. With Board consensus reached, the motion carried.

Chair Kelly asked Nancy Hirsch to join the Board in the virtual meeting, and asked if she accepted the appointment by the Board as the Acting State Forester. Nancy Hirsch, graciously accepted the appointment as Acting State Forester, and looked forward to working with the Board. She is honored to return and serve with the strong individuals within this Department, noting the personal support, as she takes on this role. Board Chair Kelly offered closing remarks, sharing his confidence about Ms. Hirsch's leadership and suggests to be bold to get the work done.

Chair Kelly expressed gratitude to the departing State Forester Peter Daugherty, recognizing the accomplishments and dedicated work under Daugherty's tenor with the Department. He appreciated Dr. Daugherty's years of service and valued work for the State and for Oregonians.

Board Chair Kelly adjourned the public meeting at 7:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Peter Daugherty



Peter Daugherty, State Forester and
Secretary to the Board

HR

Meeting minutes approved at the July 21, 2021, Board Meeting